

Welcome to

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 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: The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson (B)

Preacher: Andee Zetterbaum

Choir Director: Steven Weikle

Pianist/Organist: Michael Tompkins

Eucharistic Minister: Anne Reeve (CW)

Lectors: Debby Weberski & Fran Bott

Camera Acolyte: Joey Soria (GF)

Crucifer: Beth Elwood (CW)

Lighting of the Advent Candles: The Salters

Ushers: Debby Weberski & Peggy Moos

Sound: Stephanie Pilcher

Altar Guild: Cheryl Nix & Anne Reeve

Vestry Open/Close (Announcements): Debby Weberski/Beth Elwood

Designer Guild: Janie Williams & Allison Dooley

Nursery Care: None until further notice

Sunday School: Janie Williams

Coffee Hour: Megan Harrison

Counters: Eric Goossens & Sharon Farnsworth

The Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

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Entrance Hymn *(Standing)*

Praise we the Lord this day

Hymnal 267

Wreath Prayer for the Lighting of the Advent Candles

Celebrant (Light all four candles and say),

“Lord, my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all people – a light to bring light to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.” *(Luke 2:30-32)*


People,

Dear God, let the glorious light of Jesus’ love shine in our lives and proclaim the Good Tidings to everyone we meet. Amen.

Opening Acclamation


Hymnal S 76

Celebrant



Bless-ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit.

People



And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev-er. A-men.

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.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; 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 Micah *All are seated*

Debby Weberski

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace. *(Micah 5:2-5a)*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7

Debby Weberski

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

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.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever." *(Luke 1:39-55)*

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Andee Zetterbaum

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.**

Prayers of the People *Form III*

Anne Reeve

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 and Marlene Loseth.

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

your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

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,

(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)*

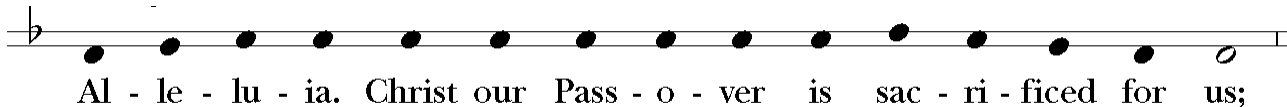
Celebrant: And now as our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

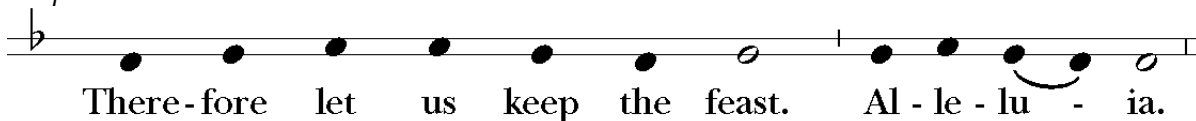
The Breaking of the Bread

Hymnal S152

Celebrant



People

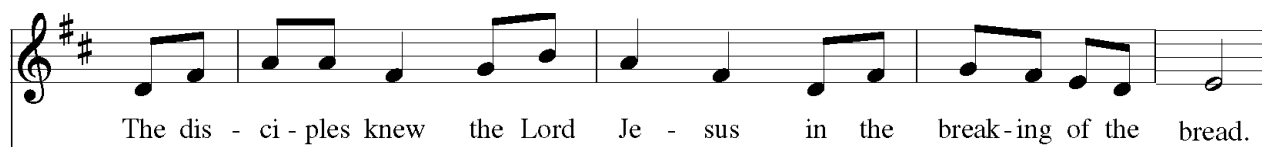


Fraction Hymn

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus

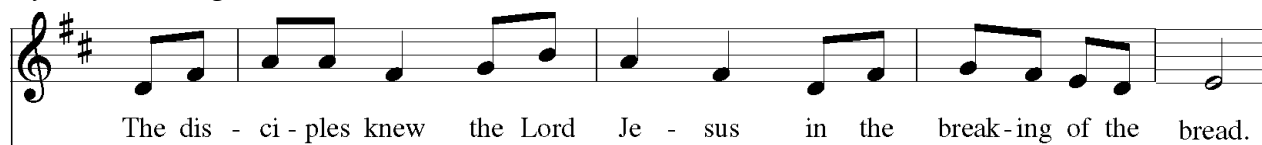
WLP 877

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

Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding

Hymnal 59

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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.

Presider

Dear Friends in Christ, we have been in companionship with The Salter Family on our journey in faith. Now their time with us is drawing to a close, and so we send them forth to continue their journey.

Presider and People

O Lord, we give thanks for The Salter Family's time among us and for their contribution to our common life. Bless them as they go forth; be with those who leave and with us who stay; and grant that all of us, by drawing ever nearer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of your saints. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, 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 *Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord* Hymnal 437

The Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Upcoming Calendar

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.

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

3:30 pm, Carols, Church

4:00 pm, Christmas Eve Service, Church

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

Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day

9:30 am, Christmas Day Service, Historic Chapel

Thursday, December 26

8:00 pm, Compline Prayer, Zoom

Sunday, December 29

9:30 am, Lessons & Carols, Church

No Noon-Day Prayer on Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day & New Years Day

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=7xJY6MbaOLFjrnlnNWm41nZPDJIT87T.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.

Today is our last Silent Prayer for Advent - In the Chapel from 9:00 am to 9:20 am.

This is an opportunity for Silent Prayer prior to the church service.

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).

January 2025 Newsletter Deadline is Monday, December 23 - Please submit to the office via email or leave on Penny's desk. She will be finishing it on Monday December 30th for distribution on the 31st. Thank you.

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