Welcome to

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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

The Twenty first Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 23

October 11, 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 lifestyles, 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 peoples 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:

John Nieman in loving memory of his wife Fran Nieman.

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

Those Who Serve Today

Celebrant/Preacher: Candice Gale (B)
Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Greg Masztal
Choir Director: Steven Weikle
Pianist/Organist: Luke Colbert
Eucharistic Minister: Margaret Meyers (CW) & Candice Gale (CJ)
Lectors: Robert Elliott & Christina Soria
Camera Acolyte: Frances Bott (GF)
Crucifer: Beth Elwood (CW)
Ushers: TBD & TBD
Sound: Joey Soria
Altar Guild: Aleathea Langone & Dee Mayfield
Vestry Open/Close (Announcements): Bob Gorczyca/Robert Elliot
Designer Guild: Barbara Warberton & Kathy Girard
Nursery Care: Payton Christy
Sunday School: Janie Williams & Carol Bassett
Coffee Hour: Vestry -Plenty Good Room
Counters: Eric Goossens & Patty Herrmann

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The Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

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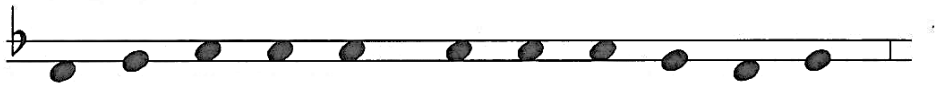
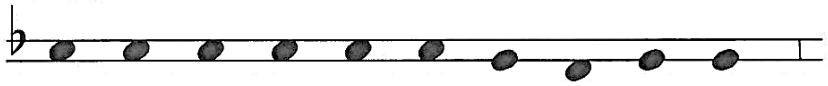
Entrance Hymn *(Stand as able.)* *Christ, whose glory fills the skies* Hymnal 7

Opening Acclamation EOW1

Celebrant



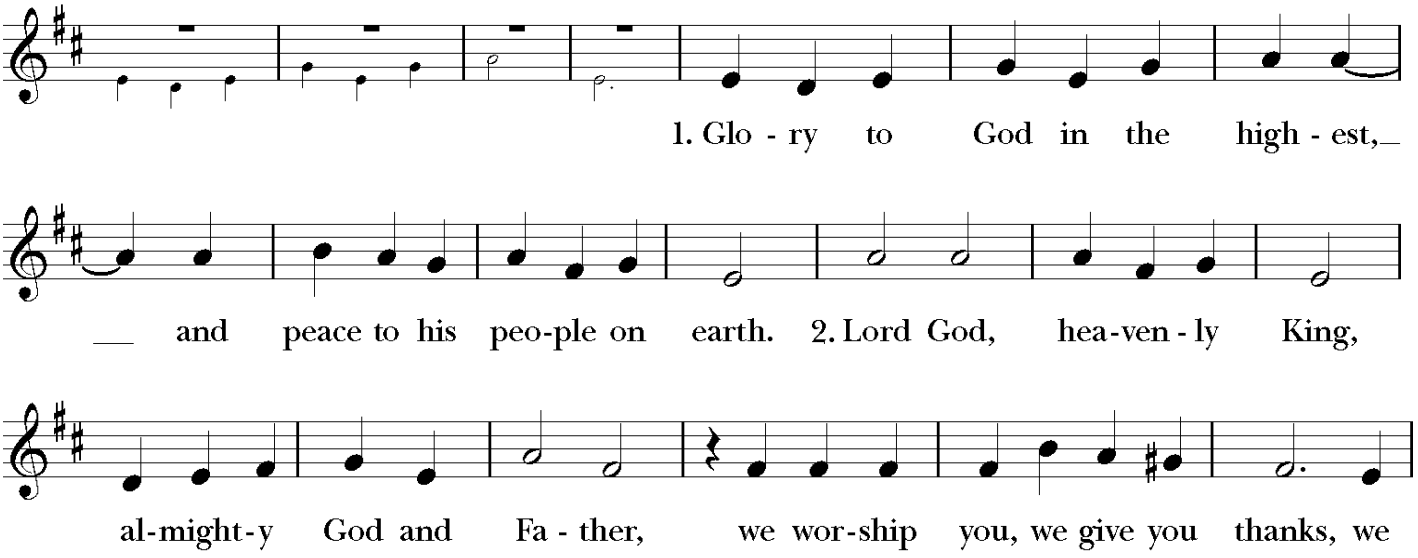
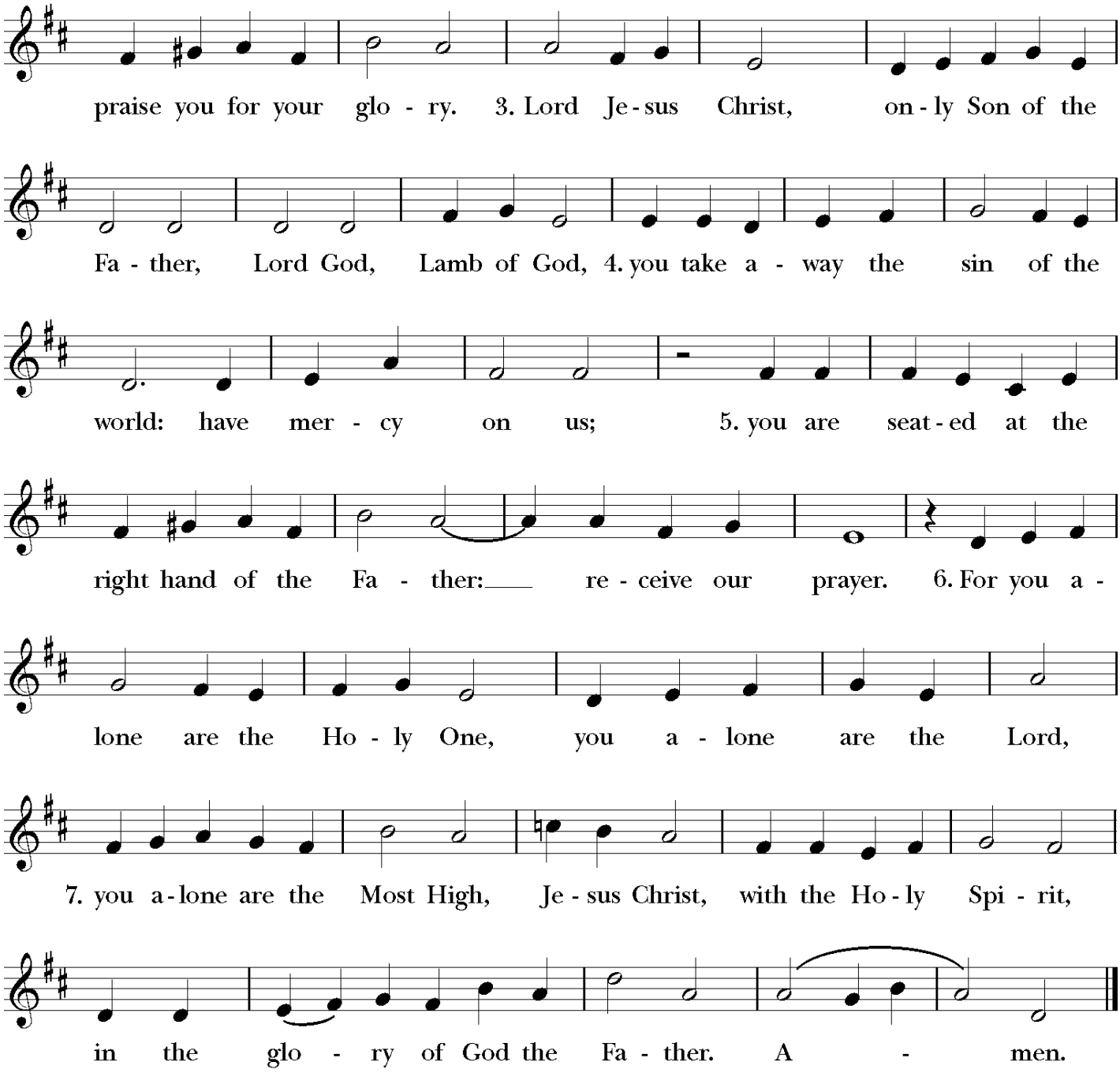
People



Collect for Purity *(Celebrant continues)*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria *Glory to God* S 279



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Let us pray.
Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

A Reading from the Book of Exodus *All are seated.* Robert Elliot

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people. *(Exodus 32:1-14)*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Robert Elliot

Confitemini Domino, Et fecerunt vitulum

1 Hallelujah!
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD *
or show forth all his praise?

3 Happy are those who act with justice *
and always do what is right!

4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people, *
and visit me with your saving help;

5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect
and be glad with the gladness of your people, *
that I may glory with your inheritance.

6 We have sinned as our forebears did; *
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.

19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb *
and worshiped a molten image;

20 And so they exchanged their Glory *
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.

21 They forgot God their Savior, *
who had done great things in Egypt,

22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, *
and fearful things at the Red Sea.

23 So he would have destroyed them,
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, *
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians Christina Soria

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. *(Philippians 4:1-9)*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn *The King of love my shepard is (Vs 1,2,6)* Hymnal 645

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Matthew

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went

out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

(Matthew 22:1-14)

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

Sermon

Candice Gale

Silence

Plenty Good Room – Fall Stewardship

Beth Elwood

Nicene Creed *All stand as able.*

BCP p. 358

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.

Recognition of Ministry and Blessing of Gifts

Friends in Christ, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good.

Andee Zetterbaum, a representative of our congregation, has been called to share her gifts within the Diocese of the Rift Valley in Tanzania. We send her bearing gifts of a chalice and paten for those she will visit (Graciously given in the name of the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist by Andee Zetterbaum and Anne & Jim Reeve).

People:
Praise be to God, who has called you to this service.

Blessing of Chalice and Patens

Presider & People: Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who trust in him.
Presider: The cup of blessing which we bless is a sharing in the Blood of Christ.
People: The bread which we break is a sharing in the Body of Christ.
Presider & People: Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who trust in him.

Let us pray. (Silence)
Almighty God, whose blessed Son instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Grant that all who receive the holy Mysteries from these vessels, which we now consecrate for use in your Church in Tanzania, may be sustained by his presence and enjoy for ever his heavenly benediction; who lives and reigns in glory everlasting.
***Amen*.**

Presider:
Let us pray. (Silence)
Look with favor upon those whom you have called, O God, and grant that they may be so filled with your Holy Spirit that they may minister in their chosen task with joy and steadfast devotion.

In the Name of God, we recognize you, Andee, and send you with blessings of safe travel and good cheer as you visit our siblings in Tanzania and travel through the wilds of Africa. We give you this as a token of your ministry there. May you hold it remembering you are a child of God and safely held in your work and travels and we bless you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

Prayers of the People *Form III* Margaret Meyers

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; especially…
And we pray,
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest; especially… and we pray,
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The Presider adds a concluding Collect.
Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

BCP p. 360

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(stand or kneel as able.)*

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

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

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**
The Peace is exchanged.

Announcements

Birthday and Anniversary 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.

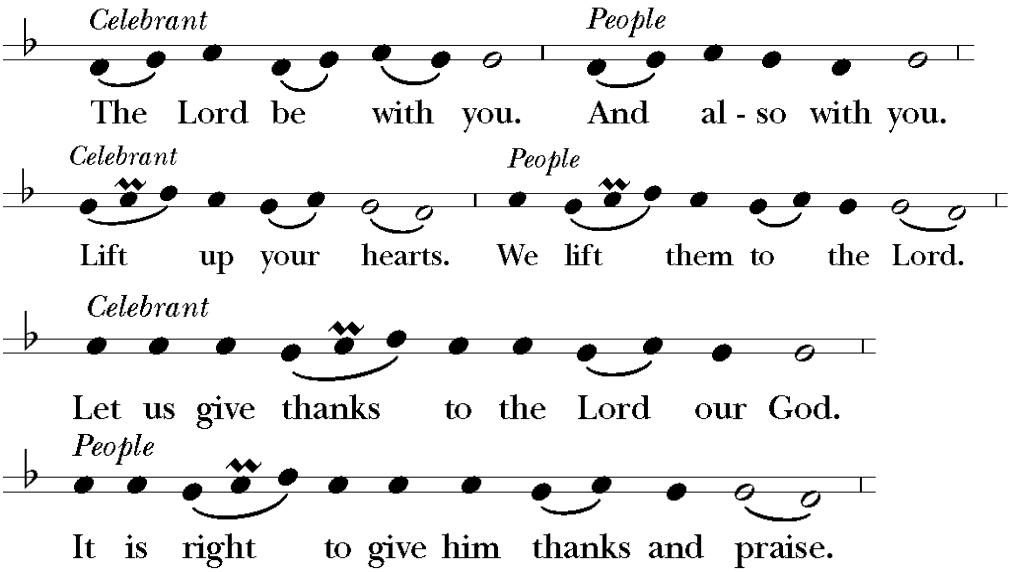
Offertory Sentence

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Anthem *Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life* 487

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

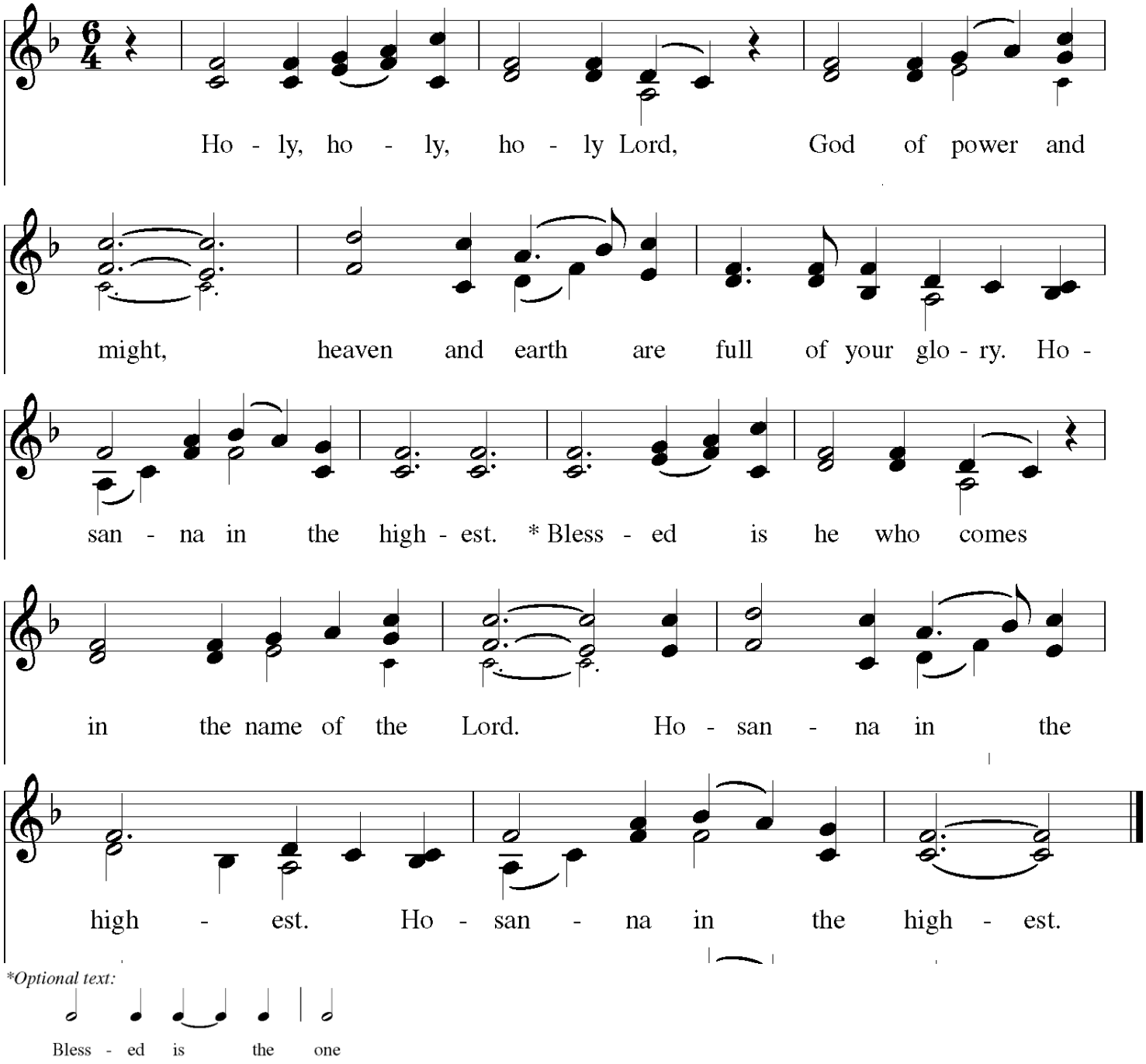
The Great Thanksgiving *(Standing)* EOW3



All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

(Celebrant and People)

Sanctus *Holy, holy, holy Lord* WLAP858

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave us your son Jesus, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us. We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he

had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

(Celebrant and People)
Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Celebrant continues
Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed St. John the Baptist and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. Blessed are you now and for ever.

The Lord's Prayer *(traditional)*

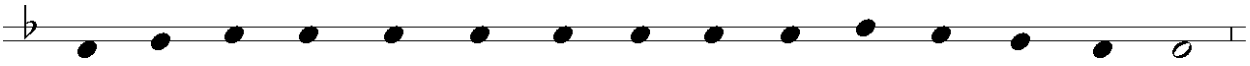
Celebrant: And now as our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

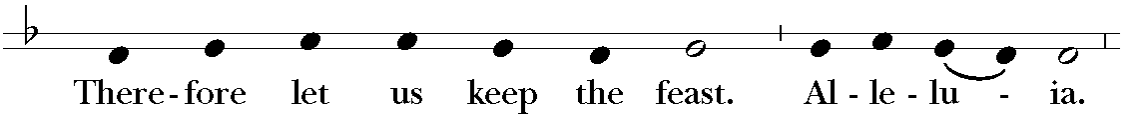
The Breaking of the Bread

Hymnal S 152

Celebrant:



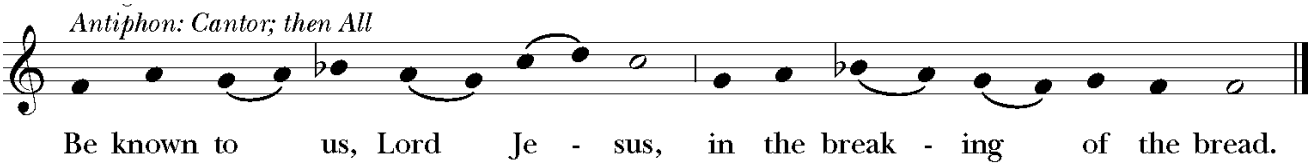
People:



Fraction Hymn

Hymnal S 171

Antiphon: (1st time through, cantor sings then we all sing together once through. Sing after each verse)



Cantor:

1. The bread which we break, alleluia,
   is the communion of the body of Christ. *(Antiphon)*
2. One body are we, alleluia,
   for though many we share one bread. *(Antiphon)*

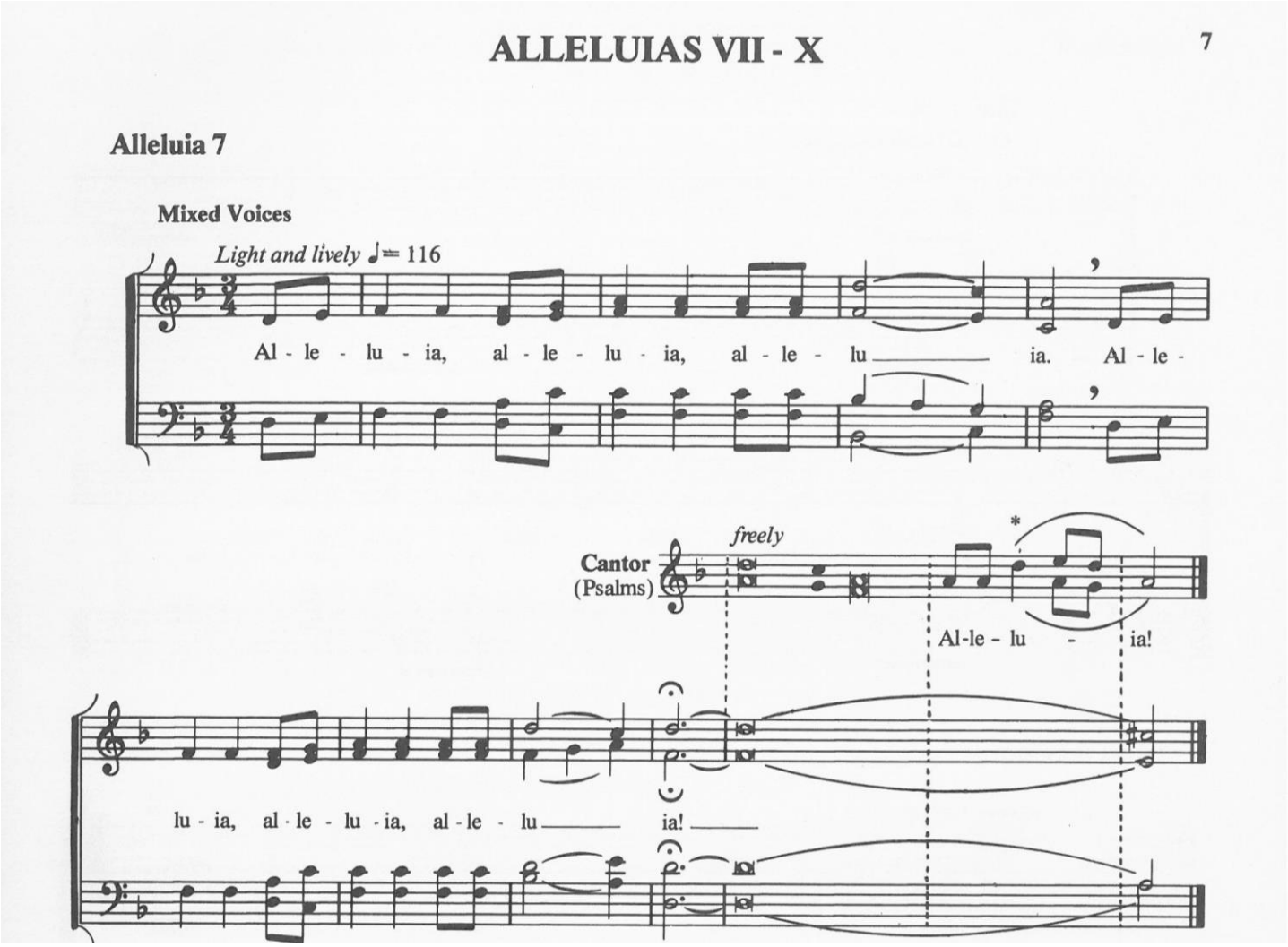
Celebrant continues,

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. Gluten free host is 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 Hymns *O for a closer walk with God*

Hymnal 684

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: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our savior. Amen

The Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the people.

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us, be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Rejoice, ye pure in heart (V 1-5) Hymnal 556

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Postlude on "Sicilian Mariners" by Luke Colbert

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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

Calendar

Sunday, October 11
9:30 am, Holy Eucharist,Church
11am Formation Meeting

Monday, October 12
4:00 pm, Warden's Meeting
4:00 pm, Salvation Army Dinner

Tuesday, October 13
4:00 pm, Salvation Army Dinner

Wednesday, October 14
11am Bibe Study, Chapel
12:00pm, Noon-Day Prayer, Chapel
6:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Church

Thursday, October 15
6pm, Parkinson's Care Group, Narthex

Friday, October 16
4:00 pm, Salvation Army Dinner

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

Help shape the Vision and Mission of our Diocese – work is currently underway leading towards new vision and mission statements for our Diocese. That work is currently in the Discovery phase - discovering what it is the people really value about our diocese, who we are and what we do. As part of this process Deacon Greg will be leading a gathering on Sunday October 25th starting after church (after you grab a few coffee-hour goodies) and running for about an hour. It would be great to see lots of people there!

Quarterly Donation Statements –
Please pick up your statement at the Ushers table. Thank you.

Bible Study Returns – Wednesday, October 7th at 11:00am in the Historic Chapel. This lay lead study will focus on the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. It will be held every Wednesday from 11:00 - 11:50. We will finish in time for those who want to attend Noonday Prayer. There is no cost, and all are welcome.

Sunday School – We are still registering children so that we know who may be joining us from week to week. Our Sunday School now has two separate classrooms separated by age. The registration will help us determine the split between the two rooms. If you have questions, please ask Justin Ehrenberg or Barbara Krengel for further details.

The congregation of St. John the Evangelist- proudly invites you to join them in celebrating their next chapter with the ordination of: ***Nonhlanhla Gugulethu Precious Shezi*** to the Priesthood in Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, Saturday, October 17, 2026, at ten o'clock. St John the Evangelist in downtown Stockton 316 N. El Dorado St., Stockton, CA.

Bring on the Plastics! Plastic collection has begun again at St. John's. Through an effort led by Jennifer Glass of the Stockton Lyons Club, donations of clean, dry stretchy plastics are repurposed into attractive durable benches. Deposit plastics in the bin at the back of the narthex. You can find a list of yes and no plastics on the church fellowship table. Any questions? Contact Barbara Krengel or Charlene Martin

Sacred Places of Remembrance Here at St. John's

There are several holy and beautifully tended spaces at St. John's where families may honor those who have entered God's eternal care. Each location is designed to reflect the peace, dignity, and hope of our faith—places where remembrance becomes an act of love, and where the promise of resurrection gently meets our grief.

Now through the end of the year, all remembrance locations will remain at current pricing.

- ✓ Niches located in the Church Nave and the Chapel - $1,500
- ✓ The outdoor Memorial Wall - $600
- ✓ Burial of Ashes in our Memorial Garden - $300
- ✓ Memorial Plaques in the Church Nave - $100

Available niches and memorial options are displayed near the ministry table, where you'll also find diagram copies, pricing, and columbarium applications for your convenience.

This season offers families a meaningful opportunity to make thoughtful, prayerful decisions about memorial arrangements. For more information about a resting place for your loved ones, please contact Beth Elwood or Karen Olds.

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