

Welcome to
**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

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



Christmas Day
Historic Chapel
December 25, 2024 ☩ 9:30 a.m.

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 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.

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.

See page 13 -15 for a list of Christmas Flowers

Those who serve this morning

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

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson (GF)

Choir Director: Steven Weikle

Pianist/Organist: Michael Tompkins

Eucharistic Minister/Cruicfer: Beth Elwood (CW)

Lector: Charlene Martin (CJ) & Bob Gorczyca

Ushers: Karen & Kelly Olds

Altar Guild: Peggy Moos & Bunmi Olowoyeye

Vestry Open/Close: Beth Elwood & Charlene Martin

Designer Guild: All Members

Nursery Care: None

Sunday School: None

Coffee Hour Host: None

The Rev. Betsy McElroy, Rector

Worship: Sundays 9:30 a.m.

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)

The Liturgy of the Word

Welcome

Prelude

What Child is this

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Entrance Hymn

(Stand)

O Come, all ye faithful

Hymnal 83

Opening Acclamation

Hymnal S80

Celebrant

Christ the Lord is born this night

O come, let us a - dore him

(All remain standing.)

The Gloria

Canticle 20

Hymnal S278

The Collect of the Day

BCP p. 213

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

Charlene Martin

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (*Isaiah 9:2-7*)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96

Charlene Martin

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

A Reading from the Book of Titus

Bob Gorczyca

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. (*Titus 2:11-14*)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Away in a manger

Hymnal 101

A Reading from the Holy Gospel Luke

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

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child

lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. *(Luke 2:1-20)*

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Betsy McElroy

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.

Prayers of the People *(The leader and people pray responsively, standing)* Beth Elwood

Jesus, Son of Mary, you have come among us, to be one of us. We welcome you into our homes, we welcome you into our hearts, we welcome you into our lives. Let all who come to your church worship with the shepherds and adore you with the angels. Empower your church to show forth your glory. We pray for Michael our presiding Bishop, David our bishop, Betsy our priest and all the baptized. Prince of peace,
Reveal to us your glory.

The peace of your presence be upon our troubled world, the power of your presence protect us from evil, the light of your presence scatter the darkness from before us. Give peace on earth, peace among the nations and peace in each land. Prince of peace,
Reveal to us your glory.

You could find no room at the inn. We remember before you all who are homeless and can find no place of rest. We pray for street children and children in care, for all who are lonely and feel neglected this Christmas, for those who will spend Christmas in the hospital, for all who are ill. Prince of peace,
Reveal to us your glory.

We rejoice that you became human that we might share in the Divine. We pray for all our loved ones departed that we may share with them in a vision of your glory. Prince of peace,
Reveal to us your glory.

Fill us with wonder and awe, fill us with joy and thanksgiving, that our lives may proclaim your grace and your glory. Be known in our lives and in our dealings. Prince of peace,
Reveal to us your glory.

The Celebrant adds 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.**

There is no Confession of Sin today. Christ the Savior is born for us!

The Peace

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

People: And also with you.

Offertory Sentence

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Anthem

God rest ye merry, gentlemen

Hymnal 105

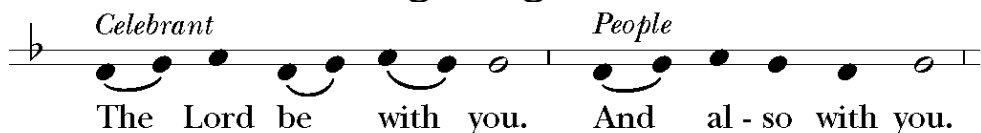
The Doxology

Praise to God (vs. 3 only)

Hymnal 380

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

Hymnal S120



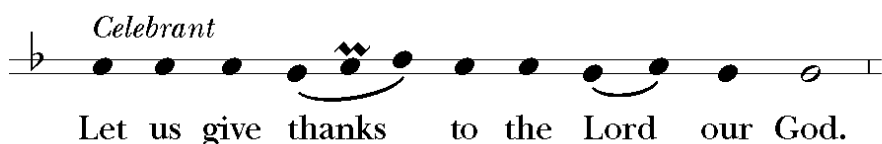
Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



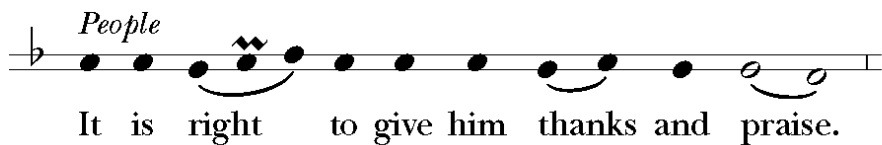
Celebrant *People*

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.

Proper Preface of the Season/Chosen by Celebrant

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:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus:

Hymnal S124

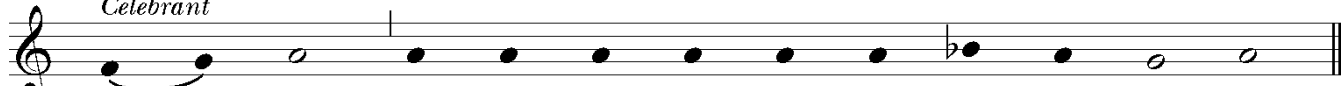
The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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."

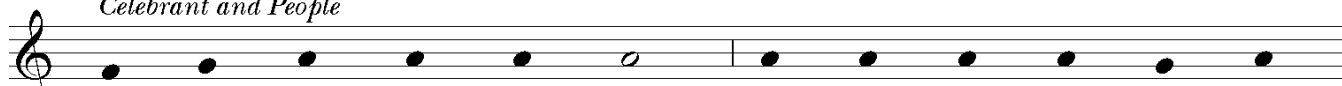
After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Celebrant

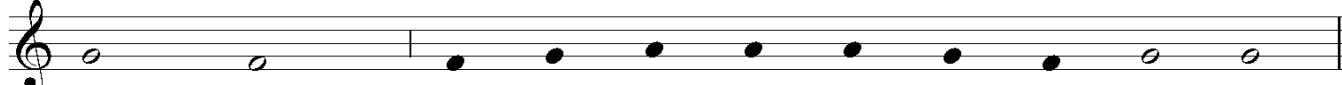


There - fore, ac - cord - ing to his com - mand, O Fa - ther,

Celebrant and People



We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -



rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

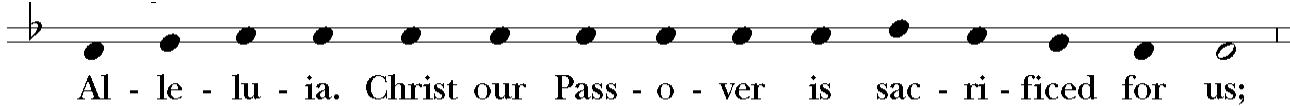
Celebrant: As our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

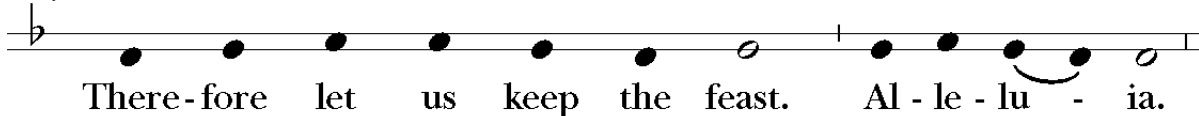
The Breaking of the Bread

Hymnal S152

Celebrant



People

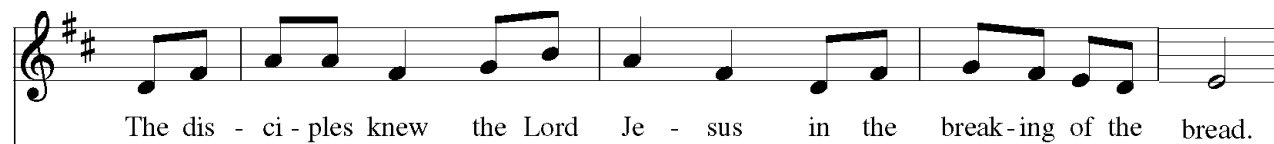


Fraction Hymn

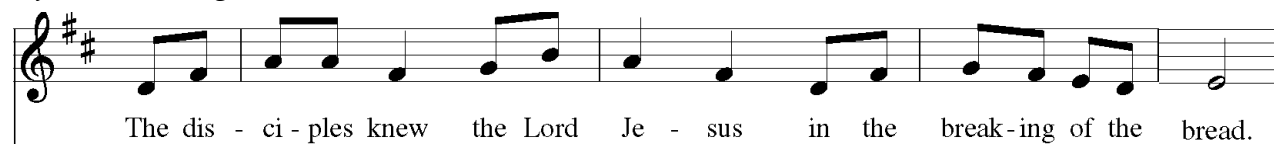
The disciples knew the Lord Jesus

WLP 877

Choir/Cantor



Refrain- All Sing



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



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 Hymn

Love come down at Christmas

Hymnal 84

Postcommunion Prayer *(Kneeling or seated)*

BCP p. 365

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

Recessional Hymn

Joy to the World

Hymnal 100

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in the peace of the Word made flesh.

People: Thanks be to God.

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:



We offer special thanks for our donors for
2024 Christmas Thanksgivings and Remembrances

Mary Ellen Beckman, in loving memory of Kenneth and our family members who are departed and thanksgiving for family and friends, special thanks for Sam, Ruth, Annie, John, Henry and Oliver

Julie Ellis, in loving memory of Norman Lithco

Carol Bower Foote, in loving memory of cousins David, Douglas, Laurie and spouses Tom, Pete, and Gordy

Marilyn & John Cook, in thanksgiving for many wonderful blessings, Steve, Nancy & Walt

Ruth Diekman, in loving memory and in thanksgiving for family members and friends

Beth & Jim Elwood, In loving memory of our parents, family & friends no longer with us

Sharon Farnsworth, in loving memory of George Farnsworth and in thanksgiving for family present and departed

St. John's family in memory of Patricia Fehling and all her many works

Elfonda Filomeo, for all God's blessings and in memory of Brandon, Donald and Maybelle

Lewis and Candice Gale in thanksgiving for our children Madeline, Lewis and Brandon

Kathy Girard, in loving memory of Pete Girard and family

Annabelle Goodwin in loving memory of Bob & Marilyn Blincoe

Bob & Patsy Gorczyca, in memory of our parents, John & Stella Gorczyca and John & Kitten Tymkowych, and in thanksgiving for our church family

Linda Harkins & Lisa Ayers, in loving memory of Husband & Dad Jack Harkins and so many members of family and dear friends.

Donna and Bob Hoffman, in memory of their daughter, Kimberly Crespi and granddaughters, Tessara and Samantha Crespi

The Krengel Family in memory of Richard and Carol Krengel

Corky Kuykendall, in loving memory of my wonderful wife Karen, of our daughter Gia, our granddaughter Amanda and our parents Bill & Ruth and Paul & Thelma and Malachi DeLanoy

John and Edyth Ledbetter, in celebration of life of their parents, Grace and Ernie Ellis, and Barbara and Keith Ledbetter; sister Carol Grimes and for the blessings of children and grandchildren

Patsy Lithco, in loving memory of Norman Lithco

Patsy Lithco, in loving memory of Norval & Betty Gundershaug

Ida Mae Lobb, in loving memory of Mary Thomas, Elizabeth Lobb, Kristy Lobb and Joe Lobb

Steve and Betsy McElroy in Thanksgiving for their family and for St. John's. In loving memory of friends and family they have lost along the way.

Peggy Moos, in thanksgiving for family members past and present

John Nieman in loving memory of Fran Nieman

Kelly & Karen Olds in thanksgiving for St. John's Parish Family

Anne and Jim Reeve, In memory of John Reeve, Roger & Marian Reeve and Ellen & George Webster

Paula Saubolle, in memory of my father Louis Bachmann, The Rev. Roger R. Jones and my brother-in-law Gordon Lockhart

Vinita Shinn, in loving memory of her husband, Bob, and her parents, John and Eula Coulter

Hennie VanKonynenburg and Tom Hampson in loving memory of Lee & Margaret Hampson and Frank & Christina VanKonynenburg

Joel and Nancy Walker, in loving memory of our parents: Barbara & Keith Ledbetter and Opal & Art Walker; in memory my sister, Carol Grimes and in thanksgiving for

many wonderful blessing

Ken & Barbara Warburton in loving memory of parents, Harry & Reta Petersen and Charles & Ethel Warburton

The Wied and Schmitt Families, in loving memory of Douglas and Christine Wied

Dick, Janie, Lindsey and Allison in loving memory of Jerry & Max Christesen and in thanksgiving for family and friends!

Penny, Hannah & Holly Wilson, in loving memory of a wonderful husband and father Greg Wilson, also in memory of "Oz" Wilson, Randy Wilson and Carolyn Wilson

The poster features a dark blue background with a large, bright yellow starburst at the top center. The title "Epiphany Eve" is written in a white, elegant cursive font across the top. Below the title, the event details are listed in a clean, white sans-serif font. At the bottom, there are silhouettes of three camels and their riders against a lighter blue sky with scattered white stars. The text at the bottom lists the activities for the celebration.

Epiphany Eve

Join us Sunday, January 5,
after Coffee Hour
to celebrate bringing the light
of Christ into the world.

Our Celebration will include:
Chalking of the Doors
Prayer Stations

- Labyrinth
- Prayer Bead Making
- Walking Prayers

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