

Welcome to

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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



*Nativity of John the Baptist
June 24*

The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

June 23, 2024 ☩ 9:30 am

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) 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 lifestyles, 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.

St. John's wishes to acknowledge and honor the Yokut and Miwok people[s] upon whose ancestral homelands we gather, as well as the resilience and strength of all our indigenous siblings around the world.

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

In honor of the Feast of St. John the Baptist.

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

Those Who Serve Today

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

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson (vacation)

Choir Director: Steven Weikle

Pianist/Organist: Elaine Sager

Eucharistic Minister: Anne Reeve (C)

Lectors: Rosemary Cress & Christina Soria

Camera Acolyte: Fran Bott (GF)

Crucifer: Cheryl Nix (C)

Ushers: Charlene Martin & TBA

Sound: Dick Williams

Altar Guild: Anne Reeve & Cheryl Nix

Vestry Open/Close (Announcements): Fran Bott/Christina Soria

Designer Guild: Janie Williams & Allison Dooley

Nursery Care: None until further notice

Sunday School: Peggy Moos

Coffee Hour: Rosemary Cress & Barbara Krengel

Counters: None

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The Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

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Entrance Hymn (*Stand as able.*)

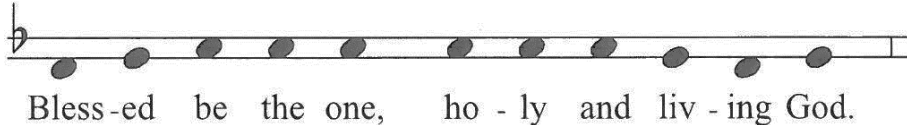
Praise to the Lord

Hymnal 390

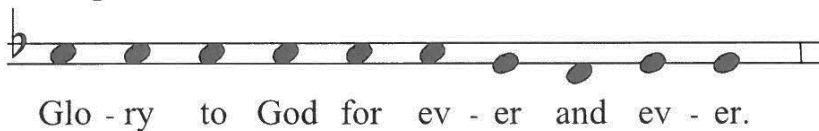
Opening Acclamation

EOW1

Celebrant



People



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.**

Kyrie

 (*All stand*)

BCP p. 356

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy,

People: Christ, have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Savior by preaching repentance: Make us so to follow his teaching and holy life, that we may truly repent according to his preaching; and, following his example, constantly speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice, and patiently suffer for the truth's sake; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah *All are seated.*

Rosemary Cress

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep. (*Isaiah 40:1-11*)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 85:7-13

Rosemary Cress

7 Show us your mercy, O LORD, *
and grant us your salvation.
8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

A Reading from The Acts of the Apostles

Christina Soria

On the sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it."

So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak: "You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance for about four hundred fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the

prophet Samuel. Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, 'I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes.' Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised; before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his work, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet.'

"My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent." (Acts 13:14b-26)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn (Sung Acapella in an echo style)

"I am here in the soul of God"

Leader: I am here in the soul of God,

People: ***I am here in the soul of God,***

Leader: God is here in the soul of me.

People: ***God is here in the soul of me.***

Leader: Like the flame in the fire and the fire in the flame.

People: ***Like the flame in the fire and the fire in the flame.***

Leader: I am here in the soul of God.

People: ***I am here in the soul of God.***

(Sing through 3 times)

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Luke

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

The time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was

opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty saviour for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days." And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel. (*Luke 1:57-80*)

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

Sermon

The Rev. Betsy McElroy

Silence

Nicene Creed *All stand as able.*

BCP p. 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.

Prayers of the People *Form VI*

Anne Reeve

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and David our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly city, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP p. 360

Celebrant: 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.**

The Peace is exchanged.

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

came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, 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. Again, he gave thanks to you, 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."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.

Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with St. John and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. 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.



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

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Celebrant continues,

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 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 Hymn

As We Eat This Bread

As we eat this bread and we drink this cup, we're be -
com-ing the bod - y of Christ. Come and fill our hearts so we'll
dream your dreams and your king - dom will come through our lives.

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.

Post communion Prayer *Standing*

EOW

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the people.

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us, be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Spread, O spread, thou mighty word

Hymnal 530

The Dismissal

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

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:



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

Announcements

June 15 - 27: Dcn. Tom on Vacation

Monday, June 24

12:00 Noon, Pat Fehling's Celebration of Life Service, Church

Tuesday, June 25

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Office

Wednesday, June 26

10:45 am, People of Faith, Hospitality Room

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

Thursday, June 27 - Sunday, June 30 - ECCO Family Camp

Friday, June 28

12 noon, Fireworks Booth, 2418 W. Kettleman Avenue

5:30 pm, Soul Kitchen, Church

Saturday, June 29

9:00 am, Fireworks Booth, 2418 W. Kettleman Avenue

Sunday, June 30

9:00 am, Fireworks Booth, 2418 W. Kettleman Avenue

9:30 am, Morning Prayer, Church

10:45 am, Episcopalian 101, Hospitality Room

Calling all gardeners: If you would like to tend a plot behind the church, contact our head of Buildings and Grounds, Aleathea Langone at 209-366-3410. Weather permitting, she plans to be at the church on Saturdays from 9:00 to 11:00 and would love to have company.

Volunteers Needed! For coffee hour, sound persons, ushers, and acolytes. Please see Penny if you would like to be trained or help us out in any way.

Confirmation / Episcopalian 101 Classes - Continues - The book is "Your Faith, Your Life" by Jennifer Gamber. We have a few books available in the church office. A donation of \$18.00 would be greatly appreciated, but not required.

Coming June 27 - 30th - ECCO Family Camp - See the flyer at the back of the church. Ecco's Family Camp Program offers a loving, accepting, and supportive community for all. Games, Art & Crafts, outdoor activities. Questions? Call 559-683-8162. Register at eccoyosemite.org. Registration Deadline is June 17th.

ECCO vs. Fireworks Help: We understand that The ECCO Family Camp and working the Fireworks stand is at the same time. If you want to be back to help with the fireworks booth, you can register for a single night only.



St. John's has been awarded by the City of Lodi one of the slots to sell fireworks around the 4th of July. This has the potential to raise significant funds for St. John's (\$10,000 to \$15,000 or more) - but it will take a strong showing of volunteers in the seven days leading up to the Fourth to make it work.

Fireworks Stand Coverage times:

Friday, June 28:

12 Noon to 3:00 pm, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

June 29 through July 4:

9:00am to 12:00 Noon, 12:00 Noon to 3:00pm, 3:00pm to 6:00pm and 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Please sign up to help staff the booth by the Ministry Table.

Prayer List Update: Our prayer list that we read aloud in church on Sundays has become quite long. This is because we didn't have a policy for taking people off the prayer list. To manage this better, we will be implementing the following policy. Our new policy will go into effect on June 16. If your name or loved one's name is currently on the list and you would like them to remain on the list, please let us know using the guidelines below.

- Names for the prayer list are best submitted in writing or by email to Carol Foote (cbf1@me.com) or the office (stjohnslodi@sbcglobal.net), but can also be submitted in person and over the phone. Please let us know whether you would like the name on the spoken list and how you would like it spoken (first name only or first and last). Please get permission to add the name before submitting it.

- When a name is placed on the list it will remain on the list for four weeks. After four weeks, they will automatically come off, though they may be renewed to remain for an additional four weeks.

- If you would like us to continue to pray for someone, please renew by sending an additional email letting us know your preference.