

Welcome to

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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



The Fourth Sunday of Easter Day
April 26, 2026 ☩ 9:30 am

The Rev. Betsy McElroy, Rector
Worship: Sundays 9:30 a.m.
Church Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday
1055 S. Lower Sacramento Road, Lodi, California 95242
stjohnslodi@sbcglobal.net † www.stjohnsoflodi.org † 209.369.3381 (voice)

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

This bulletin will guide you through the liturgy (worship service). The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and The Hymnal 1982 are used throughout this service.

We are a school for transformation, as we seek to become a more diverse community of people, a kaleidoscope of different 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 Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by:

Joey & Christina Soria in celebration of Christina's birthday, April 30.

If you would like to donate flowers, please contact the church office at 369-3381.

Those Who Serve Today

Celebrant: The Rev. Besty McElroy (B)

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

Choir Director: Steven Weikle

Pianist/Organist: Michael Tompkins

Eucharistic Ministers: Anne Reeve (CW) & Stacey Bagnasco (CJ)

Lectors: Rosemary Cress & Margaret Meyers

Camera Acolyte: Fran Bott (GF)

Crucifer: Beth Elwood (CW)

Ushers: Debby Weberski & Andee Zetterbaum

Sound: TBA

Altar Guild: Peggy Moos & Margaret Meyers

Vestry Open/Close (Announcements): David Diekman/Eric Goossens

Designer Guild: Allison Dooley & Kathy Girard

Nursery Care: Allyssa Johnson

Sunday School: Janie Williams & Peggy Moos

Coffee Hour: TBA

Counters: Sharon Farnsworth & TBA

The Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Vignette

by Tom Birchwood

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Entrance Hymn (*Stand as able*) *Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness* Hymnal 492

(The following is said three times)

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is Risen.

BCP 355

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Gloria

Canticle 20

Hymnal S278

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Children Process to Sunday School *Seek ye first* Hymnal 711

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Rosemary Cress

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (*Acts 2:42-27*)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

Rosemary Cress

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter

Margaret Meyers

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. (*1 Peter 2:19-25*)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Come now, O Prince of Peace

WLAP 795



1. Come now, O Prince of Peace, make us one bod - y,
2. Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y,
3. Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior,
4. Come, Hope of U - ni - ty, make us one bod - y,



- come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
- come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
- come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
- come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

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.**

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (*John 10:1-10*)

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Deacon Greg Maszta

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of the Earth and every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Celebrant "Will you cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation?"

People **I will, with God's help."**

The Celebrant concludes

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Asperging Hymn *We know that Christ is raised* Hymnal 296
(Asperging of the People)

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

The Peace is exchanged.

Announcements

A Prayer for Blessings *(All together.)*

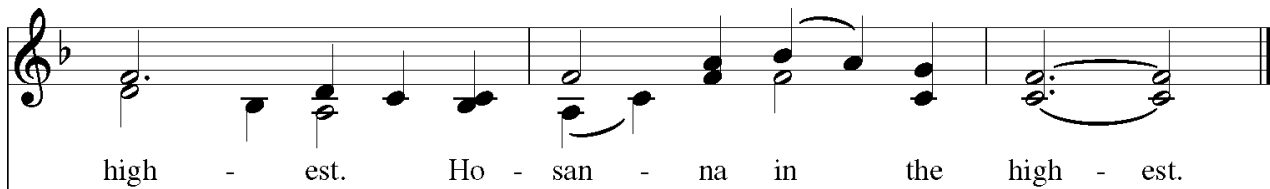
Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offertory Sentence

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Anthem *The strife is o'er, the battle done* Hymnal 208
(vs. 1, 2, 4, & 5)

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



The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

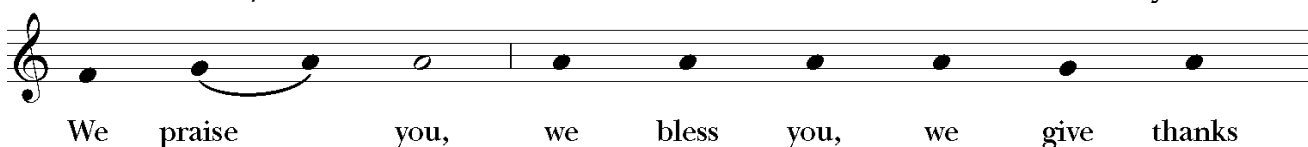
When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which 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.

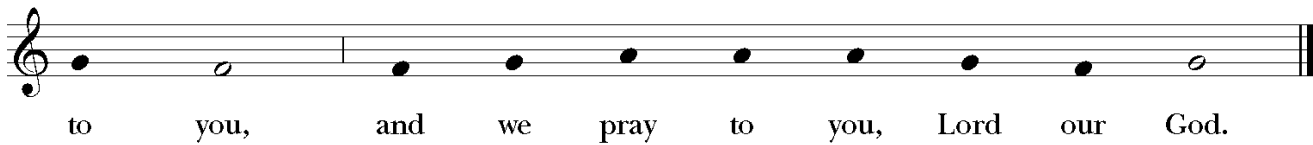
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup,

(Celebrant and People)

Hymnal S 140





The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

The Deacon Continues,

Remember Greg, our Bishop, Betsy, our Priest, Greg, our Deacon and all who minister in your Church. Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

Remember all those on St. John's Prayer list, especially...

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, (especially...,) and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

In our Diocesan cycle of prayers we pray for St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Stockton, their priest, the Rev. Rebecca Blair, and their assisting priest, the Rev. Christian Hagan.

We pray and give thanks for all those birthdays and anniversaries this week, especially...

In the world we pray for all living creatures who have been impacted by natural disasters. We pray for those struck down by war, violence, hate and those in harm's way due to civil unrest.

The Celebrant continues,

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, matriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with John the Baptist, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and 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

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

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

Fraction Hymn

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus

WLP 877

Choir/Cantor

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

Refrain- All Sing

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

Choir/Cantor

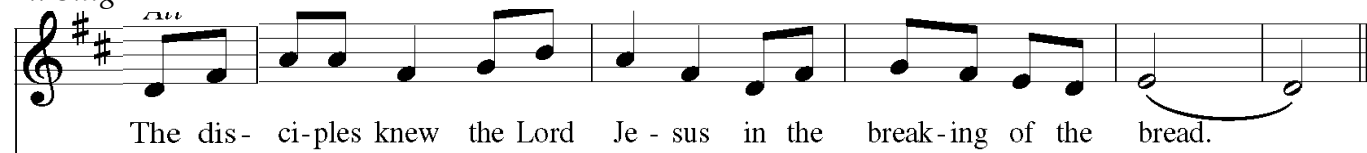
The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ.

Refrain – All Sing

Choir/Cantor

One body are we, alleluia, though many we share one bread.

All Sing



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

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.

The 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 Hymn

My Shepherd will supply my need

Hymnal 664

Alleluias VII

Taizé Volume II



Light and lively ♩ = 116

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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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.

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the people.

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

God be with you till we meet again

WLAP 801

Unison *Harmony*

1. God be with you till we meet a - gain; by wise coun - sels
 2. God be with you till we meet a - gain; 'neath bright wings pro -
 3. God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's pe - rils
 4. God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's ban - ner

guide, up - hold you, with the sheep se - cure - ly fold you:
 tect - ing hide you, dail - y man - na still pro - vide you:
 thick con - found you, put strong arms un - fail - ing round you:
 float - ing o'er you, smite death's threat - 'ning wave be - fore you:

Unison

God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 God be with you till we meet a - gain.

The Dismissal

Deacon: Go in the peace of the Risen Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done

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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, April 26

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

2:00 pm, Larson Piano Recital, Church

April 27: Penny Wilson on vacation

Tuesday, April 28

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

Wednesday, April 29

12:00 pm, Noon-Day Prayer, Chapel

Taize Healing Service - Wednesday, April 29 - 6:00 pm

Join us for an Easter Season Taize Healing Service here at St. John's Lodi. Taize is a style of meditative repetitive prayer set to music. An opportunity will be provided during the service to receive individual laying of hands anointing with holy oil.

Thursday, April 30 and Friday, May 1

Set up for High Tea all day Thursday and Friday in Church Narthex

Saturday, May 2

12:00 pm to 3:00 pm, High Tea, St. John's Narthex, See flyer on page 15.

Sunday, May 3

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

St. John's High Tea - May 2 2026 - 12 pm to 3 pm: Volunteers needed for set up, serving and clean up. See the sign ups at the ministry table or speak with Fran Bott or Beth Elwood.



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