

*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 after Christmas Lessons & Carols

December 29, 2024 † 9:30 a.m.

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  
209.369.3381 (voice) † [stjohnslodi.org](http://stjohnslodi.org) † [stjohnslodi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stjohnslodi@sbcglobal.net)

# 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.

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

Marilyn & John Cook in celebration of their Wedding Anniversary.

*If you would like to donate flowers, please contact the church office at 209-369-3381.*

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## *Those Who Serve Today*

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

*Deacon:* The Rev. Deacon Tom Hampson (B)

*Choir Director:* Steven Weikle

*Pianist/Organist:* Michael Tompkins

*Eucharistic Minister:* Beth Elwood (CW)

*Lectors:* Hennie Van Konynenburg, Debby Weberski, Charlene Martrin (CJ),

Stacey Bagnasco & Beth Elwood

*Camera Acolyte:* Fran Bott (GF)

*Crucifer:* Stacey Bagnasco (CW)

*Ushers:* Debby Weberski & David Diekman

*Sound:* James Bassett

*Altar Guild:* Stuart Kregel & Dee Mayfield

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

*Designer Guild:* Kathy Girard & Barbara Warburton

*Nursery Care:* None

*Sunday School:* Ruth Diekman

*Counter:* Sharon Farnsworth & TBA

*Coffee Hour:* TBA

# CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

*Please place cell phones in the silent mode.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

*I saw three ships*

**Entrance Hymn:**

*Hark! The herald Angels Sing*


Hymnal 87

*(Please stand)*

**Opening Acclamation**

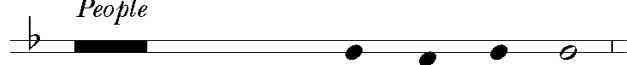
Hymnal S80

*Celebrant*



Christ the Lord is born this night

*People*



O come, let us a - dore him

*(All remain standing.)*

**The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **and also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **A Bidding Prayer** *Contemporary*

The Rev. Betsy McElory

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to gather up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

*Presider and People*

**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**

*Presider*

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

(The congregation is seated)

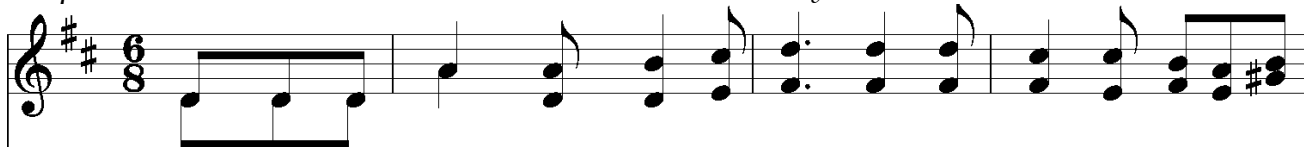
## Genesis 3:1-15

Hennie Van Konynenburg

*People, look east, the time is near*

(Verses 1-3 only)

WLP #724



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.

## Isaiah 35:1-10

Debby Weberski

*It came upon the midnight clear*

(Verses 1 & 4 only)

Hymnal 89

## Luke 1:5-25

Charlene Martin

Choir Anthem

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*

Choir Only

## Luke 1:26-58

Stacey Bagnasco

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came*

Hymnal 265

## Luke 2:1-20

Beth Elwood

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed*

Hymnal 101

## **Luke 2:21-36**

Debby Weberski

*What Child is this*

*(Verses 1 & 2 only)*

Hymnal 115

## **John 1:1-18**

Charlene Martin

*O come, all ye faithful*

*(Verses 1 & 3 only)*

Hymnal 84

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad every year as we remember the birth of the Child Jesus, the Savior of the world. Grant that, like the shepherds and angels, we too may know him on earth; and grant that his spirit of peace may fill our hearts, our families, and our world, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Nicene Creed** *All stand as able.*

Deacon Tom Hampson

**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.**

*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

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## Offertory Anthem

*Infant Holy*

Arr. Mary Goetz

*Offering envelopes for your Christmas giving may be found in the pew.*

## Doxology

*The Doxology*

Hymnal 380 vs. 3 only

## 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:

## Sanctus

*Holy, holy, holy Lord*

Hymnal S-124


*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."

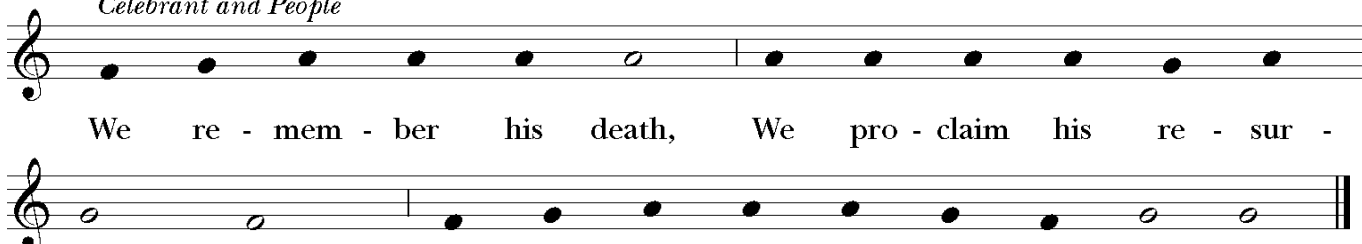
After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

*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.**

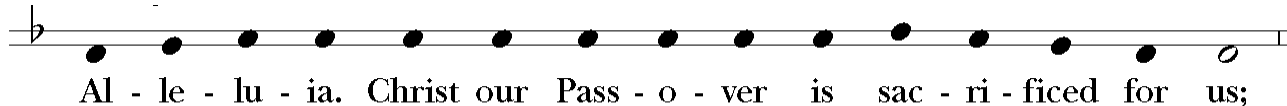
*Celebrant:* As our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

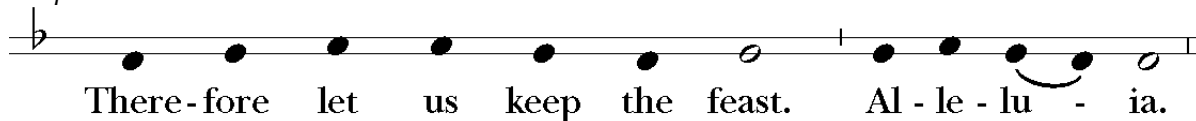
## The Breaking of the Bread

Hymnal S152

*Celebrant*



*People*

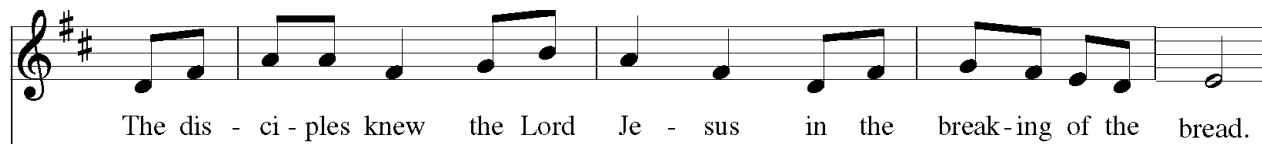


# Fraction Hymn

*The disciples knew the Lord Jesus*

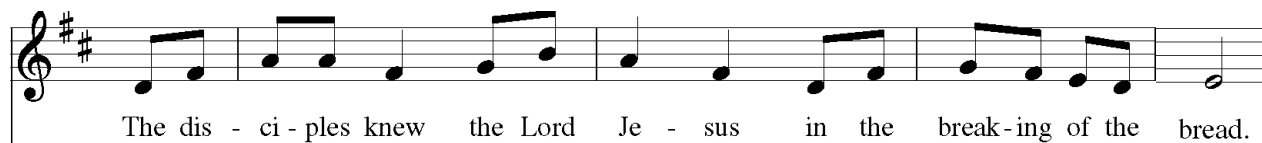
WLP 877

*Choir/Cantor*



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 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. Please place hands crossed over your heart if you wish to receive communion in one kind, or a blessing.*

## Communion Hymn

*Dost thou in a manger lie*

Hymnal 97

## Postcommunion Prayer *(Celebrant & people, kneeling or seated.)*

BCP p. 365

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*All:* **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 Christmas Blessing

*The Celebrant offers God's blessing.*

## Closing Hymn *(Standing)*

*Angels we have heard on high*

Hymnal 96

## The Dismissal

*Deacon:* Go in the peace of the Word made flesh.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Salute the Happy Morn*

*by Robert J. Hughes*

**You can also give through GIVELIFY app.** If you go to our website:

[www.stjohnsoflodi.org](http://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

### **Tuesday, December 31**

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church Office

### **Wednesday, January 1 - Happy New Year - Office Closed**

No Noon Day Prayer

No Choir Practice

### **Thursday, January 2**

8:00 pm, Compline Prayer, Zoom

### **Sunday, January 5**

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

Following coffee hour, Epiphany Service, Historic Chapel

**No Noon-Day Prayer this Wednesday - Happy New Year!**

**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=7xJY6MbaOLFjrnlnWm41nZPDJIT87T.1>

Meeting ID: 824 7338 4767

Passcode: 168908

### **Financial Gifts to St. John's Are Always Welcome**

- **2025 Pledges** continue to be gratefully accepted and may be mailed to or dropped off in the office or placed in the offering plate on Sunday.



**Soul Kitchen Returning In January** – Mark your calendars for Friday January 31st! Soul Kitchen returns.

**Bingo News – Join Us February 22!**- Check out the January & February 2025 Newsletters for an update on our next Bingo event.

**\*\*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.

123rd Annual Meeting of  
The Episcopal Church of  
St. John the Baptist

Join us on  
**Sunday, January 26, 2025**  
Following the Sunday Eucharist

We will review 2024,  
Present the budget for 2025

Say Thank you to our out-going  
Vestry Members

Vote in our New Vestry Members  
and Delegate to Convention.

# *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