

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

December 14, 2025 10:30 A.M

THE THIRD CANDLE: THE SHEPHERD CANDLE OR CANDLE OF JOY

The Candle of Joy represents a Sunday of rejoicing in anticipation of Christ's coming.



THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We light the Advent Wreath candles on the four Sundays of Advent. Each candle of the Advent wreath has a meaning: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Purple is the liturgical color for Advent, thus three of the candles are purple. The rose candle has always been connected with joy, because the third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday (gaudete in Latin means ‘rejoice’). Finally, on Christmas Eve, the central Christ Candle is lit to represent the long-anticipated birth of Christ into the world.

During the lighting of the Advent Wreath, the congregation is invited to sing the following words:

**The world was in darkness and nobody knew,
the way to the Father, like you and I do.
They needed a light to show them the way,
and the light, it shone brightly on that first Christmas Day.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY**HYMNAL 76****THE LITURGY OF THE WORD****OPENING ACCLAMATION****BCP 355**

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE DECALOGUE**BCP 350**

Presider Hear the commandments of God to his people: I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods but me.
People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Presider You shall not make for yourself any idol.
People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Presider You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.
People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Presider Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

Presider Honor your father and your mother.
People **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

<i>Presider</i>	You shall not commit murder.
<i>People</i>	Amen. Lord have mercy.
<i>Presider</i>	You shall not commit adultery.
<i>People</i>	Amen. Lord have mercy.
<i>Presider</i>	You shall not steal.
<i>People</i>	Amen. Lord have mercy.
<i>Presider</i>	You shall not be a false witness
<i>People</i>	Amen. Lord have mercy.
<i>Presider</i>	You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.
<i>People</i>	Amen. Lord have mercy.

TRISAGION

HYMNAL S-102

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.
Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

<i>Presider</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Presider</i>	Let us pray

The Collect of the Day and today's readings can be found in the insert

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH

ISAIAH 35:1-10

<i>Lector</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 15

THE SONG OF MARY

HYMNAL S-242

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF JAMES

JAMES 5:7-10

<i>Lector</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

During the Sequence Hymn, the children may follow the cross to Children' Chapel

SEQUENCE HYMN

PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION

HYMNAL 65

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 11:2-11

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

FR. BAILEY NORMAN

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. *Amen.***

Lector Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People **That we all may be one.**

Lector Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Lector We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; Stephen, the Archbishop of York; Sarah, the Archbishop-designate of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Brian, our Bishop; Jonathan, Bishop of our companion diocese of South Dakota; for all bishops and other ministers, especially: our clergy Bailey, Laura and Steve; Adam, our seminarian:

People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Lector We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; especially Donald, our President, and Bill, our Governor.

People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Lector Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Lector Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Lector Give to the departed eternal rest.

People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Lector We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Lector Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

In the Diocese of East Tennessee we pray for St. Luke's, Cleveland.

In the Diocese of South Dakota we pray for St. John's, Deadwood, our sister parish, and St. John, Brown Valley.

In the Diocese of Haiti, we pray for St. John the Evangelist Church and Medical Clinic.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil.

We pray for those in assisted living and rehab: Jo Ann Baker, Dianne Davis, Roger Derby, Horia & Shafik Iskander, Allan Reiss, Mary Rhoades.

We pray for the following parish members: Joe & Melissa Womble, Madison, Eleanore; Caroline Wood; Tyler Walker; Karen Yearwood, Keegan, Fiona; Kevin Young, Michael Young.

We pray for the women and men who are currently serving in the armed forces at home and abroad, especially Brian Bustle, Courtenay Clary, Reid Hartman, Seth Kosko, Alex Mol.

The people may add their own petitions. The Presider adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 360

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

BLESSINGS FOR BIRTHDAYS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

ANGEL GABRIEL

TRADITIONAL

DOXOLOGY

HYMNAL 380 V.3

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER A

BCP 361

The people remain standing. The Presider then says

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Presider continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

A Proper preface is said

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

S-130

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Then the Presider continues.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever **AMEN**.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. or thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread, and maintains a moment of silence.

FRACTION ANTHEM

S-164

**Jesus, Lamb of God: Have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins; have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.**

Facing the people, the Presider says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All baptized are welcome to receive communion. All are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN THERE'S A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS CRYING

HYMNAL 75

After Communion, the Presider says

Let us pray.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 366

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

SENDING FORTH THE EUCHARISTIC VISITOR

Presider In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go, may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People **Though we are many, we are one, because we share one bread and one cup.**

THE BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING

HYMNAL 57

THE DISMISSAL

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

SIMON BALLINTOY

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY - DECEMBER 14, 2025

	8:00 A.M.	10:30 A.M.
CRUCIFER		Thomas Hillis
ACOLYTES	Jamey Kennedy	Chi Kirk, Tucker Reed
LECTORS	Jack Lee	Peggy Volk
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Jamey Kennedy	Roger Johnson, Lou Volk
USHERS	M N Campbell, Cameron Ellis	Ed Johnson, Craig Brent
GREETERS	Mary Nell Campbell	Barbara Neill, Carol Ann Lane
COUNTERS		Beth Bailey, Carol Skyberg
EUCCHARISTIC VISITOR	Carol Gardner	
ALTAR GUILD	Nancy Anderson, Linda Felton, Susan Meredith, Karen Yearwood	
AV TECH	Chuck Kirk	
SOURCE MATERIAL	The source material for this service is the Book of Common Prayer, Year A	
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The altar greenery and ambry candle are given to the glory of God.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS: DECEMBER 15 - DECEMBER 20

Parish Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday, December 15	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
Tuesday, December 16	10:00 a.m.	Tuesday Bible Study
	11:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist and Healing Service
	6:30 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, December 17	8:30 a.m.	Men's Group
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, December 18	4:00 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer (online/Zoom)
	7:00 p.m.	Blue Christmas
Friday, December 19		Office Closed
Saturday, December 20		

ANNOUNCEMENTS - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

Please send any bulletin, e-news or calendar announcements by **noon, Wednesday, December 17**. Fully edited pertinent information, including dates, times, location(s) should be sent to editor@ststephensor.org. This email goes to both the Parish Office, and Rob Steele III, our E-News editor. Final content is at the discretion of clergy and staff.

PRIOR WEEK AND 2025 YEAR-TO-DATE PLEDGE RECEIPTS AS OF DECEMBER 7, 2025

Last Week's Offering *	\$15,668
2025 YTD offering	\$524,751
2025 Revenue - budget	\$552,548
% Received to date	95%
*includes online giving	

LOOSE PLATE OFFERING

TODAY

The loose plate offering for today will go toward the **Compassion Closet**.

LOOSE OFFERING FOR IN DECEMBER 14, 21 & 28

COMPASSION CLOSET

The Compassion Closet is a 501c3 non-profit, volunteer led and 100% donor funded organization. Founded in Knoxville in 2013, by a couple who had been helped as new foster parents, it has grown to 5 locations including the one in Oak Ridge which serves Anderson County children.

Children come into foster care following removal by TN Department of Children's Service (DCS) due to abuse, neglect and abandonment and must be placed immediately in foster or relative homes. Most of these placements are made with only a few hours notice to the foster or kinship homes; and, as a result, the homes have no time to prepare for the basics necessities for the children.

Compassion Closet is available for these foster parents or relatives to come and get cribs, beds, diapers, clothing, car seats, infant carriers etc to provide immediately for these children's needs.

The Oak Ridge office strives to be able to meet these needs by maintaining these items at all times. It serves 40-50 families, averaging 100 children from newborns to seventeen year olds each month. They have volunteers who sort donated items and place in bins sized for all children. This office also has age appropriate toys and books. The Oak Ridge office accepts gently used clothing and furniture for children but always needs monetary donations to purchase items not donated such as cribs and twin beds, bedding, car seats and infant carriers.

THE COMPASSION TREE

As we have done for the last two years, the Compassion Tree will go up this week in the parish hall with tags for Christmas gifts and/or necessities to be pulled by parishioners for the Compassion Closet foster children. After purchases are made, gifts should be brought back unwrapped and placed under the Compassion Tree by December 21st. Outreach volunteers will deliver them to the Compassion Closet the following day. Anyone wishing to make financial donations in lieu of pulling tag(s) can certainly make a donation through the Loose Offerings on December 7th, 14th and 21st or leave a check with the office indicating on the memo 'Compassion Tree.'



Those donations will be used by Compassion Closet for purchase of larger necessities such as twin and crib beds, bedding, car seats and strollers, etc. for the care of the children. We kindly ask that you do not leave gift cards under the tree. Instead, please leave any gift cards with the office.

LECTIONARY STUDY

EVERY SUNDAY

The lectionary study meets each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Pollard Room to discuss the gospel from the day's insert. Discussion is light but informative. Each class is led by a class member who volunteers. Come experience how enriching this Lectionary class can be to your Bible study and understanding.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

TODAY

The Daughters of the King (DOK) will host their next meeting today, December 14, from 12-1 pm in the Pollard Library. All Daughters are encouraged to wear blue. All women are invited to be involved with the Daughters of the King, and meetings are open to all for those considering joining this Religious Order. If you would like to learn more about the ministry of DOK or consider becoming a part of the order, please contact either of their co-chairs - Rebecca Cavender (rebecca.m.cavender@gmail.com) or Beth Reed (brussellreed@yahoo.com).

ADVENT STUDY CONTINUES

TODAY

We are excited to offer a wonderful Advent study titled "Living Well through Advent". This is the same series which we used for our Wednesday night studies in Lent this past year. It is a conversation centered on some of the important themes in Advent, based off the devotional booklet of the same name (which we will hand out this upcoming Sunday). Our facilitators will be Emily Bruner and Jamey Kennedy. The class will meet at 9:30 a.m., on Sunday mornings in Advent in room 209. No need to sign up, please come and join us!

BLESSING BOX IN ACTION**ITEMS NEEDED THIS WEEK**

Thank you to everyone who is supporting the Blessing Box! Please remember the Blessing Box when you shop. This week, we are requesting donations of canned soup, canned mixed vegetables, peanut butter and Chef Boyardee. They can be placed in the little red wagon in the narthex.

CELTIC SERVICE**TODAY**

This month's Community Celtic Service will take place at Chapel on the Hill (85 Kentucky Ave.) on Sunday, December 14, at 5:00 pm. This month, as we approach the longest night of the year, we will be exploring how our lives include experiences of both darkness and light. As always the service will include beautiful contemplative music, scripture, reflection, prayers and communion. All are invited to attend and find respite during this busy time.

Next month's Community Celtic Service will be held at St. Stephen's on Sunday, January 11, at 5:00 pm.

ALTAR FLOWERS AND AMBRY CANDLES 2026

First – thank you to all of you who have given the flowers throughout this past year. The flowers add so much to the chancel and are then enjoyed throughout the week. One of the arrangements goes in the chapel for the weekly services there. The other is broken down and distributed around the church and out in the community. The new sign-up charts have been posted near the office.

The flowers for the upcoming year will be \$90 for the two arrangements. The Ambry Candles will be \$10. If you cannot get by to sign up, call the office.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS TO THESE IMPORTANT PARTS OF OUR WORSHIP.

ADVENT CRAFT AND COOKIE DECORATING SESSION**TODAY**

After the 10:30 a.m. service, come down to the Parish Hall for an Advent craft and cookie decorating session sponsored by the Evangelism Committee.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**DECEMBER 18**

Our Blue Christmas service will be on Thursday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Lessons & Carols

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS AND DINNER

DECEMBER 21

Nine Lessons and Carols will be at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday December 21st with a catered dinner to follow. In keeping with the Anglican tradition of Lessons and Carols, the dinner will have an English Christmas-themed menu to include roast beef, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, tossed salad, yorkshire pudding, shortbread and trifle. The cost is \$20 per person. You can sign up on the parish website or by calling the church office.

CELEBRATE ADVENT WITH MORNING PRAYER

Have you checked out the recent uploads of Morning Prayer on our YouTube channel? Each is an invitation into a contemplative experience with the words of the Morning Prayer liturgy supplemented by music and ethereal images. We paused in November and are now resuming in Advent. You can access the YouTube channel from our website.



DIACONATE ORDINATIONS

JANUARY 24

The Diocese of East Tennessee is excited to announce the following scheduled ordinations.

Adam Ballintoy, Whitney Kimball Coe, and Heather Holland will be ordained to the diaconate on Saturday, January 24, at 11:00 AM Eastern at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, Knoxville. Clergy, please wear choir dress and red stole.

All are welcome to attend these ordinations. Please keep the ordinands in your prayers ahead of these services.

STAFF

THE REV. BAILEY NORMAN, RECTOR
THE REV. LAURA HENRIK, ASSOCIATE PASTOR
THE REV. DR. STEVE DAMOS, PASTORAL ASSOCIATE
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VESTRY

SENIOR WARDEN - LEAH BAILEY (2025) • JUNIOR WARDEN - BEN SHASSERE (2026)
BETSY ELLIS - SECRETARY • ALAN LIBY - TREASURER (2026)
GARY DREIER, ASHLEY HILLIS, COURTNEY MANROD (2025)
CRAIG BRENT, TYLER WALKER (2026)
BETH BAILEY, ROGER JOHNSON, CAROL KING, JULIE WEBBER (2027)

THE RT. REV. BRIAN COLE, BISHOP • THE DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE



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