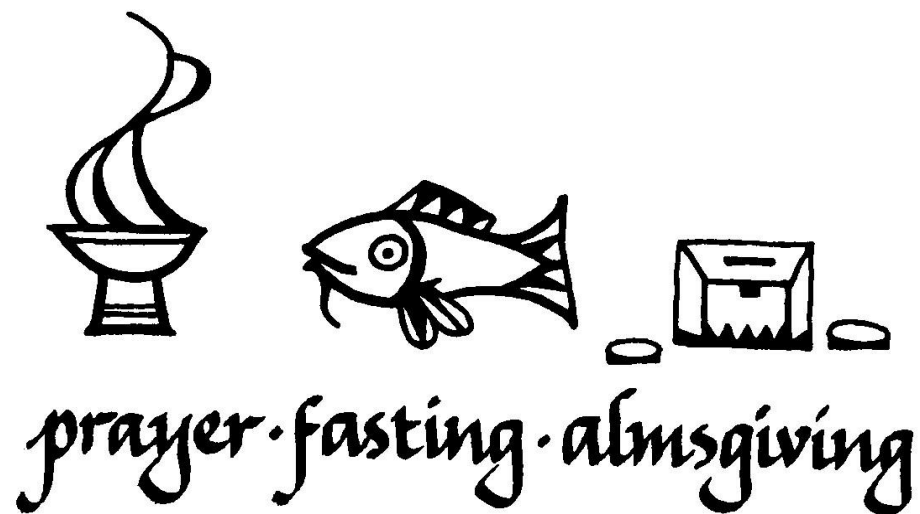


Welcome to

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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



The First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 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 Sanctuary Light is given to the glory of God by:

Carol Bower Foote in celebration of Richard Park Bower's birthday

If you would like to donate for the Lent Sanctuary Light, please contact the church office at 369-3381.

Those Who Serve Today

Celebrant: The Rev. Betsy McElroy (B)

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson (B)

Preacher: Joanne Kovac-Roberts

Choir Director: Steven Weikle

Pianist/Organist: Kristy Wells

MC (Minister of Ceremonies): Beth Elwood (C)

Lectors: Noah Salters, Naomi Salters & Bob Gorczyca

Camera Acolyte: Holly Wilson (GF)

Crucifer: Cheryl Nix (C)

Ushers: Debby Weberski & Paula James

Sound: Dick Williams

Altar Guild: Cheryl Nix & Bunmi Olowoyeye

Vestry Open/Close (Announcements): Debby Weberski (Christina Soria)/

Beth Elwood (Bob Gorczyca)

Designer Guild: None

Nursery Care: None until further notice

Sunday School: Ruth Diekman

Coffee Hour: Joey & Christina Soria

Counters: Sharon Farnsworth & Tom Gundershaug

The Liturgy of the Word

Welcome

Prelude

Entrance Hymn *(Standing)* *Lord who throughout these forty days* Hymnal 142

Opening Acclamation BCP p. 351

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **His mercy endures for ever.**

The Decalogue

The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson

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.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Honor your father and your mother.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit murder.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not commit adultery.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not steal.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not be a false witness.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Amen. Lord have mercy.

Celebrant: Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." (*Mark 12:29-31*)

Confession of Sin *Deacon or Celebrant then says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

Minister and People

**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.**

Celebrant continues,

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 Trisagion

Holy God

Hymnal S102

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Noah Salters

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth." (*Genesis 9:8-17*)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-9

Naomi Salters

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter

Bob Gorczyca

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. *(1 Peter 3:18-22)*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Christ, when for us you were baptized

Hymnal 121

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.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." *(Mark 1:9-15)*

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.**

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying,
“Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city, Lodi, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For (from the prayer list), let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of St. John the Baptist and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

Helen Kemp

The Doxology

Praise to God (vs. 3 only)

Hymnal 380

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A (*Standing*)

Hymnal S120

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in Jesus Christ our Lord you have received us as your sons and daughters, made us citizens of your kingdom, and given us the Holy spirit to guide us into all truth. 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 (*Celebrant and People*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Hymnal S124

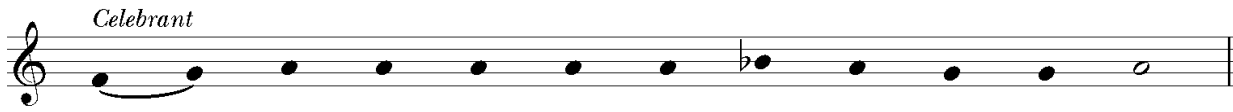
The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

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."

Celebrant



There - fore we pro - claim the mys - ter - y of faith:

Celebrant and People



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

The Celebrant 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.**

The Lord's Prayer *(traditional)*

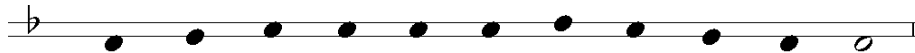
BCP p. 364

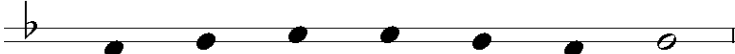
Celebrant: And now as our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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

Hymnal S153


Celebrant: Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;


People: There - fore let us keep the feast.

Celebrant: 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.

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

Now let us all with one accord

Hymnal 147

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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.
**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.

The Blessing

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Recessional Hymn

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

Hymnal 559

The Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace to prepare for the Pascal Feast

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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You can also give through GIVELIFY app. If you go to our website:
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 18 – Youth Sunday

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

Monday, February 19

10:00 am, Meeting, C. Martin, Hospitality Room

Tuesday, February 20

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church

Wednesday, February 21

10:45 am, People of Faith Study Group, Hospitality Room

12:00 noon, Noon-Day Prayer, Historical Chapel

5:00 pm, Soup Supper, Narthex

6:00 pm, Lenten Study (Introduction & Chapter 1), Hospitality Room

7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Church

Friday, February 23

5:30 pm, Soul Kitchen, Narthex

6:30 pm, Vestry Retreat, Historical Chapel

Saturday, February 24

9:00 am, Vestry Retreat, Historical Chapel

The People of Faith Study Group at St. John's, prior to Noon Day Prayer in the Chapel. The current plan to meet on alternate Wednesdays at 10:30 am. March meetings are planned for the 6th and 20th. Our times together will provide opportunities to reflect on the prior week's readings. We have agreed to a goal of reading through the bible in a year. We have adapted a plan outlined in the NIV Women's Study Bible, New International Version, but we do not intend to be rigid. Other versions or plans may work equally well. This goal sets a pace that will keep us busy reading, reflecting, pondering, etc. New participants are welcome to join the group as they are able. All are welcome. Ruth Diekman - Coordinator

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!

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.

*Lenten Study Reading Assignments:

February 21: Read the Introduction and Chapter 1

February 28: Read Chapters 2 & 3

March 6: Read Chapters 4 & 5

March 13: Read Chapters 6 & 7

March 20: Read Chapter 8 and the Conclusion

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 to sign up!

Diocesan Calendar Information

March 16 - Deanery Day on Zoom at 10:00 am; this will focus on planned giving; open to all.

March 26 - Chrism Mass at 11:00 am, St. James Cathedral. An opportunity for clergy to review their ordination vows witnessed by the laity of the diocese; open to all.

Holy Week - March 24 - 31, 2024

Sunday, March 24

9:30 am

Palm & Passion Sunday

Procession & Passion Reading

Tuesday, March 26

11:00 am

Chrism Mass

St. James Cathedral, Fresno

Wednesday, March 27

12:00 Noon

Noon-Day Prayer

Historical Chapel

Thursday, March 28

6:00 pm

7:00 pm to Midnight

Maundy Thursday Foot washing

Eucharist, Stripping of Altar

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

Eggs & Toys Needed for Easter Egg Hunt on March 31! - Our annual Easter Egg Hunt for elementary school age children and younger will be held on the West lawn after the 9:30 am service on Easter Sunday, March 31st. The office would appreciate donations of plastic eggs, small toys and wrapped candy for the hunt. Thank you!

Garden of Gethsemane Watch Thursday, March 28 from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. - After the Maundy Thursday Eucharist, the church will be open all night for prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane created by the Designer Guild in the narthex. People are invited to sign up to pray one hour, reminiscent of Jesus' invitation to "watch and pray."

Flowers at Easter - Our Easter liturgies are adorned with memorial flowers. If you remembered loved ones and blessings last year at this time and would like to repeat your memorial message, please initial the list on the ministry table and put your donation of \$25 or more in the plate during the offering. See ministry table for details.

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