

*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 in Lent

March 1, 2026 ☩ 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), Enriching Our Worship 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.

---

## Today's Sanctuary Light is given to the glory of God by:

Ida Mae Lobb in loving memory of her husband Joe for his birthday, March 3.

*If you would like to donate for the Lent Sanctuary Light, please contact the church office at 369-3381.*

---

## Those Who Serve Today

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

*Deacon/Preacher:* The Rev. Deacon Greg Maszta (B)

*Choir Director:* Steven Weikle

*Pianist/Organist:* Michael Tompkins

*Guest Musician:* Jan Cariati

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

*Lectors:* Carol Foote & Christina Soria

*Camera Acolyte:* Fran Bott

*Crucifer:* Charlene Martin (CW)

*Ushers:* Debby Weberski & Tom Gundershaug

*Sound:* Steve Augusto

*Altar Guild:* Jim & Anne Reeve

*Vestry Open/Close (Announcements):* Katie Howard/Christina Soria

*Designer Guild:* None

*Nursery Care:* Allyssa Johnson

*Sunday School:* Janie Williams & Peggy Moos

*Coffee Hour:* Carol Foote

*Counters:* Joey Soria & Tom Gundershaug

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



*Celebrant,*

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *(Mark 12:29-31)*

## **Confession of Sin** *Deacon says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence.*

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*Celebrant continues,*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

## **Trisagion** *Stand as able, all together. Repeat 3 times.*

**Holy god, Holy and Mighty  
Holy Immortal One,  
Have mercy upon us.**

## **The Children Process to Sunday School**

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## A Reading from the Book of Genesis *All are seated*

Carol Foote

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. (*Genesis 12:1-4a*)

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

## Psalm 121

Carol Foote

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*  
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved \*  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; \*  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*  
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; \*  
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \*  
from this time forth for evermore.

## A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Christina Soria

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") – in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.  
(Romans 4:1-5,13-17)

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

## A Reading from the Holy Gospel of John

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

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

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3:1-17)

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## Sermon

The Rev. Deacon Greg Masztal

*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**

*Deacon,*

Behold, children of God, it is the Lord who watches over you. As people sent forth into the world, let us pray, praying, "Lord, bless us, so that we may bless others."

*Intercessor continues,*

Margaret Meyers

Lord, preserve your Church from all evil. May we, who have been born of water and the Spirit, proclaim the Kingdom of God in all the world. *Silence*

Lord, bless us,  
*So that we may bless others*

O God, may the leaders of the nations ever seek the truth. Open their hearts to true conversion and divine guidance. We pray especially for ... *Silence*

Lord, bless us,  
*So that we may bless others*

Maker of heaven and earth, you have blessed us with a wondrous and dynamic creation. Protect us from its rage; comfort us by its tranquility. Give us eyes to see your handiwork in the world around us. *Silence*

Lord, bless us,  
*So that we may bless others*

Lord, your eyes never close on your people. We thank you for your mindfulness of us and our community. Be our help and our safety. *Silence*

Lord, bless us,  
*So that we may bless others*

You did not send your Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world may see and experience your salvation. Bring wholeness to those who look to your Son for their help. We pray for those on our St. John's Prayer List ... *Silence*

Lord, bless us,  
*So that we may bless others*

O God, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist, keep the dying and the dead from this time forth and for evermore. Give eternal life to all those who trust in you, especially Betty Bandelin. *Silence*

Lord, bless us,  
*So that we may bless others*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

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

*People:* **And also with you.**

## **Announcements**

### **A Prayer for 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.**

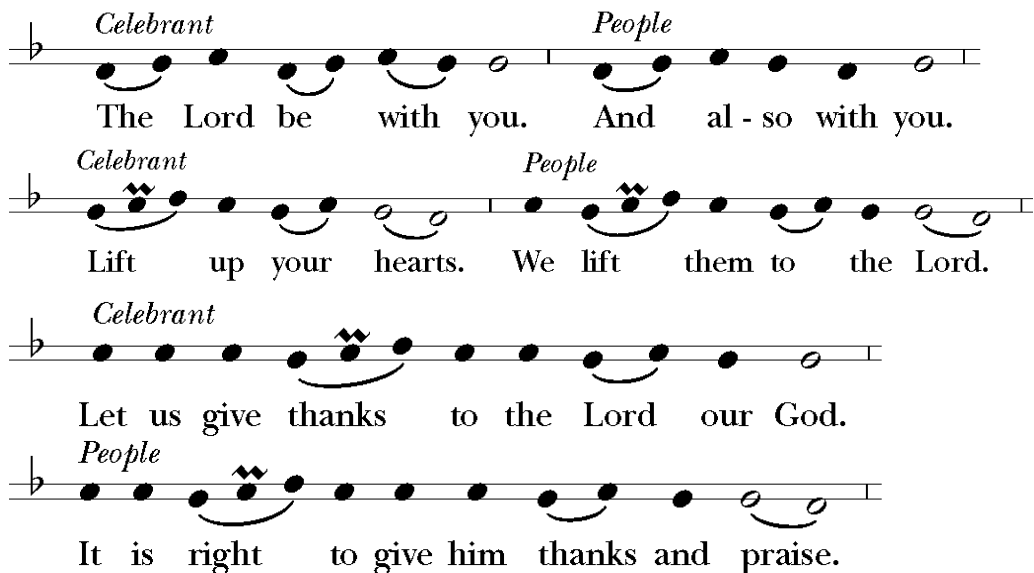
## **Offertory Sentence**

# The Liturgy of the Table

**Offertory Anthem**     *How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord*     Hymnal 637

**The Doxology**     *Praise to God* (vs. 3 only)     Hymnal 380

**The Great Thanksgiving**, Eucharistic Prayer A (*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*

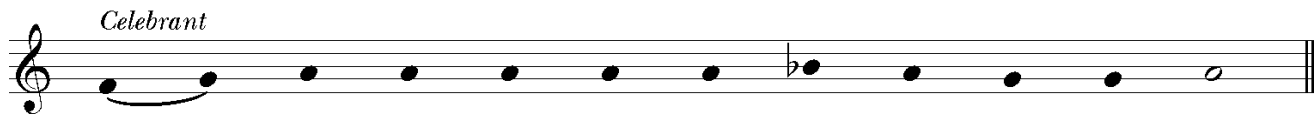
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus** (*Celebrant and People*)     *Holy, holy, holy Lord*     Hymnal S130

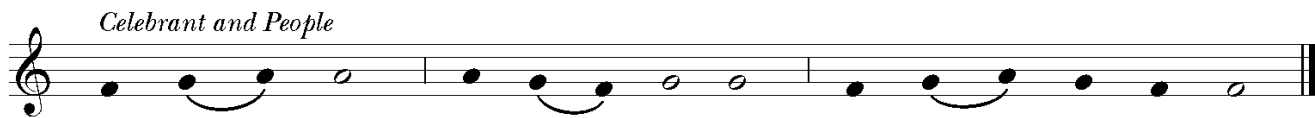
*The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues*

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 pro - claim the mys - ter - y of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

*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.



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

BCP p. 364

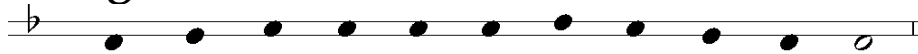
*Celebrant:* And now as our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

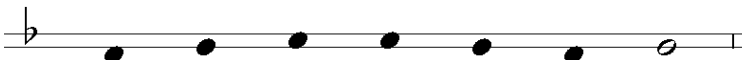
**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
 hallowed be thy Name,  
 thy kingdom come,  
 thy will be done,  
 on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread.  
 And forgive us our trespasses,  
 as we forgive those  
 who trespass against us.**

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 S153

*Celebrant:*  Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

*People:*  There - fore let us keep the feast.

## Fraction Hymn

*Jesus, Lamb of God*

Hymnal S 164

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

## Communion Hymn

*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.

(All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-706573-A)

## **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.

**Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

## **Prayer Over The People**

BOS p.13

*Celebrant:* Bow down before the Lord.

*Celebrant continues,*

**Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

## **The Dismissal**

**Deacon:** Go in peace to prepare for the Pascal Feast

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude**

**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

### Monday, March 2

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

### Tuesday, March 3

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church

5:30 pm, Soup for the Soul, Narthex

### March 2 -6: Rev. Betsy Out-Of-Town: EPN Conference

### Wednesday, March 4

12:00 noon, Noon-Day Prayer, Historical Chapel: **Every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon**

5:15 pm, Soup Supper, Narthex

6:00 pm, Lenten Study, Hospitality Room: Chapters 13-27 of *"Theo of Golden"*

7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Church

### Thursday, March 5

6:00 pm, Compline Prayer Service, Zoom: See Zoom Link on page 15.

### Sunday, March 8 - Lent III

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

5:00 pm, Men's & Women's BBQ, Narthex

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

**Soup for the Soul - Tuesday, March 3 at 5:00 pm** - Soup for the Soul is a group of fellow parishioners who have had a loss in their life. If you are feeling the need to talk with people who are navigating grief, please join us for a simple meal of soup. See the sign-up sheet on the ministry table for details, or contact Penny in the Office if you have questions, 209-369-3381.

**Wednesday Lenten Book Study - Theo of Golden** *By Allen Levi* - This Lent, we will travel with Theo, a mysterious stranger who arrives in the fictional southern city of

Golden. After visiting a coffee shop with portraits on the wall, he embarks on a mission to find and gift them to the rightful owners. As we work our way through this beautifully crafted story, we will explore the Lenten themes of attention (seeing and being seen), generosity, compassion, transformation and hope shaped by pain, and resurrection and new life.

**Soup dinner begins at 5:15. The book study will be from 6-7.**

### Sessions

March 4: Chapters 13-27

March 11: Chapters 28-42

March 18: Chapters 43-53

March 25: Chapters 54-Epilogue

We have a few copies still available in the office for purchase (\$15). They may also be found online and in bookstores.

**MEN'S BARBEQUE - SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT** - *WE INVITE THE WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S TO JOIN THE MEN ON: SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026 AT 5:00 PM. LET US DO THE COOKING.*

*RSVP BY: SIGNING UP AT THE MINISTRY TABLE OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 209-369-3381*

### **Holy Week - March 29 - April 5, 2026**

**Sunday, March 29**

9:30 am

**Palm & Passion Sunday**

Procession & Passion Reading

**Tuesday, March 31**

11:00 am

**Chrism Mass & Renewal of Vows**

St. James Cathedral, Fresno

**Wednesday, April 1**

12:00 Noon

**Noon-Day Prayer**

Historic Chapel

**Thursday, April 2**

6:00 pm

7:00 pm to Midnight

**Maundy Thursday Foot washing**

Eucharist, Stripping of Altar

Garden of Gethsemane Watch

**Friday, April 3**

12 Noon

4:00 pm

**Good Friday**

Ecumenical Service at First United Methodist

Way of the Cross - All Age Interactive Service

**Saturday, April 4**

7:00 pm

**Easter Vigil**

Historic Chapel & Church

**Sunday, April 5**

9:30 am

**Easter Sunday**

Holy Eucharist, Reception & Children's Egg Hunt

**Eggs & Toys Needed for Easter Egg Hunt on April 5** - Our annual Easter Egg Hunt for elementary school age children and younger will be held on the West lawn after the 9:30 am service on Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. The office would appreciate donations of plastic eggs, small toys and wrapped candy for the hunt. Thank you!

**More Easter Help Needed** - We are in need of 2 to 3 people to oversee, set up and run the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 5. Please let Penny in the office know if you are interested in this fun job.

**Garden of Gethsemane Watch Thursday, April 2 from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m.** - After the Maundy Thursday Eucharist on April 2, you are invited to sign up for "The Watch." The Garden of Gethsemane, created by the Designers Guild, will be set up in the church Narthex. Everyone is invited to sign up to pray for one hour, reminiscent of Jesus' invitation to "watch and pray." Sign up at the Ministry Table.

**Special Music & Flowers at Easter** - Our Easter liturgies are adorned with memorial flowers and special guest musicians. If you remembered loved ones and blessings last year at this time and would like to repeat your memorial message, please initial the list on the ministry table and put your donation of \$25 or more in the plate during the offering. See Ministry Table for details.

### **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