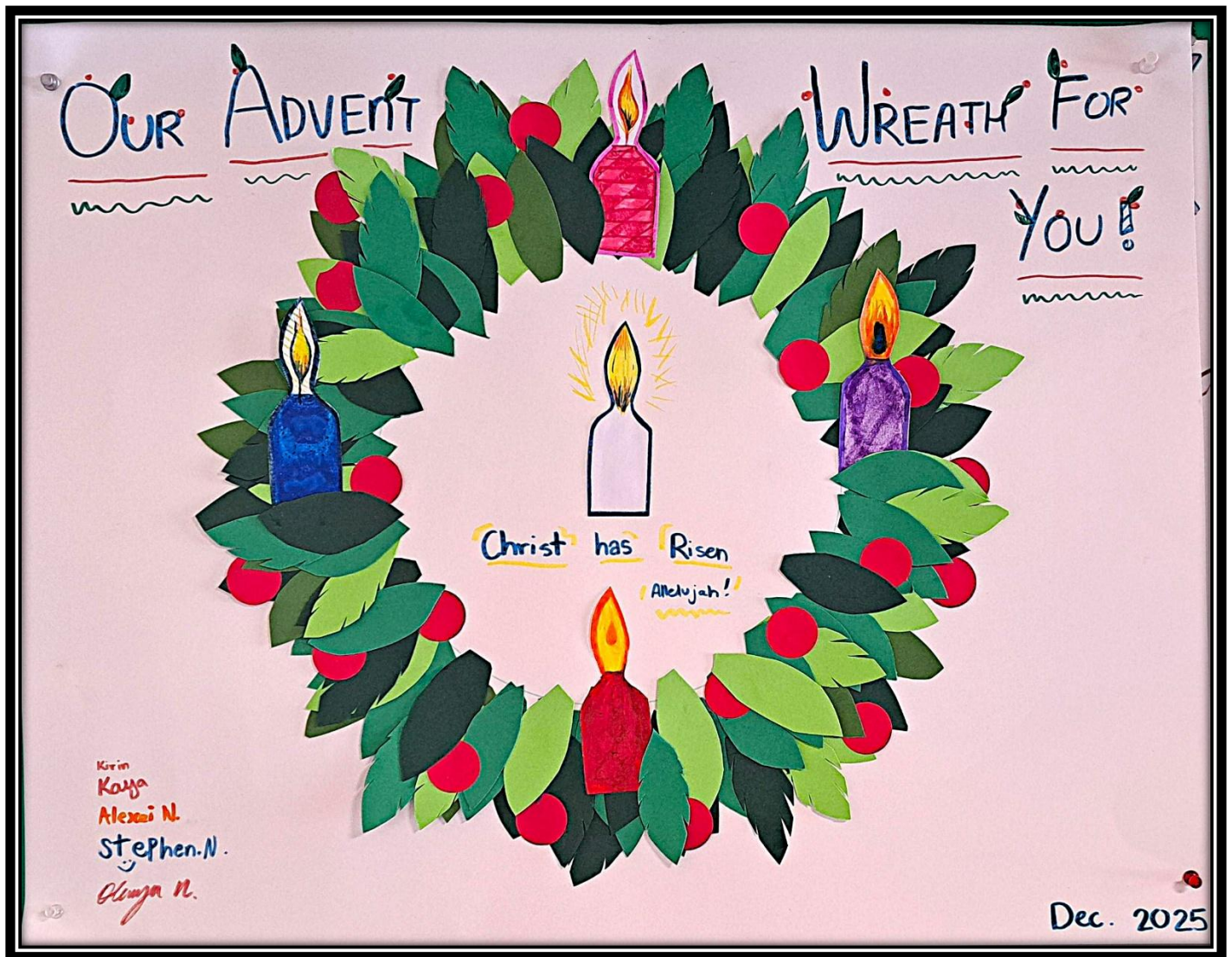


# Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist

*Family Sunday*

December 14, 2025 11:00am



Cover art offered by the artists of the Holy Nativity Sunday School

Church of the Holy Nativity

5286 Kalaniana'ole Hwy. Honolulu, HI 96821

[www.holynativityhonolulu.org](http://www.holynativityhonolulu.org)

*Sunday School on the lanai, except 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday for Family Sunday.*

## Prelude “He Came Down”

Amie & the HN Singers

## Opening Hymn #56 (vs 1-3) “O Come O Come Emmanuel”

Amie, Leonard (Amie’s father) & the HN Singers – *please join in!*

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Cuadra Family

*Those lighting the wreath will come forward and light the Advent wreath.*

*Celebrant* Lighten our darkness, we beseech you, O God, and by your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this life; for the love of your only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

*People* Amen.

## The Trisagion (spoken three times)

*People* Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One. Have mercy upon us.

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Lessons

*The people are seated for the readings of the day.*

### First Reading Isaiah 35:1-10

Someday, the desert will be so happy that it will break out in flowers! There will be yellow and purple and white crocuses all over and they’ll be singing! The wilderness will look like the most beautiful part of Lebanon. Someday, we’ll be so excited because we will see God in all God’s glory. And those whose hands don’t work will be strengthened, and if your knees creak and ache, they’ll be like they’re brand new. If you’re scared, let me say to you, “Be strong. Don’t be afraid. God has everything under control. God will come and save you.” And then, blind people will be able to see and deaf people will hear. People who had trouble walking will jump around just like deer, and if you couldn’t talk before, you won’t be able to stop singing for joy. Water will rush through the wilderness and streams up from the desert. Instead of burning sand, there will be a swimming pool. The desert sands won’t be thirsty anymore.

And there will be a highway running right through the desert, in the middle of nowhere, and we’ll call it God’s Highway. It will be for the people of God to walk. And no one who walks on it will get lost. You won’t have to worry about dangerous animals coming after you when you’re on God’s Highway. Everyone who walked away from God can come back singing. And nothing will make them sad anymore.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Canticle 15

*The leader will begin. The congregation will please read responsively the verses in **bold**.*

My soul is so happy. I can't stop singing about God's kindness to me, a lowly servant.  
From now on, everyone will know that I have been blessed.

**God has done things for me and God's name is holy.**

God's Heart goes out to those who walk the right way, in every generation, young and old.  
God is strong enough to scatter proud people in every direction.

God picks up those who think they're better than anyone else, and flings them off their fancy chairs, but he picks up those who are sad and lifts up their chins so they can hold their heads high again.

**God has done things for me and God's name is holy.**

God feeds hungry people the best food they've ever eaten.

And when people with too much get in line, God says, "Enough already."

God remembers his promise of mercy and has come to help out the people of Israel.

God promised mercy to our ancestors, to all of Father Abraham's children forever.

**God has done things for me and God's name is holy.**

## The Gradual WLP #795 "Come Now O Prince of Peace"

### The Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

*Then, all standing, the Deacon reads the Gospel*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, was in prison. Somehow he heard what Jesus was doing, so he sent Jesus a message with some of his friends. "Tell me, Jesus, are you the one we've been waiting for? Or should we keep waiting for the right one to come?"

Jesus thought about the question. And he said, "Go tell John about what you see and hear: that blind people can see again, that people who couldn't walk are now jumping up and down, that people with diseases are healed, that people whose ears didn't work can hear, and that dead people are alive. And that poor people are hearing good news for the first time in their lives. Blessed are people who find nothing wrong with these things I'm doing in God's name."

So the disciples took that message to John. While they were gone, Jesus began to talk to the crowds of people about his cousin John.

"John's not quite what you expected, is he?" Jesus said. "Who did you think he'd be, someone in fancy soft clothing? People who dress like that live in palaces, not in the desert like John. Did you expect him to be a prophet? Yes, John is a prophet because he tells the truth, even if it's difficult to hear. He is the one the prophets wrote about: 'A messenger will come ahead of you and make the people ready for you.' John is closer to God and the truth than anyone ever has been; yet he is no better than anyone else in God's kingdom."

*After the Gospel, the Deacon says* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Nicene Creed**

Found on the FRONT cover *or* flap of The Book of Common Prayer.

**The Prayers of the People: Form IV**

The Book of Common Prayer, p.388

*The congregation will please make the responses in italics.*

*The priest adds a concluding collect.*

**The Confession and Absolution**

*The Celebrant then says*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*The Celebrant begins. The people will join in.*

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 neighbor 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.

*The Priest says*

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.

**The Peace**

*All Stand. The Celebrant says to the people.*

**‘O ke aloha o ka Haku ka mea e mau loa aku me ‘oukou.**

*(The peace of the Lord be always with you!)*

*The People respond.*

**A me ‘oe pū nō ho‘i.**

*(And also with you!)*

*To you we come, Father of lights, with angels and saints, where heaven and earth unite. May Jesus meet us in the breaking of the bread,  
Amen.*

**Offertory Music #10 in Chapel Songbook “Christ Be Our Light”**

Amie & the HN Singers

## The Advent Doxology

Praise to God, the One who made us. Praise to Christ, God's on - ly Son.  
the new\* - born

Praise the Spir - it, ev - er with us. Praise the God - head, Three in One.

Clear a path! Pre - pare the way! Ad - vent leads to Christ - mas Day!

## The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer C

The Book of Common Prayer, p.369

*Celebrant and People:*

### The Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One. God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and  
earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed  
is the one who comes. Blessed! Blessed! in the name of God.

## The Breaking of the Bread

*Celebrant:* Alleluia Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People:* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

### The Fraction



*The Celebrant says*

Nā Makana a Ke Akua na ka Po'e o Ke Akua. / The gifts of God for the people of God.

*At the time of distribution, those who wish to receive should move forward to the altar rail in two lines, filling in from makai to mauka. You may kneel or stand to receive the sacrament. You are welcome to receive the bread (traditional or gluten-free) only **or** both the bread and the wine from the ministers who will come past you. If you wish to receive a blessing, place your hands across your heart as you approach.*

### Communion Anthem “Here I am to Worship”

Offered by Amie & Leonard

### The Post-Communion Prayer

*The Celebrant says* **E pule kākou. Let us pray.**

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

### The Announcements & The Blessing

The Reverend Jennifer Latham

### The Closing Hymn #376 “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

Amie, Leonard, and the HN Singers – *please join in!*

### The Dismissal

*Deacon* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

*People* Thanks be to God!

### Postlude “Emmanuel” by Michael W. Smith

Offered by Amie

**Thank you for joining us today!**

**Ministry Team for Today's Service**

**Lighting our Advent candles today:** The Cuadra Family

**Clergy:** The Reverends Libby Berman, Jennifer Latham, and Alison Dingley

**Reader:** Avery Garwin    **Psalm:** Olesya Noerper

**Eucharistic Minister:** Kim Garner    **Intercessor:** Mele Kaelin

**Usher:** Justin Donahue    **Acolyte:** Juliet Cuadra    **Altar Guild support:** Noel Donahue

**Technical team:** Alex Picken & Georgia St. Germain

**Music Director:** Ina Young    **Instrumentalist:** Amie

**The Holy Nativity Singers**

***Mahalo to Leonard Lawyer for joining us today with wonderful music.***

**Join us next Sunday, December 21, 2025 for the Fourth Sunday of ADVENT**

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**Parish Prayer List**

Adele, Lisa May, Raj & Renu, Eric & Katy, Peter, Gia, Kevin, Michael, Carol, and Lorraine.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS!**

**On Tuesday, December 24th** we will have a Christmas Eve service at **5:00 pm**

**On Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>** we will have a Christmas Day spoken service, with a cappella hymns,  
in Monteiro Chapel at **10:00 am**