

Welcome to

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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



The Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 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) 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 Advent Greens are given to the glory of God by:

None

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

Those Who Serve Today

Celebrant: The Rev. Betsy McElroy (B)

Deacon/Preacher: The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson (B)

Choir Director: Steven Weikle

Pianist/Organist: Michael Tompkins

Eucharistic Minister: Beth Elwood (C)

Lectors: Charlene Martin & Rosemary Cress

Camera Acolyte: Fran Bott (GF)

Crucifer: Cheryl Nix (C)

Lighting of the Advent Candles: Eric Goossens & Stephanie Pilcher

Ushers: Debby Weberski & TBA

Sound: Steve Augusto

Altar Guild: Margaret Meyers & Bunmi Olowoyeye

Vestry Open/Close (Announcements): Debby Weberski/Fran Bott

Designer Guild: Janie Williams & Allison Dooley

Nursery Care: None until further notice

Sunday School: Peggy Moos

Coffee Hour: Yvonne Mitchell

Counters: None

A Reading from the Book of Zephaniah *All are seated*

Charlene Martin

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,

a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,

so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors

at that time.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,

at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes, says the Lord. (*Zephania 3:14-20*)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 9 *The First Song of Isaiah*

Charlene Martin

Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Rosemary Cress

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians *All are seated*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (*Philippians 4:4-7*)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Prepare the way the way of the Lord

MHSO 61

Canon

1 2
Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord, and
3 4
all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. ____

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Luke

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

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. (*Luke 3:7-18*)

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson

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; including from our prayer list Marilyn and Jack Cook, Jack Christy and family, the Canwells, Richard and Rosemary Cress, the Wilson family, Scott, Devin L., Greg S., Gail W., Karin Garcia's fiancé, The McCormick and Badgley families, the Barron Family, Katie Long & Marlene Loeth.

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.

Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **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

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

(Celebrant and People)

Hymnal S140

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks
to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

The Celebrant continues,

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with St. John the Baptist and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.



The Lord's Prayer *(traditional)*

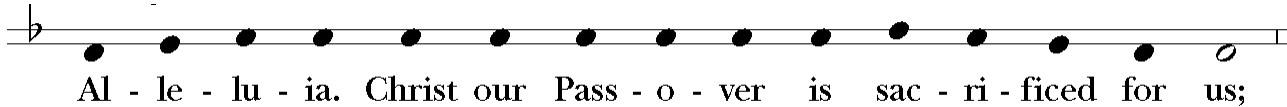
Celebrant: And now as our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

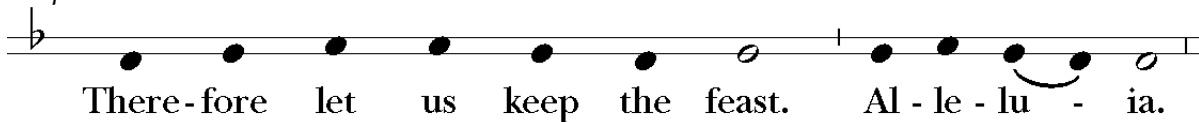
The Breaking of the Bread

Hymnal S152

Celebrant



People

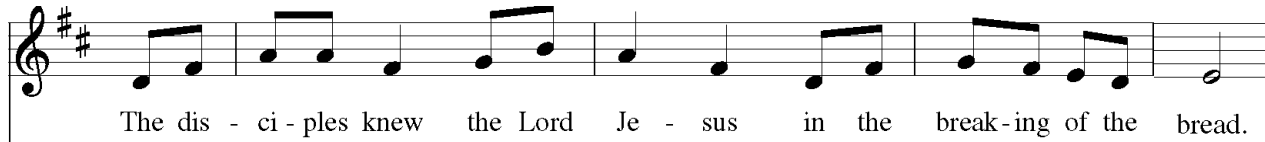


Fraction Hymn

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus

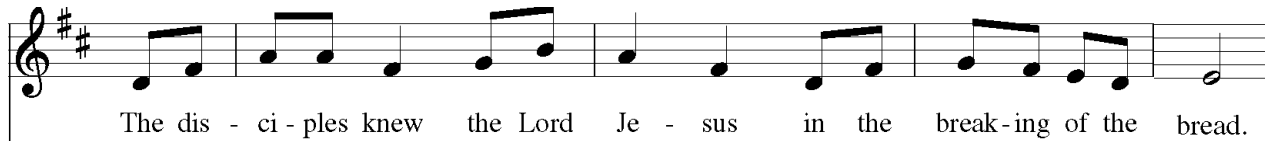
WLP 877

Choir/Cantor



The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread.

Refrain- All Sing



The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread.

Choir/Cantor

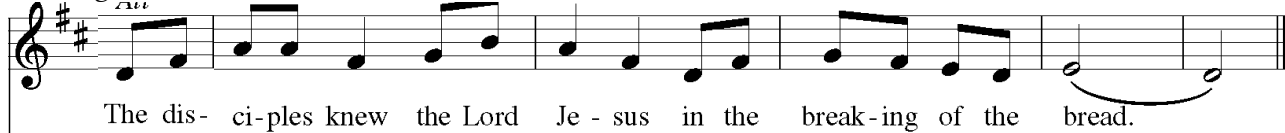
The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.

Refrain - All Sing

Choir/Cantor

One body are we, alleluia, though many we share one bread.

All Sing



The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the 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.

Communion Music

Watchman, tell us of the night

Hymnal 640

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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.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the people.

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.**

Recessional Hymn

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Hymnal 76

The Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace to prepare the way of The Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Hark, the Glad Sound

by Thomas Haweis

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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:



Upcoming Calendar

Sunday, December 15 – Advent III

9:00 am to 9:20 am, Advent Quiet Time, Historic Chapel

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

11:00 am, Advent Study, Historic Chapel

12:00 noon, A New Lodi, Families Helping Families, Church

Monday, December 16

4:30 pm, Lodi High School Choir Concert, Church (Concert @ 6:00 pm)

Tuesday, December 17

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church Office

6:00 pm, Vestry Meeting, Hospitality Room

Wednesday, December 18

12:00 Noon, Noon-Day Prayer, Historic Chapel

6:30pm, Choir Practice, Hospitality Room

Thursday, December 19

8:00 pm, Compline Prayer, Zoom

Sunday, December 22 – Advent IV

9:00 am to 9:20 am, Advent Quiet Time, Historic Chapel

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

11:00 am, Advent Study, Chapel

Church office is close the week of December 23rd.

Christmas Eve, December 24

3:30 p.m, Carols, Church

4:00 p.m., Holy Eucharist, Church

Christmas Day, December 25

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Historic Chapel

Christmas I, Sunday, December 29

9:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols, Church

Families Helping Families 2024 - Once again St. John's will be serving as the collection and distribution site on Sunday, December 15th for Families Helping Families sponsored by A New Lodi. If you would like to support this effort please contact Mickey Ditmore 209-298-8829 or mditmore28@gmail.com

Join us every Wednesday at 12 Noon for Noon-Day Prayer in the Chapel.

Compline Prayer Thursdays @ 8:00 pm: Here's the link for the **Thursday, 8:00 PM, Compline service.** Topic: Compline Time: 8:00 PM Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82473384767?pwd=7xJY6MbaOLFjrn1NWm41nZPDJIT87T.1>

Meeting ID: 824 7338 4767 Passcode: 168908

****Attention Ministry Leaders! Ministry Reports due January 13, 2025**

It is that time again to start preparing for the Annual Meeting in January. Please have your Ministry reports to Penny in the office by January 13, 2025. Thank you.

Silent Prayer for Advent - Every Sunday in Advent, the Chapel will be open from 9:00 am to 9:20 am. This is an opportunity for Silent Prayer prior to the church service.

Advent Study Opportunity Sundays during Advent - This Advent, we invite you to join us in reading the Book of Isaiah. Each Sunday during the Season of Advent, we will meet after the service in the Historic Chapel to discuss the chapters assigned for that week. Materials, including the reading schedule and links to introductory videos, are provided on the ministry table. If you have questions, please see Rev. Betsy or Dc. Tom.

Before diving into Isaiah in preparation for our Advent discussion, you may find it helpful to watch the following video as an introduction to Isaiah.

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/isaiah-1-39/>

LAST CHANCE! Flowers for Adornment of the Christmas Liturgy - It is a tradition of our church to list special remembrance and dedications in our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day service bulletin. You are invited to participate in this ministry. On the ministry table you will find a list from last year. If you want to do the same dedication, please indicate OK next to your entry. If you would like to add a new dedication, please fill out the form next to this list and place in basket provided. If you want to change your listing, please write in red pen and make updates or changes. If you have any questions, please check with Penny in the office.

Vestry Nominations are Open . . . Feeling Called? - We are in the process of gathering names for our 2027 Vestry Class. The vestry serves as the board for St. John's. Please read the November Newsletter for a detailed description. If you are feeling called to serve, please let any of our current vestry members, Rev. Betsy, or Dc. Tom know and we will put your name forward (or if you know someone who'd serve well in this ministry).

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