

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 of Easter

May 3, 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:

Penny, Hannah & Holly Wilson in loving memory of Greg Wilson for his birthday, May 6. GP♥HH

Jacki Lauchland Shaw and sisters in loving memory of their parents, Jack and Charlyn Lauchland on their wedding anniversary, May 5.

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 Masztal

Choir Director: Steven Weikle

Pianist/Organist: Michael Tompkins

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

Lectors: Rosemary Cress &

Camera Acolyte: Fran Bott (GF)

Crucifer: (CW)

Ushers: &

Sound: Eric Goossens

Altar Guild: Anne Reeve & Stuart Krengel

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

Designer Guild: Ejae Perry & Mandi Sager

Nursery Care: Allyssa Johnson

Sunday School: Janie Williams

Coffee Hour: Debby Weberski & Katie Howard

Counters: Sharon Farnsworth & Eric Goossens

The Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Joyous Morning

by Gerald Peterson

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Entrance Hymn (*Stand as able*) *Christ is alive! Let Christians sing* Hymnal 182

(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.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, 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

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died. (*Acts 7:55-60*)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31:1-5,15-16

Rosemary Cress

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.
- 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 First Letter of Peter

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation – if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner", and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

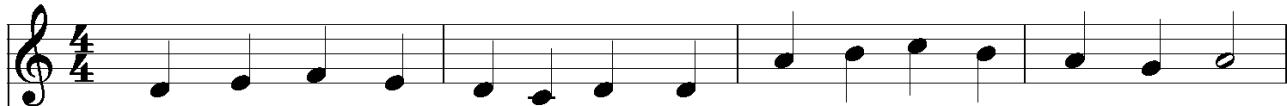
Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:2-10)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.


People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn *When from bondage we are summoned (vs. 1-5)*

WLAP 753



1. When from bond - age we are sum - moned out of dark - ness in - to light,
2. When our God names us a peo - ple, Je - sus leads us by the hand
3. Through all stag - es of the jour - ney Christ is with us, night and day,
4. We must not lose sight of Je - sus, who ac - cept - ed pain and loss,
5. See the prize our God has prom - ised: end - less life with Christ our Lord.



1. we must go in hope and pat - ience, walk by faith and not by sight.
2. through a lone - ly, bar - ren des - ert to a great and glo - rious land.
3. with com - pas - sion for our weak - ness ev' - ry step a - long the way.
4. who, for joy of love un - meas - ured, dared em - brace the shame - ful cross.
5. Now we fix our eyes on Je - sus, walk by faith in Je - sus' word.

Refrain



Let us throw off all that hin - ders; let us run the race to win!



Let us hast - en to our home - land and, re - joic - ing, en - ter in.

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, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and

have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.” (John 14:1-14)

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Betsy McElroy

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*
(Asperging of the People)

Hymnal 296

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 *Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life* Hymnal 487

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

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer D (*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 truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

(Celebrant and People)

Sanctus *Holy, holy, holy Lord* WLP 858

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. * Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks
to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

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 Intercessor 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. Clare’s Episcopal Church in Avery, their lay leaders and supply priest, the Rev. Lyn Morlan.

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

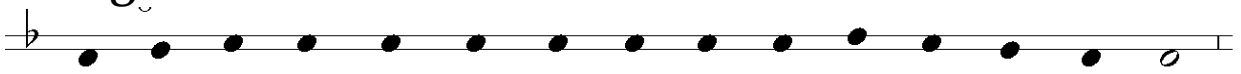
(traditional)

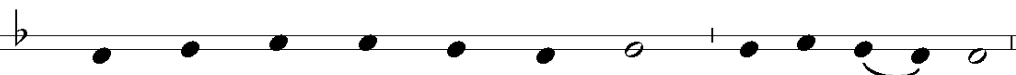
BCP p. 364

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;

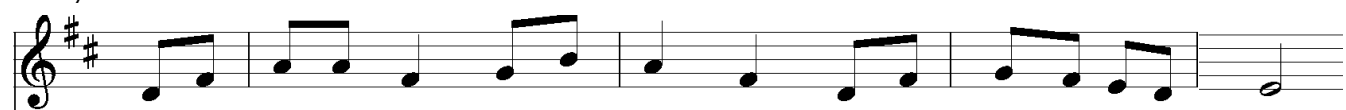
People: 
There-fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

Here, O Lord, your servants gather

WLAP 793

1. Here, O Lord, your ser - vants gath - er, hand we link with hand;
1. *Se - ka - i - no to - mo to te o tsu - na - gi,*
2. Man - y are the tongues we speak, scat - tered are the lands,
3. Na - ture's se - crets o - pen wide, chang - es nev - er cease.
4. Grant, O God, an age re - newed, filled with death - less love;



Look - ing toward our Sav - ior's cross, joined in love we stand.
Jyu - ji - ka no mo - to ni ta - tsu wa - re - ra,
 yet our heart are one in God, on in love's de - mands.
 Where, oh where, can wea - ry soul find the source of peace?
 help us as we work and pray, send us from a - bove



As we seek the realm of God, we u - nite to pray:
Ka - mi no mi - ku - ni o me a te to shi,
 E'en in dark - ness hope ap - pears, call - ing age and youth:
 Un - to all those sore dis - tressed, torn by end - less strife:
 truth and cour - age, faith and power, need - ed in our strife:



Je - sus Sav - ior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.
Shu Ye - su no mi - chi o su - su - mi ju - kan.
 Je - sus, teach - er, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.
 Je - sus, heal - er, bring your balm, for you are the Life.
 Je - sus, Mas - ter, be our Way, be our Truth, our Life.

Alleluias VII

Taizé Volume II



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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.

Post communion Prayer *(Standing, Celebrant and People)*

BCP p. 365

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

Praise the Lord through every nation

Hymnal 484

The Dismissal

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

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Postlude

Share His Love with All the World

by Trenton Watkins

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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, May 3

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

Monday, May 4

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

Tuesday, May 5

5:30 pm, Soup for the Soul, Panera Bread on Kettleman

Wednesday, May 6

12:00 pm, Noon Day Prayer, Historic Chapel

6:30 pm, Choir Practice, Hospitality Room

Saturday, May 9

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

Sunday, May 10 – Happy Mother’s Day

9:30 am, Holy Eucharist, Church

11:00 am, Coffee Hour Olive Wood Artesian,

Meet Ashraf Jaraysa – A Living Witness from Bethlehem Sunday, May 10 at Coffee Hour. This Mother’s Day, May 10th, we invite you to come and meet Ashraf Jaraysa, a Palestinian Christian from Beit Sahour, the shepherds’ field just outside Bethlehem.

Over the past several weeks, Ashraf has visited more than 25 churches across California, sharing the story of his community and the enduring faith of Palestinian Christians. His family is part of the historic Christian presence in the Holy Land, traditionally known as descendants of the shepherds who first heard the angels’ proclamation: “Peace on earth and goodwill to all people.” For generations, his family has carried and lived out this message.

Ashraf is also an olive wood artisan. The carvings he brings are handcrafted in Bethlehem and Beit Sahour and directly support dozens of local Christian families. In a time when many are being forced to leave, this work helps sustain a living Christian presence in the land where Jesus was born.

But more than anything, Ashraf comes with a message—one rooted in the teachings of Jesus: a call to love, to peace, and to goodwill toward all people.

Join us this Mother’s Day to hear his story, encounter his witness, and be part of a connection that stretches across centuries and continents.

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