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 25

October 25, 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:

Donna Hoffman in loving memory of her husband Bob Hoffman.

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

Those Who Serve Today

Celebrant: The Rev. Betsy McElroy (B)
Deacon/Preacher: The Rev. Deacon Greg Masztal (B)
Choir Director: Steven Weikle
Pianist/Organist: Luke Colbert
Eucharistic Minister: Anne Reeve (CW) & Margaret Meyers (CJ)
Lectors: Rosemary Cress & Christina Soria
Camera Acolyte: Beth Elwood (GF)
Crucifer: Candice Gale (CW)
Ushers: Corky Kuykendall & Jerry Herrmann
Sound: Corky Kuykendall
Altar Guild: Dee Mayfield & Anne Reeve
Vestry Open/Close (Announcements): Rosemary Cress/Dani Wilson
Designer Guild: Janie Williams & Allison Dooley
Nursery Care: Payton Christy
Sunday School: Stephanie Pilcher & Carol Bassett
Coffee Hour: Katie Howard & Corky Kuykendall
Counters: Eric Goossens & Joey Soria

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The Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

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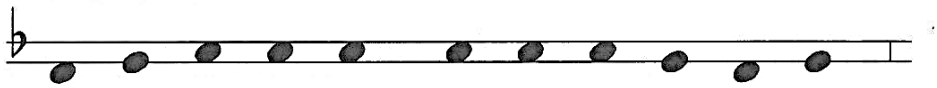
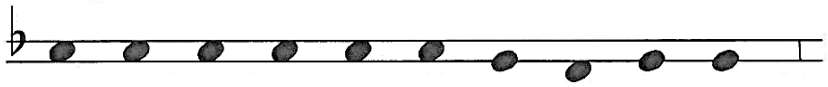
Entrance Hymn *(Stand as able.) Thy strong word did cleave the darkness* Hymnal 381

Opening Acclamation EOW1

Celebrant



People

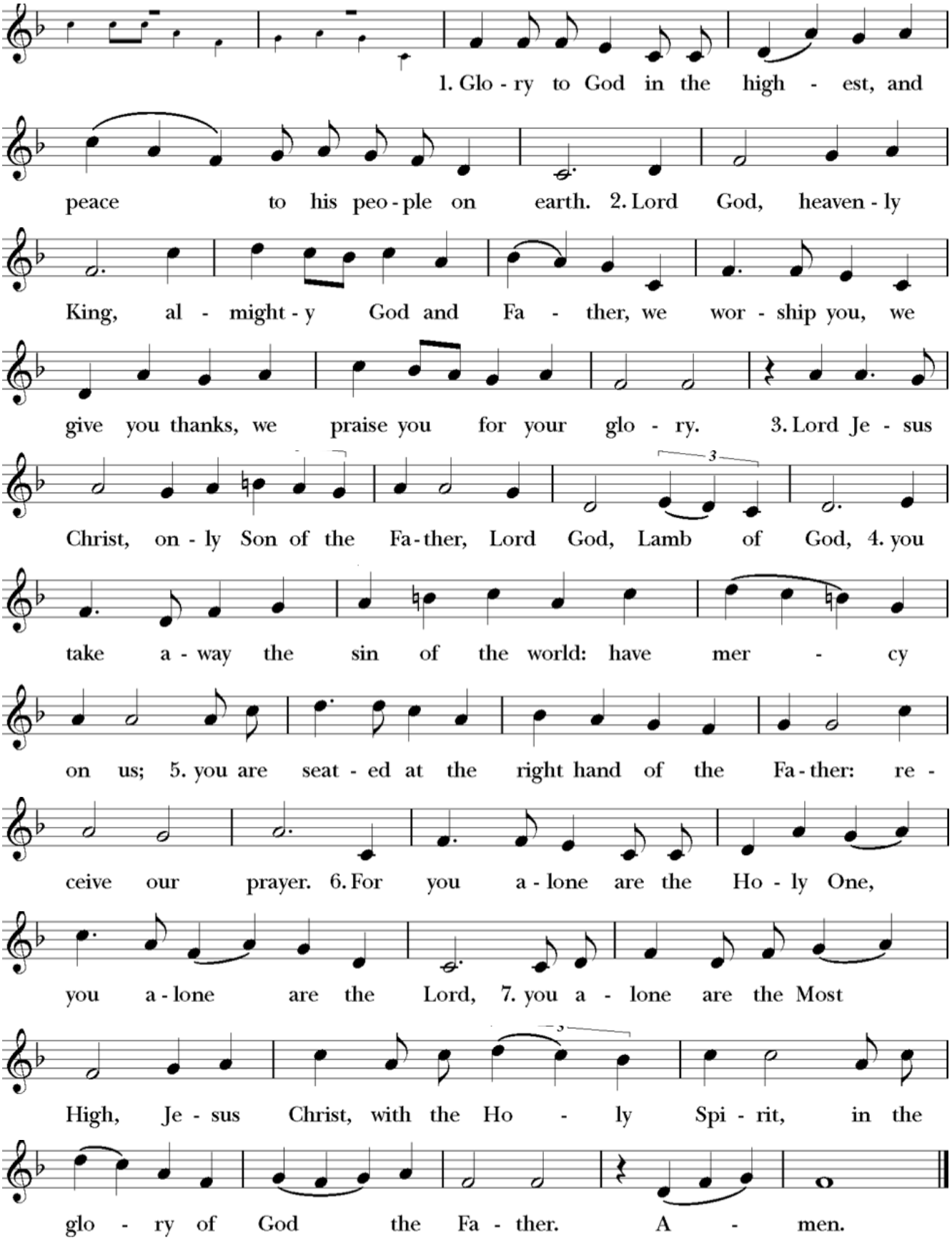


Collect for Purity *(Celebrant continues)*

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, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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

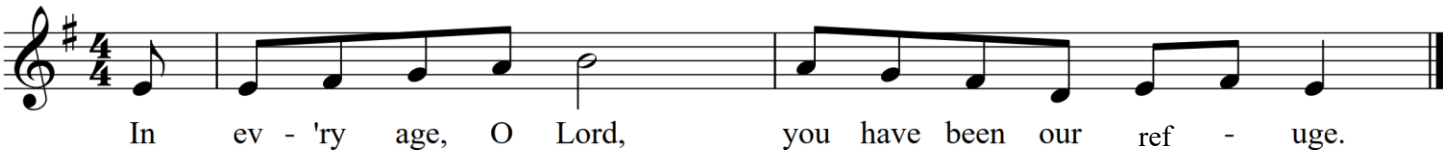
A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy *All are seated.* Rosemary Cress

Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. The LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the LORD's command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended. Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses. Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. He was unequaled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel. (Deuteronomy 34:1-12)

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

All repeat the antiphon after the choir and as marked.

Psalm 90 1-6 11-12



O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.
Before the mountains were born or the earth or the world brought forth,
you are God, without beginning or end.
[ANTIPHON]

You turn us back into dust and say: "Go back, children of the earth."
To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night.
[ANTIPHON]

You sweep us away like a dream, like grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers; by evening it withers and fades.
[ANTIPHON]

Who understands the power of your anger and fears the strength of your fury?
Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart.

A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians

Christina Soria

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us. *(1 Thessalonians 2:1-8)*

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

Sequence Hymn *God of mercy, God of grace* Hymnal 538

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.**

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet"'?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.
(Matthew 22:34-46)

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

Sermon

The Rev. Deacon Greg Masztal

Silence

Plenty Good Room – Fall Stewardship Testimony

Patty & Christy Herrmann

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.

Prayers of the People *Form III* Anne Reeve

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.

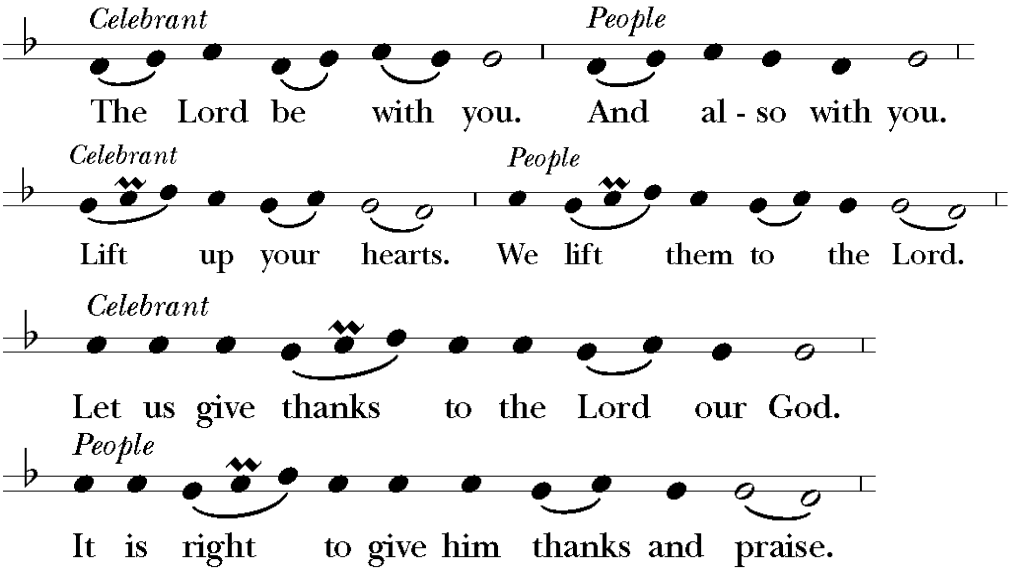
Offertory Sentence

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Anthem *Blessed are They* Carolyn Jennings

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

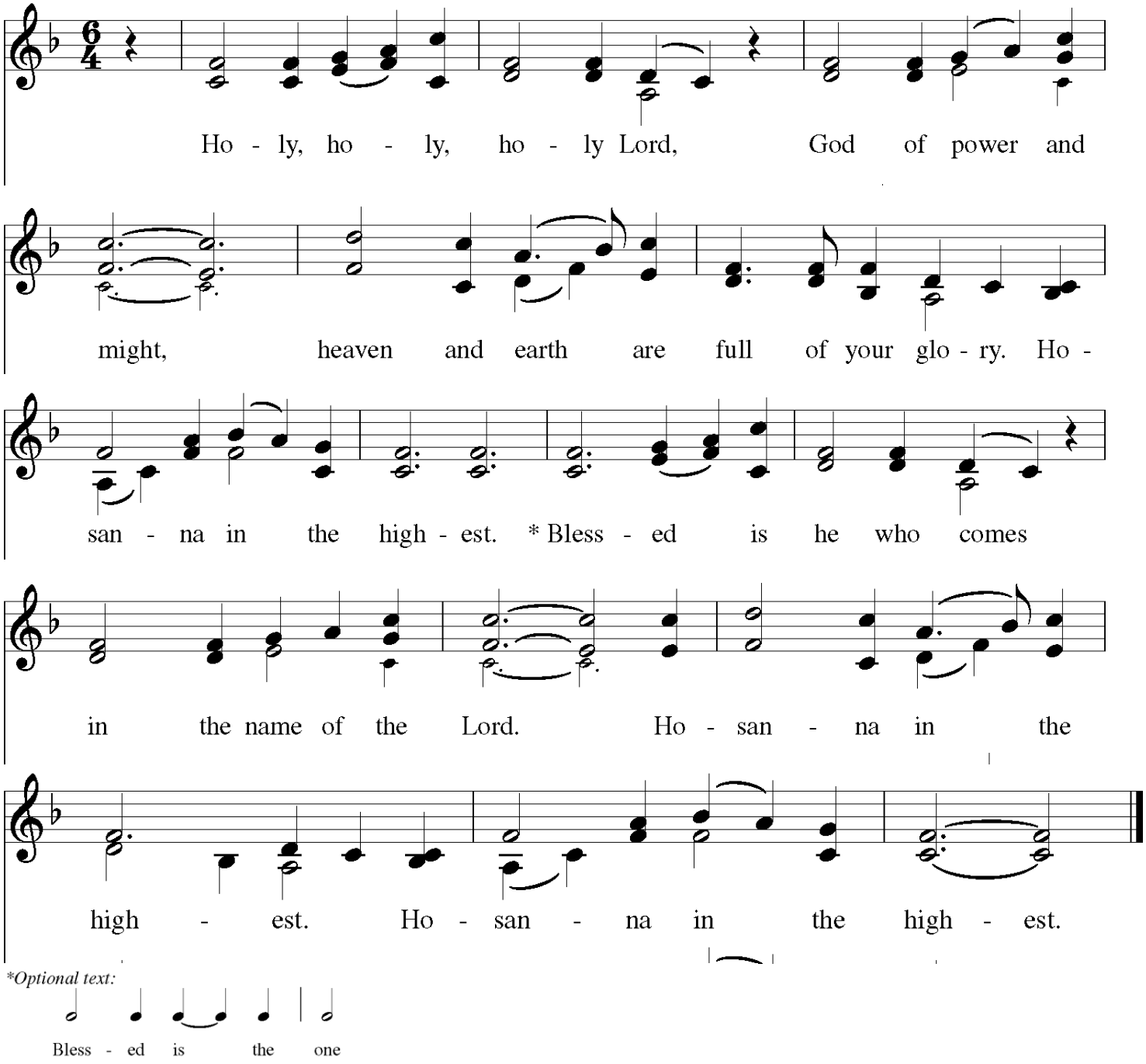
The Great Thanksgiving *(Standing)* EOW3



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)*

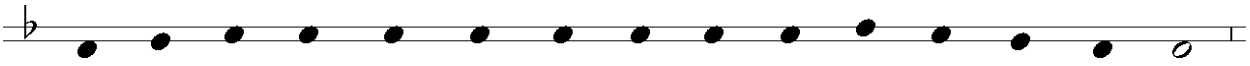
Celebrant: And now as our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

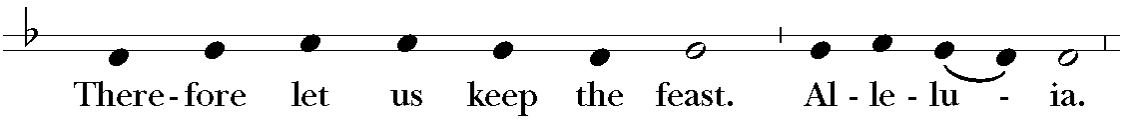
The Breaking of the Bread

Hymnal S 152

Celebrant:



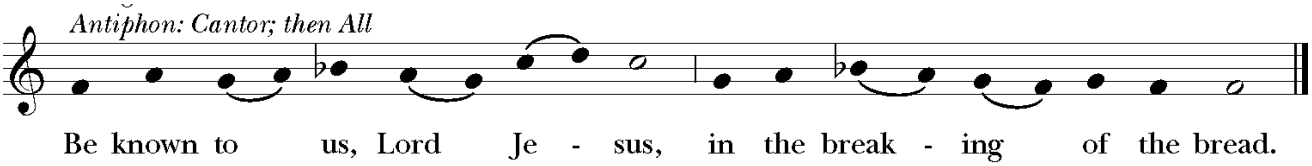
People:



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)*

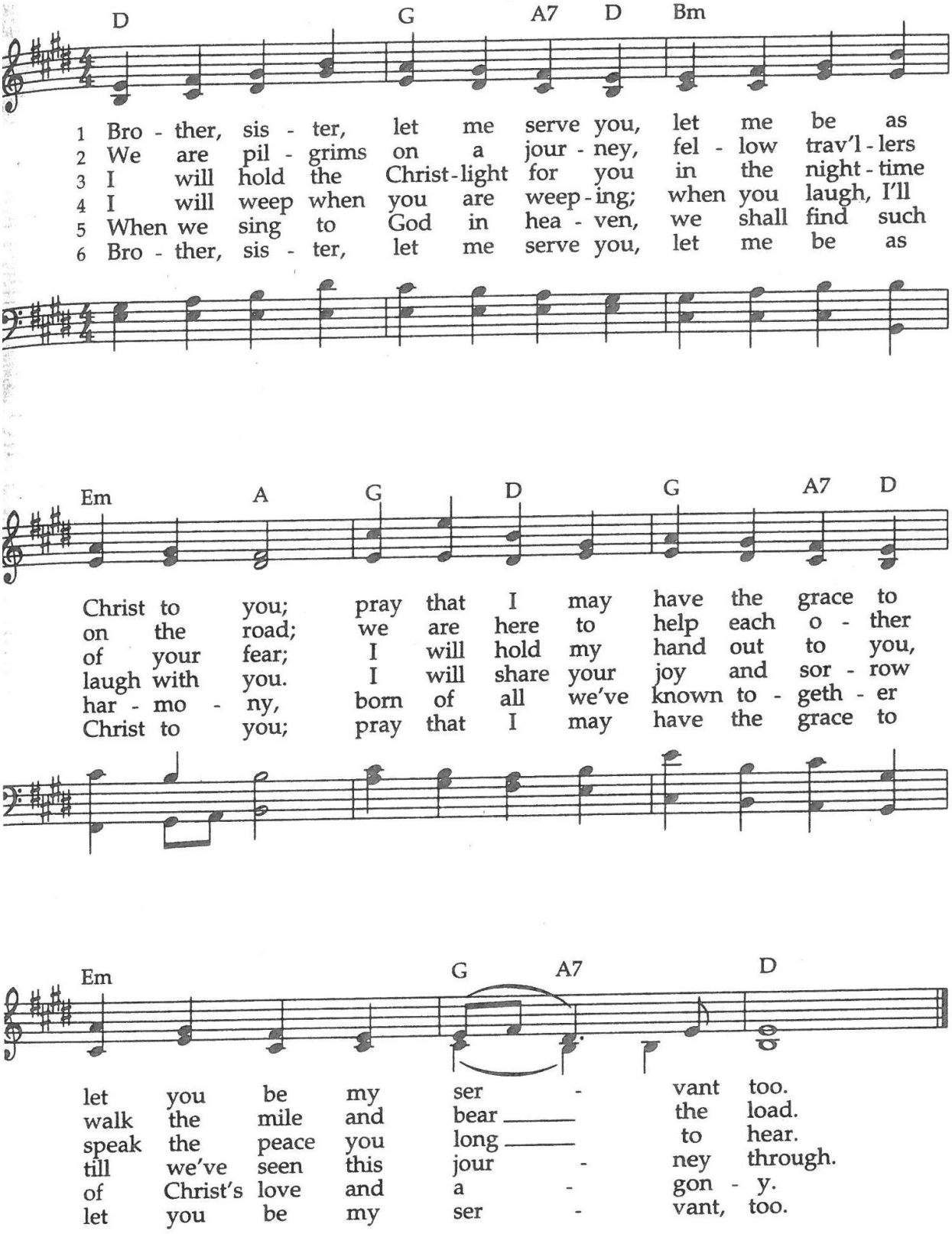
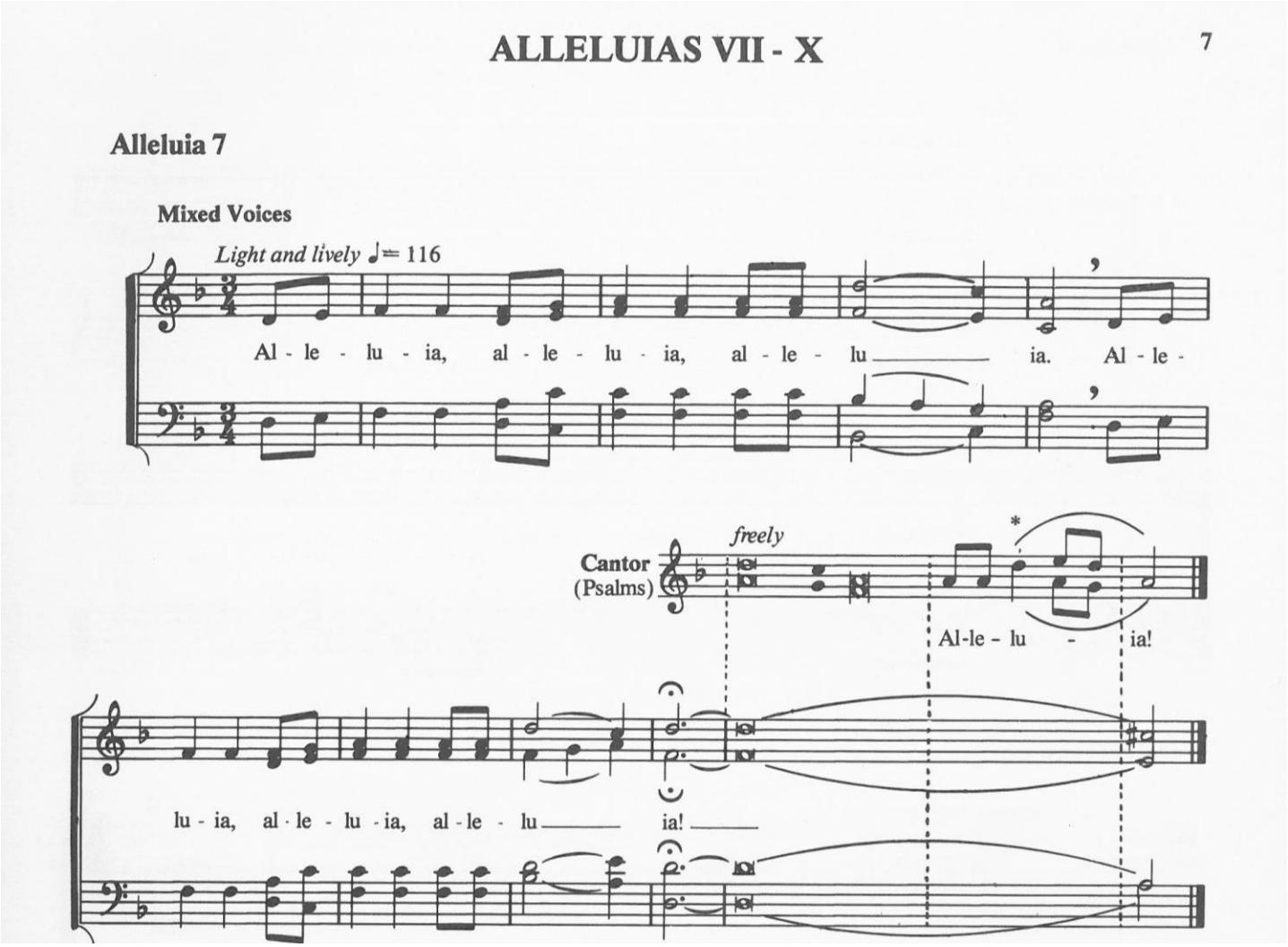
Celebrant continues,

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

Brother, sister, let me serve you VF124

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 *Lord, whose love through humble service* Hymnal 610

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 25
9:30am, Holy Eucharist, Church
11:15 am, Diocese Vision and Mission Discussion

Monday, October 26
4:00 pm, Warden's Meeting

Tuesday, October 27
4:00pm Salvation Army Dinner
4:15-5:30pm Hope Harbor

Wednesday, October 28
11:00am Bibe Study, Chapel
12:00pm, Noonday prayer, Chapel
6:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal, Church
Join us every Wednesday at 12pm for Noonday prayer in the Chapel.

Altar Guild - will be meeting on Sunday, November 1st after the service. Members of the congregation are invited to attend.

What are we waiting for? - Have you ever thought that advent gets shadowed so much by the busyness and commercialization of Christmas. What would it look like to lengthen advent so that it lasts 7 weeks instead of the traditional 4 so that we could really lean into the meaning of the season? For our 2nd Sunday Formation in November (November, 8), Rev. Betsy will walk us through the theological arguments for an extended advent and whether we should consider doing this next year here at St. John's?

As we continue our Fall stewardship efforts, mark your calendars for Saturday, December 12, 9am - 12pm, for a St. John's building and grounds, "Spruce up and care day!" More details to follow. All helping hands appreciated!

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 **today, October 25th 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.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SOMETHING MORE?

Discover the Daughters of the King

Women of EDSJ: Are you seeking a deeper relationship with Christ?

If the answer is yes, Daughters of the King might be for you.

All are invited to discernment classes at St. John's, Lodi.

FREE CLASSES | THURSDAYS

4:30–6:00 p.m.

November 5 & 19, 2026 • December 3, 2026
January 14 & 28, 2027 • Final meeting: To be determined

Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist • 1055 S. Lower Sacramento Road, Lodi

THE MOTTO OF THE ORDER

For His Sake…
I am but one, but I am one.
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.
What I can do, I ought to do.
What I ought to do, by the grace of God, I will do.
Lord, what will you have me do?

REGISTER OR ASK A QUESTION

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Learn more about the Order: www.doknational.org

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