

Welcome to

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

*Committed to living a faith journey that is
sacred, intentional, compassionate and inclusive*



The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 4, 2024 ☩ 9:30 a.m.

The Rev. Betsy McElroy, Rector

Worship: Sundays 9:30 a.m.

Church Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday

1055 S. Lower Sacramento Road, Lodi, California 95242

stjohnslodi@sbcglobal.net † www.stjohnsoflodi.org † 209.369.3381 (voice)

Welcome to the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist!

This bulletin will guide you through the liturgy (worship service). The Book of Common Prayer (BCP), Enriching Our Worship and The Hymnal 1982 are used throughout this service.

We are a school for transformation, as we seek to become a more diverse community of people, a kaleidoscope of different life styles, ages, ethnic and religious backgrounds, sexual orientations, financial circumstances and more. We invite all who seek God and wish to explore being part of a Christian congregation to our table and into our fellowship. We welcome those seeking a safe place for the expression of personal spiritual practices, ideas, politics, questions, doubts -- and faith. We also confess that as a community we are not perfected in love. However we seek to become more fully loving and to accept all who wish to join this journey.

Today's Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by:

Elfonda Filomeo in loving memory of her sister, Laquita Gage for her birthday, Feb. 3.

If you would like to donate flowers, please contact the church office at 369-3381.

Those Who Serve Today

Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Betsy McElroy (B)

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson

Choir Director: Steven Weikle

Pianist/Organist: Kristy Wells

MC (Minister of Ceremonies): Anne Reeve (B)

Lectors: Carol Foote & Debby Weberski

Camera Acolyte: Beth Elwood (C)

Crucifer: Cheryl Nix (C)

Ushers: Tom Gundershaug & Aleathea Langone

Sound: Steve Augusto

Altar Guild: Margaret Meyers & Dee Mayfield

Vestry Open/Close (Announcements): Beth Elwood & Charlene Martin (GF)

Designer Guild: Ejae Perry & Mandi Sager

Nursery Care: None until further notice

Sunday School: Peggy Moos

Coffee Hour: Debby Weberski, Paula James, Katie Howard & Andee Zetterbaum

Counters: Tom Gundershaug & Sharon Farnsworth

The Liturgy of the Word

Welcome

Prelude

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Entrance Hymn (*Standing*) *Thou, whose almighty word* Hymnal 371

Opening Acclamation EOW 1 p. 50

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Collect for Purity (*Celebrant continues*)

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria *Canticle 20* Hymnal S278

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah *All are seated* Carol Foote

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you

compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (*Isaiah 40:21-31*)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147:1-12,21c

Carol Foote

1 Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2 The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.

5 Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.

6 The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.

8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;

9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.

10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.

11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

12 But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.

21 Hallelujah!

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings. *(1 Corinthians 9:16-23)*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

God of mercy, God of grace

Hymnal 538

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Mark

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching – with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. *(Mark 1:29-39)*

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Silence

Nicene Creed *All stand as able.*

**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.**

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

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

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP p. 360

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(stand or kneel as able.)*
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.

The Celebrant pronounces the 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.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

Birthdays and Anniversaries Blessings *All together,*

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offertory Sentence

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Anthem *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* Richard Erickson

The Doxology *Praise to God* (vs. 3 only) Hymnal 380

The Great Thanksgiving EOW 1 (*Standing*) EOW p. 57

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing (say):

Sanctus *(Celebrant and People)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord

WLP 858

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. * Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with John the Baptist and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(traditional)*

BCP p. 364

Celebrant: And now as our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: 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. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

BCP p. 364

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

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

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion of the People

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please form two lines in the center aisle. There are two standing stations. Please come forward immediately to receive communion. Gluten free hosts are available. You may receive just the bread or the wine or both. We offer the chalice to drink from, but due to practical considerations, do not allow intinction (dipping) of the bread in the wine. Thank you for your understanding. Please place hands crossed over your heart if you wish to receive communion in one kind, or a blessing.

Communion Music

O for a thousand tongues to sing

Hymnal 493

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Sending Eucharistic Visitors *All together*

In the name of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, we 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. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

Postcommunion Prayer *(standing)*

Celebrant: 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 Blessing

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always. Amen. (source: from Saint Clare)

Recessional Hymn

O bless the Lord, my soul

Hymnal 411

The Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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www.stjohnsoflodi.org On the right side of the page you can click on GIVELIFY. Put
in Episcopal church of St. John the Baptist and indicate the amount of your gift and
what is for, i.e. pledge, rector/deacon discretionary, other, etc.). Givelify App is
available at: [the "App Store"](#) or ["Google Play"](#) Or scan this code:



Announcements

Upcoming Calendar

Sunday, February 4

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

Monday, February 5

4:15 pm, Salvation Army Dinner Service, Hope Harbor

Tuesday, February 6

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church

11:30 am, Picture Board Assembly & Luncheon, Church

February 6 - 8: Spring Clergy Retreat

February 9-10: Rev. Betsy & other St. John's Leaders at Building Church Leaders Retreat

Wednesday, February 7

10:45 am, People of Faith Bible Study, Hospitality room

12:00 noon, Noon Day Prayer, Historical Chapel

6:30pm, Choir Practice, Hospitality Room

Saturday, February 10

3:00 pm, Kristi Lobb's Celebration of Life, Church

4:15 pm, Salvation Army Dinner Service, Hope Harbor

Sunday, February 11

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

Updating Our Active Membership Directory!- On the Ministry Table you will find a copy of our current Active Membership Directory. Please review your information in this directory for accuracy. Please write in the "Red" pen provided any changes that are needed. If you are not in the directory, please fill out the Yellow Membership Form and turn it into the basket provided and we will get you added! If you would like your birthday listed at the back of the printed directory, please add your birthday to your entry also.

Looking forward to Lenten Activities - Mark Your Calendars!

Shrove Tuesday, February 13, 2024

*Our Annual Pancake Supper will go from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Donations for specific items will be gladly accepted. Please see the sign-up sheet on the Ministry Table!

*More details will follow.

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024

*We will have 2 Ash Wednesday Services. At 12:00 noon a service without communion or music will be held in the Historical Chapel.

*A 6:00 pm evening service is planned for the Church. Details to follow. Keep an eye on the Ministry Table for more information and flyers!

Lenten Soup Suppers and Classes

*Per our tradition, we will have Wednesday night Lenten Soup Suppers with a Lenten Study on The Rev. Stephanie Spellers' book "*The Church Cracked Open.*" Books are available for sale in the office. Choir practice will follow.

*Please plan on signing up to assist! We will need a kitchen coordinator, soup makers, set up and clean up help, help with salads and bread!

*Keep an eye on the announcements, flyers, and sign-up sheets on the Ministry Table.

Youth Sunday, February 18th. Young people will assume a variety of roles in the service. Mike Roberts and Joanne Kovac-Roberts, the co-directors of ECCO will be back with us, too. Joanne will be preaching that day and together they will be leading a variety of activities for youth and the young at heart following the service. This represents the launch of our youth program. A big thank you to Joey and Christina Soria, and Xander Avila who are helping to launch this new initiative! Bring your children, grandchildren (and their friends!)

Thinking Ahead to Easter! - We are looking for 3 individuals who would like to run the Easter Egg Hunt following our Sunday Morning Easter Service. We will be asking for people to bring in filled eggs or empty eggs with toys, we need to get them filled and the morning of Easter, the eggs need to be put out on the back lawn. Also, that morning, help with directing the kids and starting the hunt will be needed. Please check with Penny in the office for further details.

Greg Wilson Men's BBQ - Sunday, March 10 - Special Announcement- We invite the Women of St. Johns to join the men on Sunday, March 10 at 5:00 pm. Let us do the cooking. Please see the ministry table for a sign up in days to come!

Holy Week - March 24 - 31, 2024

Sunday, March 24

9:30 am

Palm & Passion Sunday

Procession & Passion Reading

Wednesday, March 27

12:00 Noon

Noon-Day Prayer

Historical Chapel

Thursday, March 28

6:00 pm

Maundy Thursday Foot washing

Eucharist, Stripping of Altar

7:00 pm to Midnight

Garden of Gethsemane Watch

Friday, March 29

12 Noon

Good Friday

Passion & Prayers

Saturday, March 30

Easter Vigil

7:00 pm

Sunday, March 31

9:30 am

Easter Sunday

Holy Eucharist, Reception
& Children's Egg Hunt

Scribble Page

2024 Vestry Members

Margaret Meyers, Senior Warden

Kelly Olds, Junior Warden

Fran Bott, Clerk

Stacey Bagnasco

Beth Elwood

Bob Gorczyca

Charlene Martin

Christina Soria

Debby Weberski

Andee Zetterbaum