

Welcome to

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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



Palm Sunday **The Sunday of the Passion**

March 29, 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:

Dick and Janie Williams, in memory of her father, L.F. (Jerry) Christesen on his birthday, March 28.

Bob & Patsy Gorczyca, in loving memory of Bob's mother Stella for her birthday, March 29.

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

Those Who Serve Today

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

Bread Bearer: The Rev. Richard Lundgren (B)

Choir Director: Steven Weikle

Pianist/Organist: Michael Tompkins

Eucharistic Ministers: Beth Elwood (CW) & Stacey Bagnasco (CJ)

Lectors: Debby Weberski & Charlene Martin

Reading of the Passion

Evangelist: Stacey Bagnasco

1st Serving Maid: Beth Elwood

Jesus: Candice Gale

Peter: Andee Zetterbaum

Judas: Robert Davis

2nd Serving Maid: Debby Weberski

High Priest: Charlene Martin

Pilate: Steve McElroy

Congregation: All

Camera Acolyte: Carlo Bagnasco (GF)

Crucifer: Candice Gale (CW)

Ushers: Debby Weberski & TBA

Sound: Eric Goossens

Altar Guild: Dee Mayfield & Stuart Krengel

Vestry Open/Close (Announcements): Katie Howard/Eric Goossens

Designer Guild: Allison Dooley & Janie Williams

Nursery Care: Allyssa Johnson

Sunday School: Janie Williams or Peggy Moos

Coffee Hour: Diane & Robert Elliott

Counters: Eric Goossens & Sharon Farnsworth

The Liturgy of the Palms

*Weather permitting, service begins outside, west entrance on patio.
Palms will be on a table to be blessed and
made available to pick up at the appropriate time in the service.*

Celebrant: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Rev. Betsy McElroy

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

(Matthew 21:1-11)

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Blessing over the Branches

BCP p. 271

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **Hosanna in the highest.**

The Ushers, Acolyte & Crucifer to pass out palm branches to the congregation.

The Procession

BCP p. 271

Deacon Let us go forth in peace.

People **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

The Congregation follows the altar party in procession around the church ending at the patio (West Door).

Processional Hymn

All glory, laud, and honor

Hymnal #154

Wave palm branches.

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!
to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;
 3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;
 5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Repeat Refrain

1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.
 2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
 3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 4 to thee, now high ex - al - ted, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

The procession stops at the West patio door.

Celebrant: Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord;

People: **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

While singing the following hymn, the people process into the pews followed by the Altar Party and remain standing.

Hymn

Ride on, King Jesus

LEVAS 97

Ride on, King— Je - sus, No man can - a hin - der me.
Je - sus, ride on, no man — can - a 1.
Ride on, King— Je - sus, ride on, no man can - a hin - der me.
2. **Fine**
hin - der me. 1. King Je - sus rides a milk - white horse, No man works like
2. I know that my re - deem - er lives,
D.C.
Him, 1. De riv - er Jor - d'n He did cross no man works like Him. Oh
2. And of His bless - ing free - ly gives,

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Children Process to Sunday School

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

Charlene Martin

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens--wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

(Isaiah 50:4-9a)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:9-16

Charlene Martin

- 9 Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; *
my eye is consumed with sorrow,
and also my throat and my belly.
- 10 For my life is wasted with grief,
and my years with sighing; *
my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are consumed.
- 11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
- 12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.
- 13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;
fear is all around; *
they put their heads together against me;
they plot to take my life.
- 14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. *
I have said, "You are my God.
- 15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me."

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death--even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. *(Philippians 2:5-11)*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

What wondrous love is this

Hymnal 439

Passion Gospel Reading According to Matthew 26:14-27:66 *(seated)*

See insert in your bulletin to read along. Those assigned readings will stand and read from the pews.

Sermon

The Rev. Betsy McElroy

Silence

The Nicene Creed is omitted on this day.

Prayers of the People *The leader and people pray responsively, standing.* Beth Elwood

Celebrant,

The Spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. So, let us cry out to our Lord, saying, "Crucified King, have mercy on us."

Intercessor

Have mercy on your Church, O Lord, for the times we have denied you. We have not been humble as you are humble. We have been unwilling to share the gospel with our friends and families.

Silence

Crucified King,
Have mercy on us.

Have mercy on those who hold authority in the nations of the world, especially those who are threatened by your message of love and justice. Have mercy on us for our silence and complicity.

Silence

Crucified King,
Have mercy on us.

Have mercy on those of us who are called to be stewards of your creation, O Lord. We have exploited and mistreated your masterpiece. Have mercy on us and teach us to love what you have called good.

Silence

Crucified King,
Have mercy on us.

Have mercy on us, O Lord. Teach us to value what you value. Increase in us love for our neighbors.

Silence

Crucified King,
Have mercy on us.

Have mercy on all who are sick and suffering, O Lord, especially... Strengthen those whose strength fails them. Comfort and care for those wasted with grief. Make your face to shine upon your servants.

Silence

Crucified King,
Have mercy on us.

Merciful Lord, you know the pain of death-even death on a cross. Have mercy on the dying and the dead. Especially Betty Bandelin who we lay to rest today. Bring them to the joy of everlasting life in you.

Silence

Crucified King,
Have mercy on us.

The Celebrant adds this concluding collect.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, whose Son humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death. Receive the prayers we offer this day for all those in need in everyplace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin is omitted on this day.

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

A Prayer for Thanksgivings

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 all understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Sentence *Celebrant continues*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave being born in human likeness.

Offertory Anthem *Ah, holy Jesus, how has thou offended* Hymnal 158

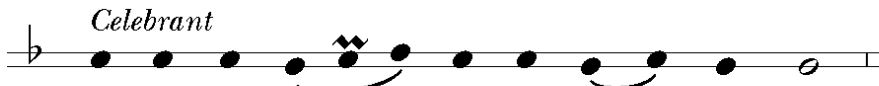
The Doxology *Praise to God (vs. 3 only)* Hymnal 380

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer A (*Standing*) Hymnal S120

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

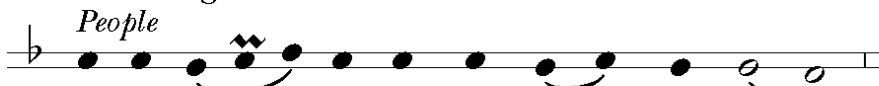
Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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.

The priest will sing the Proper Preface

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."

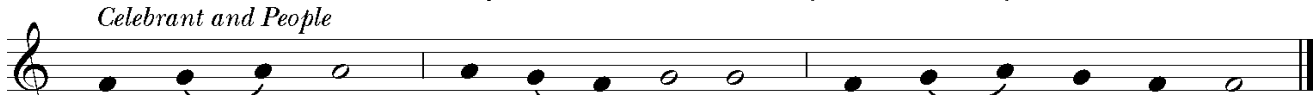
After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Celebrant



There - fore we pro - claim the mys - ter - y of faith:

Celebrant and People



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)*

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 form two lines in the center aisle. There are two standing stations. Please come forward immediately to receive communion. Gluten free hosts are available. You may receive just the bread or the wine or both. We offer the chalice to drink from, but due to practical considerations, do not allow intinction (dipping) of the bread in the wine. Thank you for your understanding. Please place hands crossed over your heart if you wish to receive communion in one kind, or a blessing.

Communion Music

O sacred head, sore wounded

Hymnal 168

Bless the Lord My Soul

Taizé Volume II



Bless the Lord my soul, and bless his ho - ly name.



Bless the Lord my soul, he res - cues me from death.

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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

Celebrant: Bow down before the Lord.

Celebrant continues,

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to prepare for the Pascal Feast

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The people leave in silence.

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



Announcements

Sunday, March 29

11:30 am, Private Burial Service for Betty Bandelin, Memorial Wall Chapel Patio

Tuesday, March 31

10:00 am, Staff Meeting, Church

11:00 am, Chrism Mass & Renewal of Vows, St. James Cathedral, Fresno

Wednesday, April 1

12:00 noon, Noon-Day Prayer, Historical Chapel

6:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Church

Thursday, April 2

6:00 pm, Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar, Foot washing – Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm to Midnight, Garden of Gethsemane Watch

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday

10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Contemplative Veneration of the Cross, Church

12 Noon, Ecumenical Service at First United Methodist Church

4:00 pm, Way of the Cross – All Age Interactive Service

Saturday, April 4 - Easter Vigil

7:00 pm, Holy Eucharist, Historic Chapel & Church

Sunday, April 5 - Easter Sunday

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

*Potluck Coffee Hour

Children's Egg Hunt

Monday, April 6 – Office Closed

Tuesday, April 6 – Rev. Betsy - Day Off

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

Toys & Candy 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 5th. The office would appreciate donations of small toys and wrapped candy for the hunt. Thank you!

More Easter Help Needed – We need 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.

***Easter Sunday Potluck Coffee Hour** – On Sunday, April 5th, please join us for a Potluck style coffee hour. Bring your favorite simple food to share. Have food plated and ready to put on the coffee hour table. We need 2 people to help coordinate food as it comes in and set up. We need 2 people willing to clean up after. Please see Penny in the office if you can help. Thank you.

St. John's High Tea Tickets for this delightful **May 2** event are on sale now! Presale for tables of 7 (\$300) and individual ticket sales (\$45 each) are available. 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.

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