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 Second Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 24

October 18, 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: The Rev. Betsy McElroy (B)
Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Greg Masztal
Choir Director: Steven Weikle
Pianist/Organist: Luke Colbert
Eucharistic Minister: Beth Elwood (CW) & Margaret Meyers (CJ)
Lectors: Carol Foote & Margaret Meyers
Camera Acolyte: TBD (GF)
Crucifer: Beth Elwood (CW)
Ushers: Diane Elliott & TBD
Sound: Dick Williams
Altar Guild: Margaret Meyers & Justin Ehrenberg
Vestry Open/Close (Announcements): Katie Howard/Eric Goossens
Designer Guild: Janie Williams & Allison Dooley
Nursery Care: Payton Christy
Sunday School: Janie Williams & Justin Ehrenberg
Coffee Hour: Carol Bassett
Counters: Eric Goossens & TBD

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The Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

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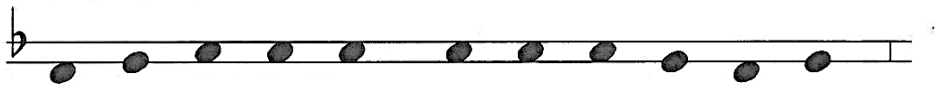
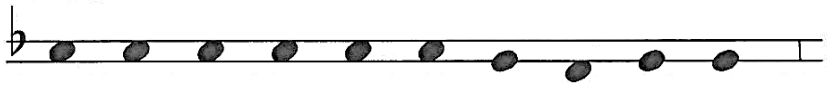
Entrance Hymn *(Stand as able.)* *Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty* Hymnal 362

Opening Acclamation EOW1

Celebrant



People

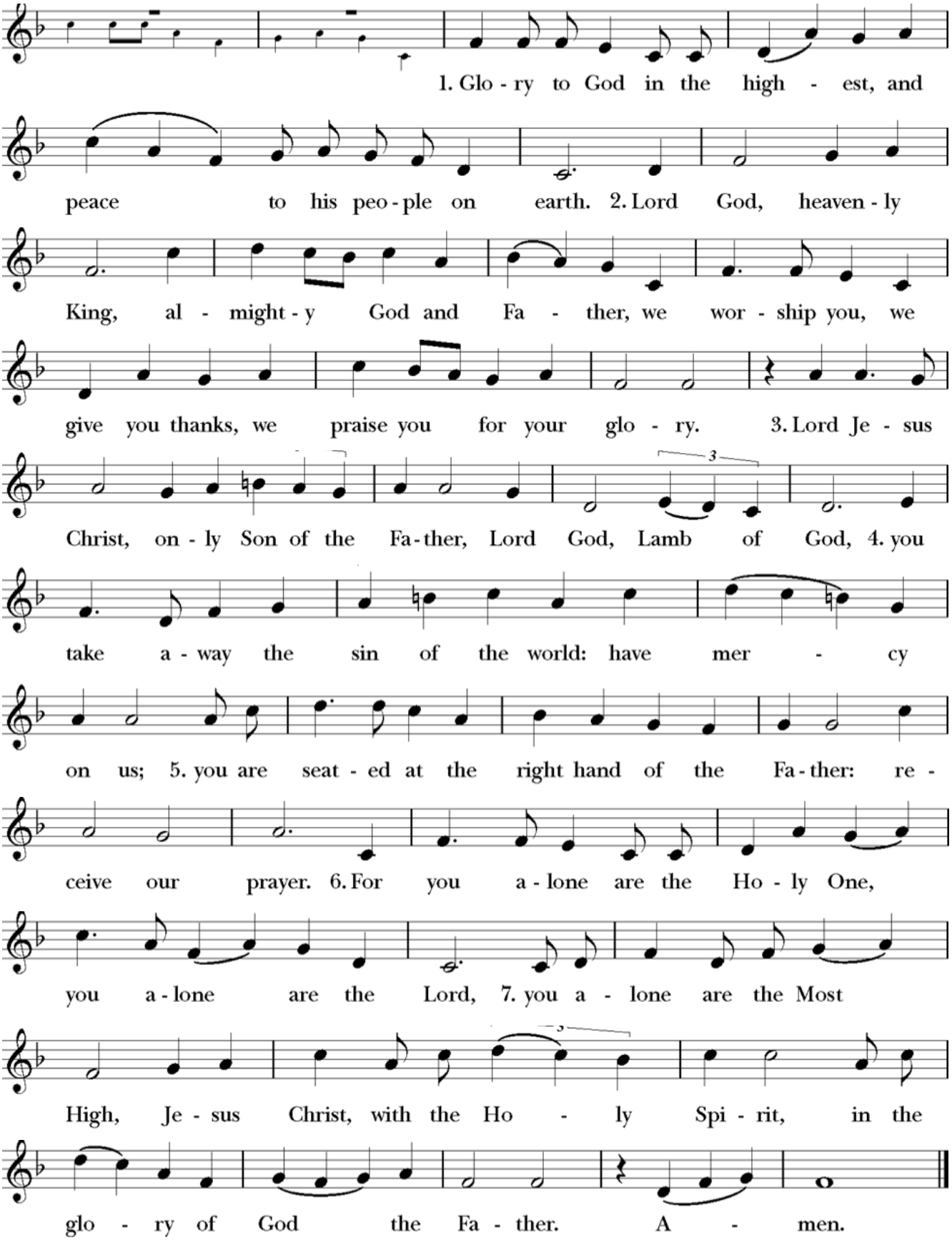


Collect for Purity *(Celebrant continues)*

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 280

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

A Reading from the Book of Exodus *All are seated.* Carol Foote

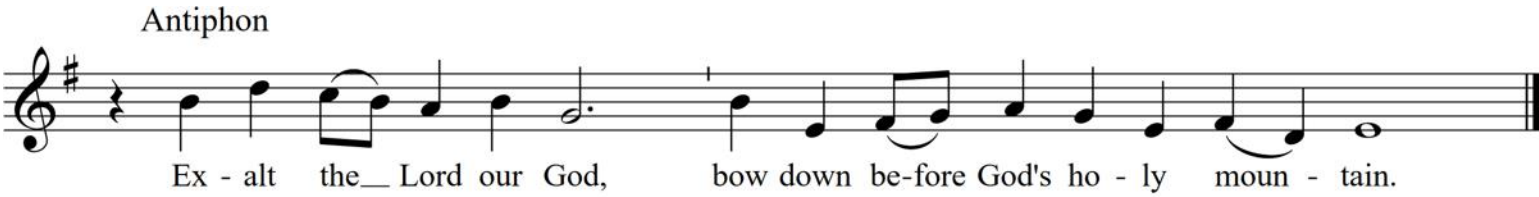
Moses said to the LORD, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."

The LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The LORD'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen." *(Exodus 33: 12-23)*

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

Psalm 99

Carol Foote



The Lord is king; the peoples tremble
He is throned on the cherubim; the earth quakes.
The Lord is great in Zion;
You are supreme over all the peoples. (ANT.)

Let them praise your name, so terrible and great,
so holy, full of power
You are a king who loves what is right;
you have established euity, justice and right (ANT.)

O Lord, our God, you answered them.
For them you were a God who forgives;
yet you punished all their offenses (ANT.)

Exalt the Lord our God;
bow down before God's holy mountian
for the Lord our God is holy. (ANT.)

A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians

Margaret Meyers

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming. *(1 Thessalonians 1:1-10)*

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

Sequence Hymn *In your mercy, Lord, you called me* Hymnal 706

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.**

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the

emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away. *(Matthew 22:15-22)*

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

Sermon

The Rev. Betsy McElroy

Silence

Plenty Good Room – Fall Stewardship Testimony

Kelly Olds

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 spend a week sharing her gifts within the Diocese of the Rift Valley in Tanzania. We send her bearing gifts of a chalice and paten for The Rev. Daudi Manasseh, priest and canon of that diocese, whom she will be visiting (Graciously given in the name of the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist by several members of our parish).

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.

Presider:
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* Beth Elwood

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.

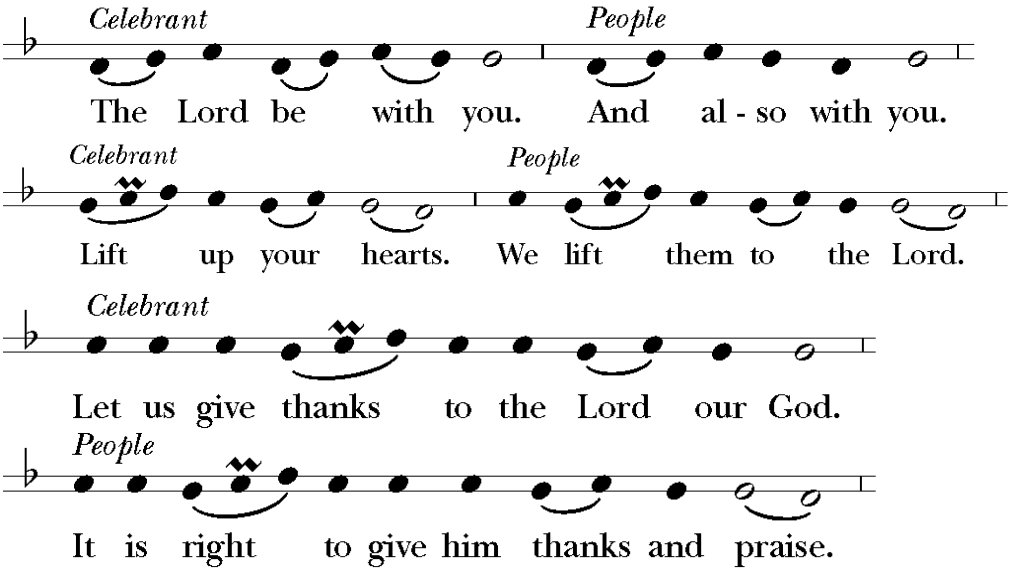
Offertory Sentence

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Anthem *My eyes for beauty pine* Herbert Howells

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

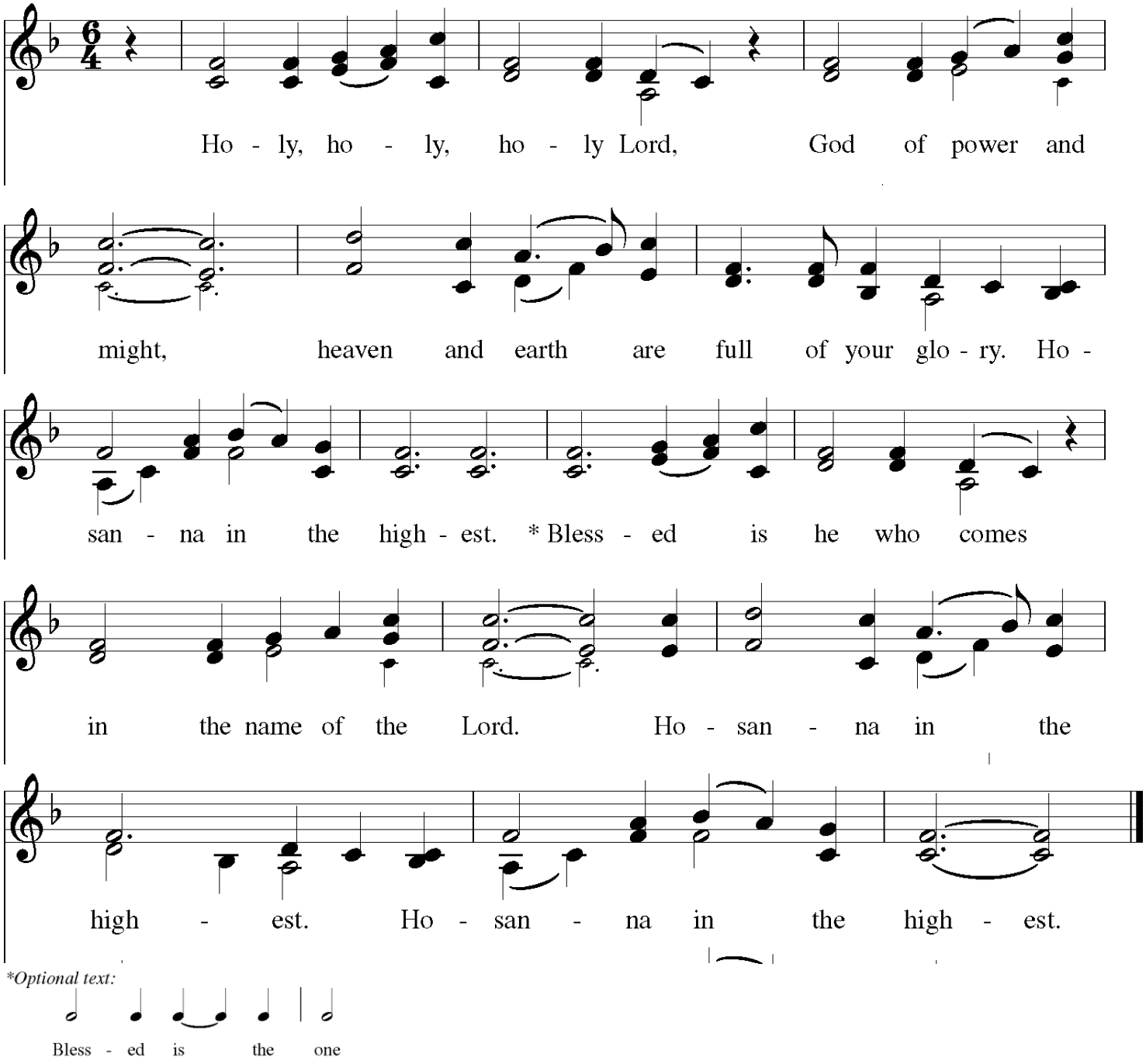
The Great Thanksgiving *(Standing)* EOW3



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* WLAP 858

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)*

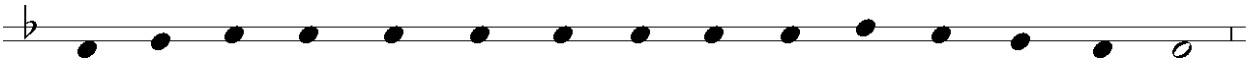
Celebrant: And now as our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

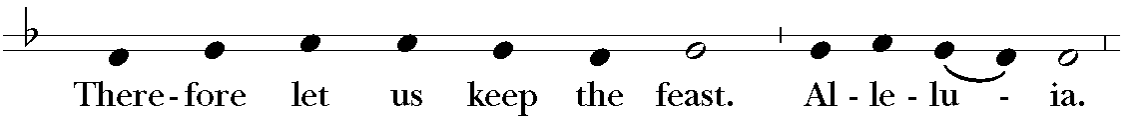
The Breaking of the Bread

Hymnal S 152

Celebrant:



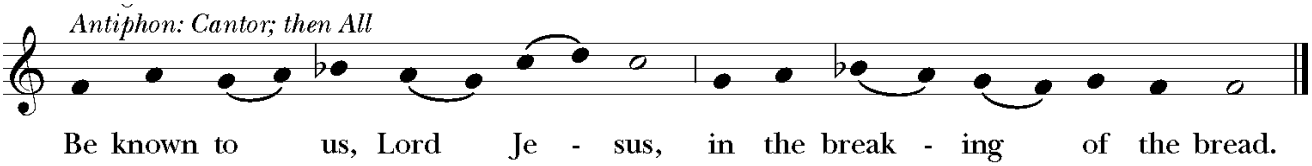
People:



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,

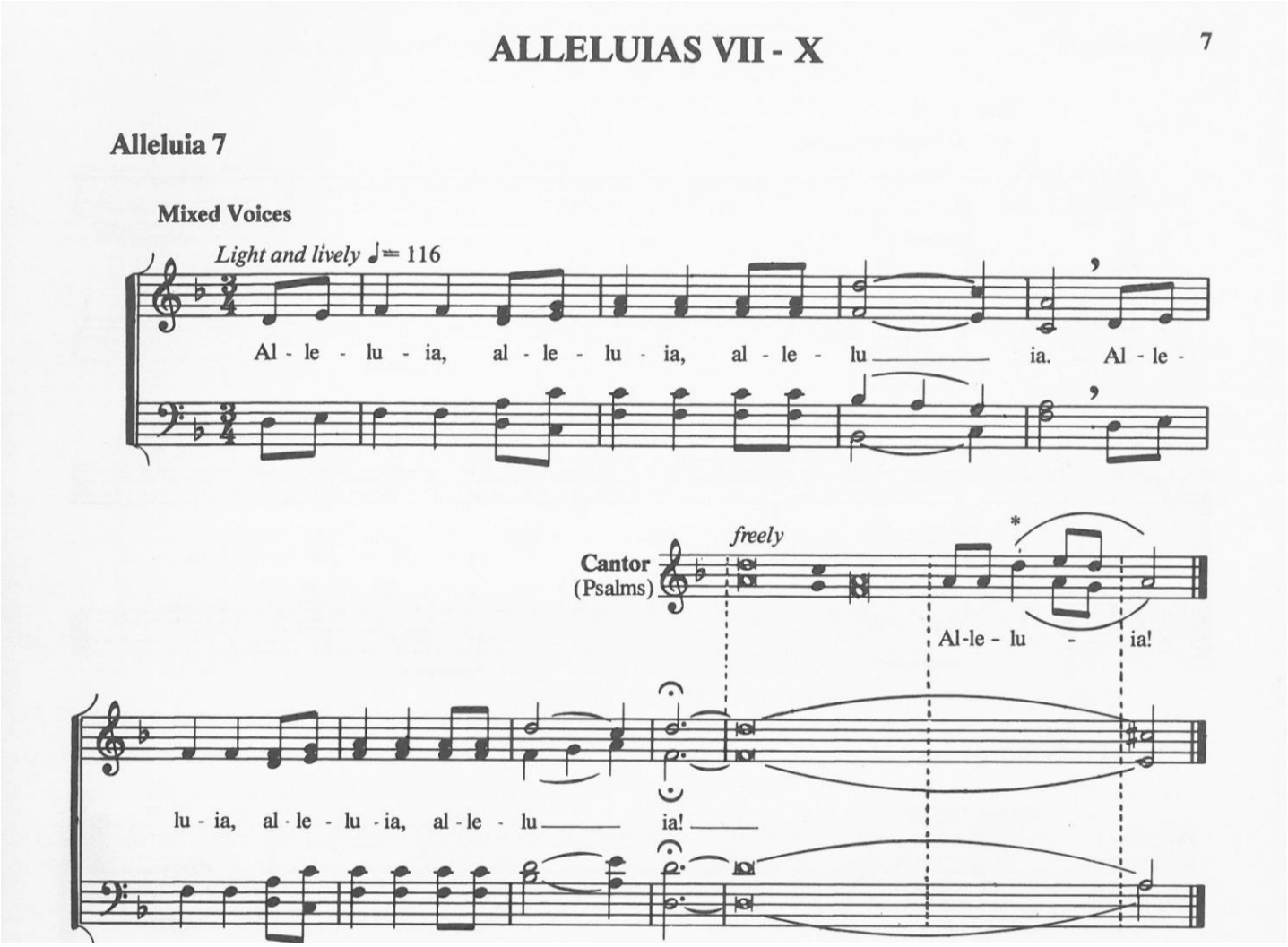
The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

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

Rock of ages, cleft for me

Hymnal 685

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 *All my hope on God is founded* Hymnal 665

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 18
9:30am, Holy Eucharist, Church
11:00am Formation Meeting
12:15pm, Vestry Meeting
5:00pm, Pizza Church

Monday, October 19
4:00 pm, Warden's Meeting

Wednesday, October 21
11:00am Bibe Study, Chapel
12:00pm, Noonday prayer, Chapel
6:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Church

Thursday, October 22
6:00pm, Parkinson's Care Group, Narthex

Friday, October 23
4:00 pm, Salvation Army Dinner

Join us every Wednesday at 12pm for Noonday 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 –This lay lead study will focus on the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday. It will be held every Wednesday from 11:00 - 11:50 finishing 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.

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

All Saints Day 2026 - November 1 – A tradition for All Saints Day is to remember those who have died in the past year. We put names on ribbons and process the ribbons in and out during the November 1st church service. If you would like to add a loved one, please see the sign-up sheet on the Ministry Table. We are adding only **NEW** names of those who have died to last year's ribbons.
Only those who have **passed from October of 2025 to October of 2026**.

St. John's Ofrenda - The setup of St. John's Ofrenda will begin on Saturday, October 24th. You are welcome to come and help and learn more about it. The vibrant Dia de Los Muertos, as portrayed in films and shops, diverges from our tradition, so in

honoring its spirit without appropriation, we focus our ofrenda/altar on those we cherish, infused with subtle elements that convey our intentions.
This community altar stands as a testament to our celebration of all souls and all saints. Working with the Designers Guild we shall create a space for your own photographs and elements and provide some of the traditional elements for you. All are warmly invited to participate by bringing a photograph of your loved one and/or a favorite Saint starting October 25th through November 1st. We will be celebrating together on All Saints Day, November 1st. Elements provided by St. John's and their meaning: Salt: A purifying element, shaped into a cross, symbolizing cleansing. Water: Offered to quench the thirst of the souls who journey from the afterlife, embodying purity. Marigolds: The vibrant cempasúchil flowers, radiant in orange, believed to be visible to wandering souls. Skulls: A "calavera" (skull) represents our acceptance that death is a part of life. Bread: Pan de Muerto, a sweet bread adorned with cross or bone designs, symbolizes the body of Christ within the catholic tradition. Contact Charlene Martin if you have questions or would like to participate in setup, 916-600-5769 (call or text), charlene.i.martin@gmail.com

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