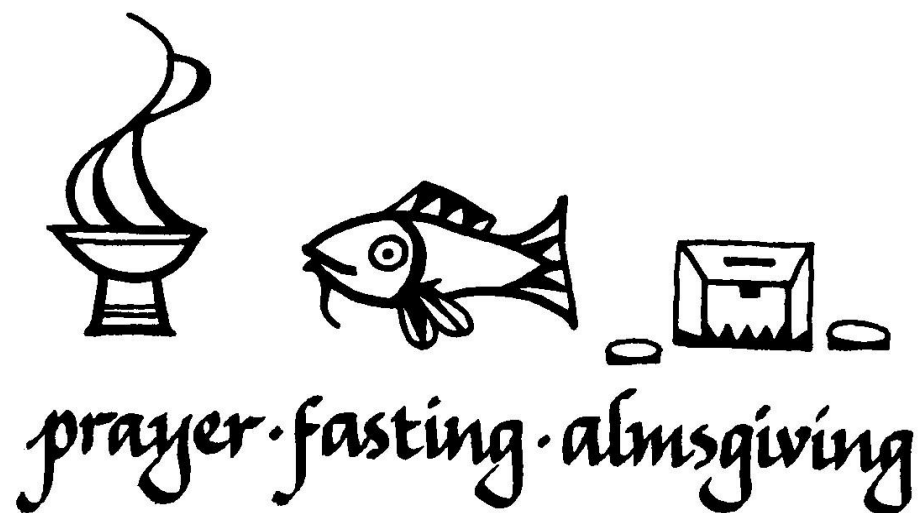


*Welcome to*  
**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

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



**The Fifth Sunday in Lent**

March 22, 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.

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

None.

*If you would like to donate for the Lent Sanctuary Light, 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 Greg Masztal

*Choir Director:* Steven Weikle

*Pianist/Organist:* Michael Tompkins

*Eucharistic Ministers:* Charlene Martin (CW) & Anne Reeve (CJ)

*Lectors:* Bob Gorczyca & Jim Reeve

*Camera Acolyte:* TBA (GF)

*Crucifer:* Stacey Bagnasco (CW)

*Ushers:* Tom Gundershaug & Dani Wilson

*Sound:* Dick Williams

*Altar Guild:* Anne Reeve & Margaret Meyers

*Vestry Open/Close (Announcements):* Rosemary Cress/TBA

*Designer Guild:* None

*Nursery Care:* Allyssa Johnson

*Sunday School:* Janie Williams

*Coffee Hour:* Katie Howard & The Soria's

*Counters:* Tom Gundershaug & TBA

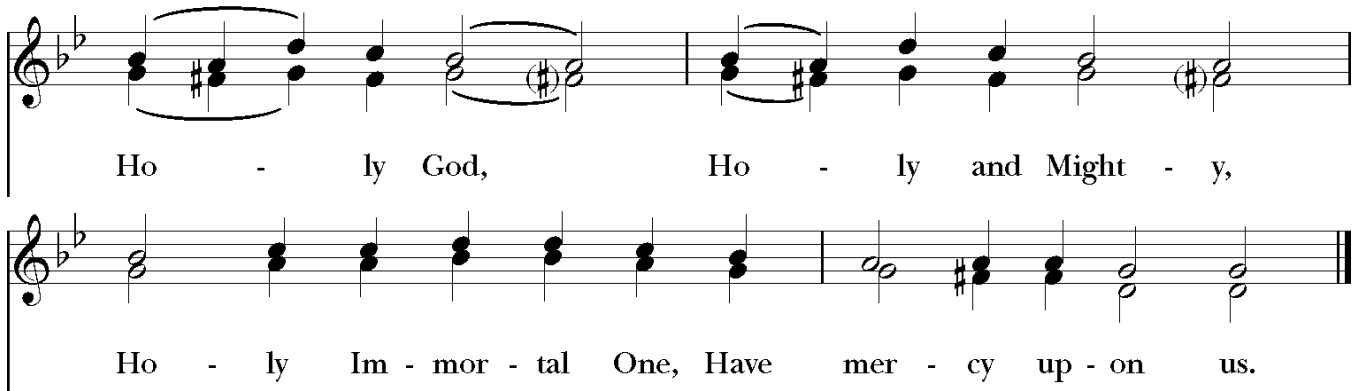
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**2026 Vestry Members** - Beth Elwood, Senior Warden; Eric Goossens, Junior Warden  
Rosemary Cress, David Diekman, Phyllis Duarte, Robert Elliott, Bob Gorczyca,  
Katie Howard, Christina Soria & Dani Wilson



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

Hymnal S102



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Children Process to Sunday School

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

Bob Gorczyca

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast

multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD. (*Ezekiel 37:1-14*)

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

## **Psalm 130**

Bob Gorczyca

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;  
LORD, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the LORD,  
more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, \*  
for with the LORD there is mercy;
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

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

Jim Reeve

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he

who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. (Romans 8:6-11)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Sequence Hymn

*Breath of God*

VF 59

1 Breath of God, life - bear - ing wind, wak - ing  
2 Breath of God, word - bear - ing wind, truth—re -  
3 Breath of God, fire - bear - ing wind, source of  
4 Breath of God, song - bear - ing wind, stir - ring

mat - ter in - to birth, plant - ing prom - ise, prompt - ing  
veal - er, pro - phet's speech, guide to vis - tas of the  
pow - er, love, and light, melt - ing fears and join - ing  
won - der to re - jice, yearn - ing's ech - o, gra - ce's

hope: with your life re - new the earth.  
mind: let your word ex - cite and teach.  
tongues: with your fire our hearts ig - nite.  
dance: let your song give our prayers voice.

## 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.**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I

am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. *(John 11:1-45)*

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

*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,

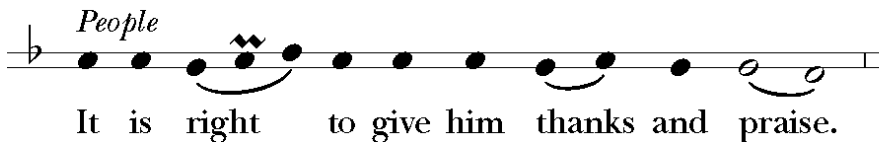
*So that we may bless others*

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 for the repose of the soul of Jim and of Greg Soligan. *Silence*

Lord, bless us,

*So that we may bless others*





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*

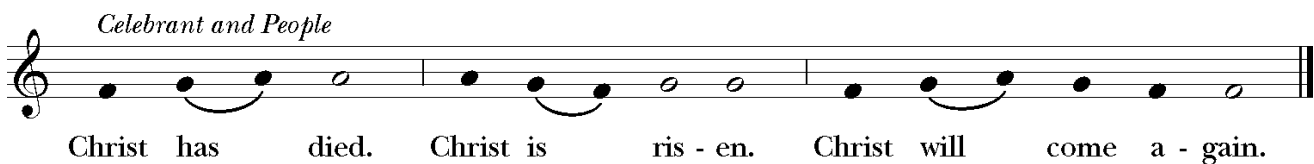
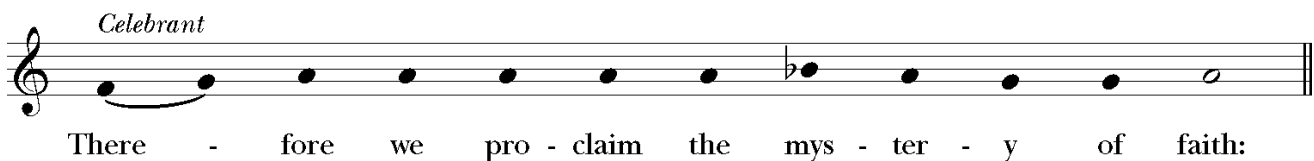
Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**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."



*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.

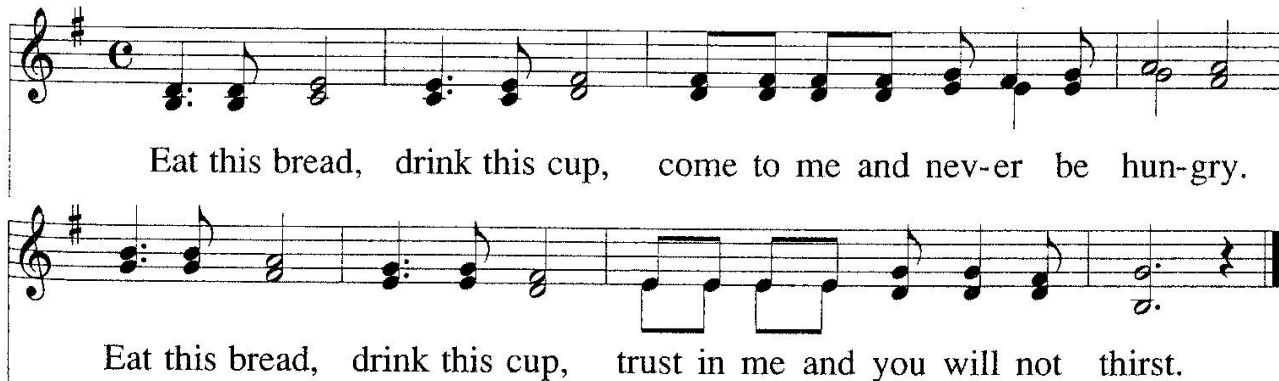
### Communion Hymn

*Eternal light, shone in my heart*

Hymnal 465

*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.

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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.

**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

Deacon: 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**

**Recessional Hymn**    *Go forth with God: go to the world in peace*                      Hymnal 347

## The Dismissal

Deacon:    Go in peace to prepare for the Pascal Feast

People:    **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

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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, March 22 – Lent V

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

### Monday, March 23

6:30 pm, LGBTQ+ & Allies Commission in EDSJ, Zoom

### Tuesday, March 24

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Office

4:00 pm, Treasurers Meeting,

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

6:00 pm, Monthly Vestry Meeting, Hospitality Room

### Wednesday, March 25

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 54- Epilogue of *"Theo of Golden"*

7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Church

### **Thursday, March 26**

6:00 pm, Compline Prayer Service, Zoom: See Zoom Link below.

### **Friday, March 27**

5:30 pm, Soul Kitchen Dinner, Narthex

### **Saturday, March 28**

9:00 am to 12:00 Noon - **Work Day! Please help getting ready for Holy Week!**

We need pressure washers, window cleaners just to name a couple of items!!

### **Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday**

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

Private Burial following the church service, Chapel Patio

**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=7xJY6MbaOLFjrnlnWm41nZPDJIT87T.1>  
Meeting ID: 824 7338 4767 Passcode: 168908

**Wednesday Lenten Book Study - Soup dinner begins at 5:15.** The book study will be from 6-7. March 25: Chapters 54-Epilogue

**LGBTQ+ & Allies Commission in EDSJ:** Monday, March 23 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Join us for our first meeting on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84703394149?pwd=GZ6YaxzNby42w99GhSxM07f8mzXPpj.1> Meeting ID: 847 0339 4149 Passcode: 635893

**Holy Week - March 29 - April 5, 2026:** See the schedule on the insert in your bulletin.

**Good Friday - April 3:** Contemplative Veneration of the Cross, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

**Good Friday - Ecumenical Service:** Friday, April 3 at 12:00 Noon held at First United Methodist Church of Lodi; 200 W. Oak Street, Lodi. Please join The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, First United Methodist Church of Lodi, Saint Paul's Lutheran Church

and United Congregational Christian Church for this service.

**Join us on Easter Sunday, April 5** following the service for a children's Easter Egg Hunt. Volunteers are needed to help fill eggs and the day of assisting with facilitating the egg hunt. Please let Penny in the office know if you are interested in helping.

**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.

**St. John's High Tea** Tickets for this delightful **May 2** event are on sale now! Presale for tables of 7 (\$300) begins today, and individual ticket sales (\$45 each) start Sunday, March 22. Please pay Penny in the office, Fran Bott or Beth Elwood with check or cash. Tickets may also be purchased through Givelify (after you've chosen the amount of payment, select "Other," and add in the message box "for tea.") See Givelify bulletin announcement for access information. The tea will begin at noon and end at 3 pm. Invite your friends and family, dress for spring, and indulge in a lovely afternoon of treats, sips, music and a silent auction.