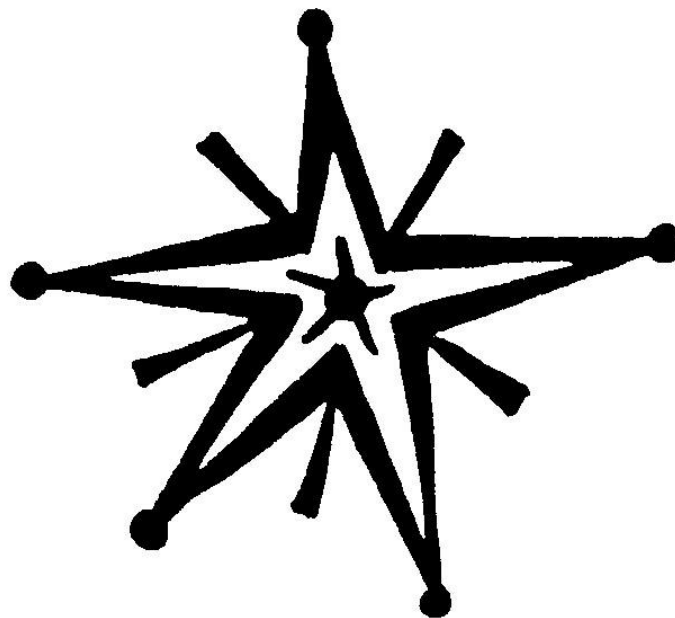


*Welcome to*

# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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



## The Second Sunday after Christmas Day

January 5, 2025 ☩ 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.

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## Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by:

Stephanie & Rosemary Reynolds in loving memory of their mother Caroline Reynolds, who returned to the Lord on December 26. May she Rest In Peace.

Mary Ellen Beckman in loving memory of her husband, Kenneth, for his birthday, Jan. 9.

*If you would like to donate flowers, please contact the church office at 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 Ministers:* Beth Elwood (CW) & Anne Reeve (CJ)

*Lectors:* David Lujan & Rosemary Cress

*Camera Acolyte:* Fran Bott (GF)

*Crucifer:* Charlene Martin (CW)

*Ushers:* Tom Gundershaug & Debby Weberski

*Sound:* Dick Williams

*Altar Guild:* Dee Mayfield & Aleathea Langone

*Vestry Open/Close (Announcements):* Debby Weberski/ Andee Zetterbaum

*Designer Guild:* Ejae Perry & Mandi Sager

*Nursery Care:* None until further notice

*Sunday School:* Ruth Diekman

*Coffee Hour:* Margaret Meyers & Yvonne Mitchell

*Counters:* Sharon Farnsworth & Tom Gundershaug

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Prelude

*Lully Lulla Lullay, thou tiny child*

traditional French carol

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## Entrance Hymn

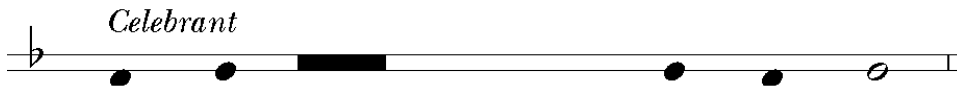
*(Standing) How bright appears the Morning Star*

Hymnal 497

## Opening Acclamation

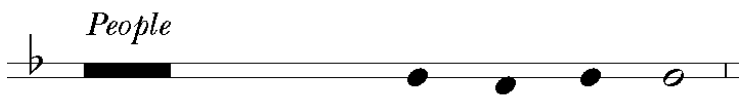
Hymnal S80

*Celebrant*



Christ the Lord is born this day

*People*



O come, let us a - dore him

## 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.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah

*All are seated*

David Lujan

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and

declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD. (*Jeremiah 31:7-14*)

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

## **Psalm 84:1-8**

David Lujan

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! \*  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, \*  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; \*  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

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

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe. (*Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a*)

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

## **Sequence Hymn** *Unto us a boy is born (vs. 1,2 & 5)*

Hymnal 98

## **A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Matthew**

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

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the

place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. (*Matthew 2:1-12*)

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

## **Sermon**

The Rev. Betsy McElroy

*Silence*

## **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 Sean our presiding Bishop, David our bishop, Betsy our priest, Tom our Deacon 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 all children, especially those 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.

## 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

### 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.



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.



## The Lord's Prayer *(traditional)*

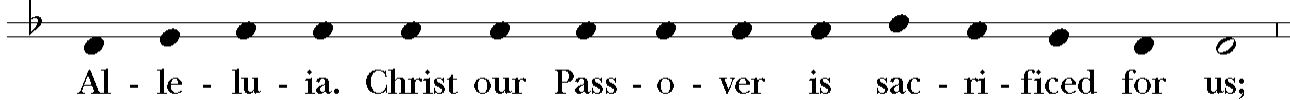
*Celebrant:* And now as our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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

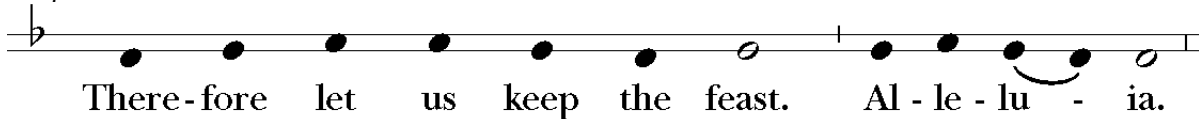
Hymnal S152

*Celebrant*



Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

*People*



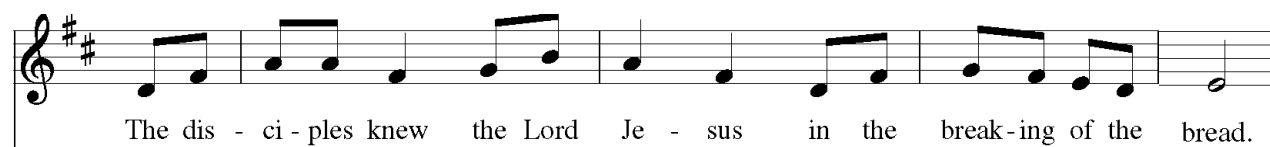
There-fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Fraction Hymn

*The disciples knew the Lord Jesus*

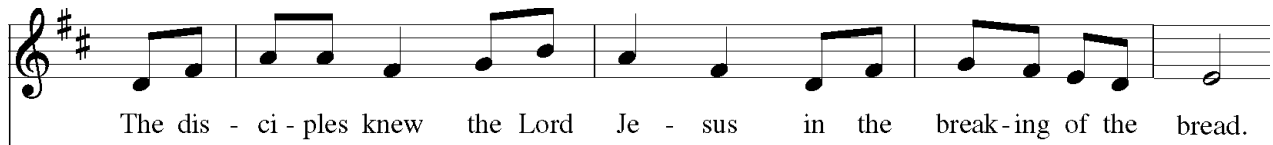
WLP 877

*Choir/Cantor*



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

*Refrain- All Sing*



*Choir/Cantor*

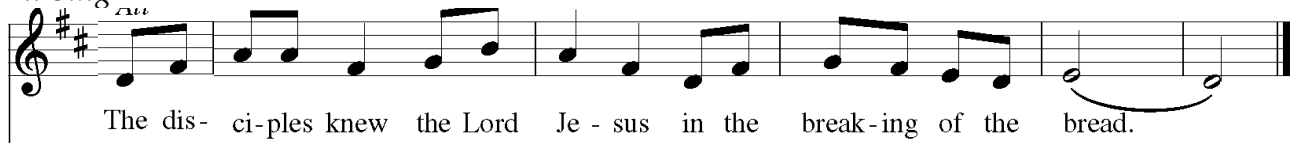
The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.

*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 Music**

*The First Noel*

Hymnal 109

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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 Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn

*On this day, Earth shall ring*

Hymnal 92

## The Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace or the Word made flesh.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*March of the Three Kings*

by Roger C. Wilson

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**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

### Sunday, January 5

8:30 am, Souper Sunday Sign Ups Begin – See Flyer on page 15

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

11:00 am, Epiphany Service, Chapel – See Flyer on page 16

**Monday, January 6 - 4:15 pm, Salvation Army Dinner Service, Hope Harbor**

### Tuesday, Tuesday, January 7

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church Office

5:30 pm, Finance Committee Meeting, Hospitality Room

### Wednesday, January 8

10:45 am, People of Faith, Hospitality or Nursery

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

6:30pm, Choir Practice, Hospitality Room

**Thursday, January 9 - 8:00 pm, Compline Prayer, Zoom**

**Saturday, January 11 - 4:15 pm, Salvation Army Dinner Service, Hope Harbor**

Sunday, January 12 - 9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

**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=7xJY6MbaOLFjrnINWm41nZPDJIT87T.1>  
Meeting ID: 824 7338 4767 Passcode: 168908

**Labyrinth in the Historic Chapel** - During the season of Epiphany, a labyrinth will be available for your use in the Historic Chapel. Walking a labyrinth is one of the oldest forms of contemplative prayer in which one weaves themselves inward toward the center and then back out again. Descriptions and ideas for prayer when using it will be available. The labyrinth will be available on Sunday mornings and during office hours. Please see Penny, Rev. Betsy, or Dc. Tom for access to the chapel. Note: this labyrinth is on generous loan from St. Raphael's in Oakhurst. Please remove your shoes prior to walking on it.

**\*\*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.

**Men's BBQ - Sunday January 19 at 5:00pm**

Please check out the ministry table and sign up if you plan on attending the 1<sup>st</sup> Men's BBQ of 2025. Bring a friend. If you have questions, please see John Ledbetter and/or Dick Williams. It is a great time for good food, wine and fellowship!

**Annual Church Meeting - Sunday, January 26, 2025** following the Church Service. Budget will be presented and voted on. Thank you to outgoing Vestry Members and the welcoming of new Vestry Members.

**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).

**Fun and easy ways to get involved!** - I know you're thinking, I would like to help out at church but it needs to be easy and fit in my schedule. Think about doing one of the following items just ONCE a month or every other month...

**Counter:** Help count the collection plate and take a deposit to the bank. You will be buddied up with another person.

**Sound Person:** You will be trained.

**Coffee Hour:** Find a friend to buddy up with or Penny can help you find someone.

**Camera Acolyte:** You will be trained.

**Usher:** We will find a person to Usher with you. Easy and a fun way to say "Hi" to everyone.

**Altar Guild:** These ladies and gentlemen set the altar with everything needed for our Sunday Services. You will be trained and partnered.

**Designers Guild:** Ever wonder who puts together all the flowers and extra decorations in the church for each Sunday? You will be trained and buddied up with someone. No special skills required.

**Eucharistic Ministers and Crucifer:** These are the robed people who serve with Rev. Betsy and Dcn. Tom during the service. You will be trained.

There are many more ways to help, just talk to Penny in the office if you are interested. You can email at [stjohnslodi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stjohnslodi@sbcglobal.net) or call 209-369-3381 and leave a message.



**SOUPER SUNDAY**  
*Sunday, February 9, 2025*

Calling all chefs and lovers of soup! On Feb 9th St. John's Lodi will hold the first Souper Sunday. Not to be confused with that football game on the same day! This Souper fundraiser will help support church ministries and is a perfect way to build community through food. All are welcome to participate by making or buying soup.

<p>Soup Makers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sign up to provide soup between Jan 5 and Jan 26</li><li>• The sign-up sheet will be on the Ministry table along with quart containers</li><li>• On Feb 9, plan to donate 4-8 qts of soup in the containers provided (may be frozen or chilled)</li></ul>	<p>Soup Buyers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Soups for sale will be posted on "Soup Sheets" in the hallway to the Hospitality Room</li><li>• Anyone can sign up to purchase a soup by putting your name on the Soup Sheet</li><li>• Soups are \$15 per quart to be picked up on Feb 9 at coffee hour</li><li>• Bring checks made out to St. John's or cash to pick up your soup on Feb 9</li></ul>
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# 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

The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist  
Presents...



**Saturday, February 22, 2025**

**12:00 noon to 3:00 pm**

**Tickets are \$20.00 per person which includes:**

**12:00 noon: Doors Open**

**12:00 noon to 1:00 pm: Luncheon**

**1:00 pm to 3:00 pm: 10 Bingo Games  
2 Bingo Cards**

**Space is limited, reservations are suggested**

**Please RSVP by calling**

Mary Ellen at 209-369-4240 or

St. John's Church at 209-369-3381 or

Sign Up at the Ministry Table at Church

1055 S. Lower Sacramento Road  
Lodi, Ca 95242

**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