

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

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



*Remember that you are dust and  
to dust you shall return.*

**Ash Wednesday**  
February 18, 2026 ☩ 6:00 p.m.  
Church

## Welcome to the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist!

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.

**This bulletin will guide you through the liturgy (worship service). BCP refers to the Book of Common prayer in the pews, Hymn numbers refer to the blue Hymnal 1982.**

### *Those Who Serve Today*

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

*Choir Director:* Steven Weikle

*Pianist/Organist:* Michael Tompkins

*Eucharistic Ministers:* Anne Reeve (CW) & Margaret Meyers (CJ)

*Lectors:* Robert Elliott & Christina Soria

*Camera Acolyte:* Holly Wilson (GF)

*Crucifer:* Charlene Martin (CW)

*Sound:* Steve Augusto

*Ushers:* Corky Kuykendall & Andee Zetterbaum

*Altar Guild:* Anne Reeve & Dee Mayfeild

*Vestry Open/Close (Announcements):* Margaret Meyers & Andee Zetterbaum

*Designer Guild:* None

Copyright: All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-706573A

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 † 209.369.3381

stjohnslodi@sbcglobal.net † [www.stjohnsoflodi.org](http://www.stjohnsoflodi.org)

# Ash Wednesday

*Ministers and choir enter Psalm 69 is read by all.*

*All Stand*

## Entrance Psalm

*Psalm 69*

BCP p. 679

## Salutation

BCP p. 355

*Celebrant:* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People:* His mercy endures for ever

## Collect of the Day

BCP p. 264

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## A Reading from the Book of Isaiah *All are seated.*

Robert Elliott

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the

afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. (*Isaiah 58:1-12*)

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

## **Psalm 103:8-14**

Robert Elliott

- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust.

Christina Soria

## **A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness,

holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. (2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10)

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

**Sequence Hymn** *All stand.* O day of God, draw nigh (vs. 1-3) Hymnal 601

**Holy Gospel According to Matthew** *All stand.*

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

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

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:1-6,16-31)

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Homily** *All are seated.*

The Rev. Betsy McElroy

## **Invitation to a Holy Lent** *Standing as able.*

Rev. Betsy McElroy

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

## **Prayer Over Ashes** *(Celebrant Continues)*

BCP p. 265

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## **Distribution of Ashes**

*This is done standing. Congregants receiving ashes, beginning with the altar party and choir, will form two lines, the clergy will place ashes on the forehead of those who come before them along with the words "remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."*

## **Imposition of Ashes Anthem** *(Choir Sings)*

Psalm 51:1-13

## **Litany of Penitence** *Celebrant and People together, kneeling or standing*

BCP p. 267

**Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

*Celebrant continues*

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

***Have mercy on us, Lord.***

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

*Have mercy on us, Lord.*

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

*We confess to you, Lord.*

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

*We confess to you, Lord.*

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

*We confess to you, Lord.*

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

*We confess to you, Lord.*

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

*We confess to you, Lord.*

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

*Accept our repentance, Lord.*

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

*Accept our repentance, Lord.*

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

*Accept our repentance, Lord.*

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

*Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.*

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

*That we may show forth your glory in the world.*

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

*Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.*



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**

*Holy, holy, holy Lord*

Hymnal S130

*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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." There fore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*(Celebrant and People)*

## **Fraction Hymn**

*Jesus, Lamb of God*

Hymnal S164

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.



*A - MEN.*

*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

BCP p. 364

*Celebrant:* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People:** Therefore let us keep the feast.

*Celebrant:* 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 one line in the center aisle. There are two standing wine 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

*God himself is with us*

Hymnal 475

*Eat this bread*

Taize I



Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun-gry.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

## Postcommunion Prayer

Loving God,  
we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth  
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

## The Blessing

BOS p. 13

Bow down before the Lord.

*The people kneel and the Presider says*

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## Closing Hymn *(Standing)*

*The glory of these forty days*

Hymnal 143

## The Dismissal

*Deacon:* Go in peace to prepare for the Paschal Feast.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

*Come Ye Disconsolate*

by Samuel Webbe  
from Lift Every Voice and Sing

**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:



# Calendar

## **Wednesday, February 18 – Ash Wednesday**

6:00pm, Ash Wednesday Service, Church, with Eucharist

## **Thursday, February 19**

6:00 pm, Lenten Compline Prayer, Zoom

## **Friday, February 20**

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

## **Saturday, February 21**

12:00 pm, Bingo Luncheon, Church Narthex

## **Sunday, February 22**

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

11:00 am, Ector Oliveras Speaking, Hosted by Creation Care

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

**Lenten Compline Prayer Thursdays @ 6:00 pm:** Here's the link for the **Thursday, 6:00 PM, Compline service.** Topic: Compline Time: 6:00 PM Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82473384767?pwd=7xJY6MbaOLFjrnlnNWm41nZPDJIT87T.1>  
Meeting ID: 824 7338 4767 Passcode: 168908

**Creation Care News** – Join us on Sunday, February 22 after church when Creation Care will host a presentation by Ector Olivares. Ector serves with Catholic Charities in Stockton, leading the Environmental Justice program for the Stockton Diocese. He will share pertinent information concerning environmental risks in our own Lodi community.

**Men's BBQ Group News** – The Men's BBQ Group invites the women of St. John's to a combined Men's & Women's BBQ on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 pm. Please see the Ministry Table to sign up if you plan on attending. If you have questions, please let Penny in the office know 209-369-3381.



**Saturday, February 21, 2026**

**Starting at 12:00 Noon**

**Tickets are \$25.00 per person which includes:**

*12pm-1pm Lite lunch*

*1pm-3pm - 8 Bingo Games with cash prizes*

*2 Bingo cards*

*Additional Bingo cards \$2 each*

*Raffle drawing - \$1 per ticket*

**Space is limited, reservations are suggested**

**Please RSVP by calling**

St. John's Church at 209-369-3381 or  
Sign Up at the Ministry Table at Church

St. John's Invites You To

*Lenten* SOUP  *Suppers*

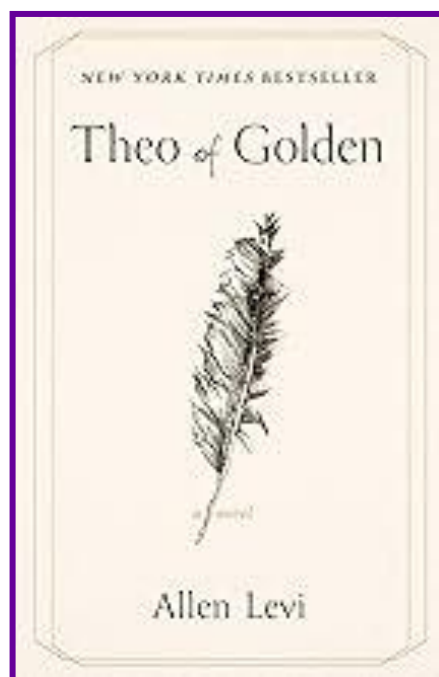
**Wednesdays in Lent**

**5:15 pm to 7:00 pm**

**February 25, March 4, 11, 18 & 25**

**5:15 p.m. Soup Supper — Church Narthex**

**6:00 p.m. Lenten Class — Hospitality Room**



*Please consider bringing a can of soup for the food basket.  
If you would like to provide a soup, please sign up at the ministry table.*

# *Scribble Page*

## **2026 Vestry Members:**

Beth Elwood, Senior Warden  
Eric Goossens, Junior Warden  
Rosemary Cress  
David Diekman  
Phyllis Duarte  
Robert Elliott  
Bob Gorczyca  
Katie Howard  
Christina Soria  
Dani Wilson