



# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

## **FIRST SUNDAY after CHRISTMAS**

*Festival of Lessons & Carols*

December 28, 2025

**9:30 A.M.**



St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church  
in the Admiral District of West Seattle

*We acknowledge that we are on the unceded traditional land of the Coast Salish people,  
including the Duwamish and Suquamish People past and present.*

*We honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish and Suquamish tribes.*

*Please know, that wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you have a place at St. John's.*

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### Prelude

Selections from *Suite in E Major*, HWV 430

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

*Ringling of the church bell, standing as able.*

### Hymn 109

The first Nowell the angel did say

TUNE: *The First Nowell*



1 The first No - well the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor  
2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the  
3 And by the light of that same star three wise men  
4 This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -  
5 Then en - tered in those wise men three full rev - erent



1 shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields as they lay,  
2 east be - yond them far, and to the earth it  
3 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was  
4 hem it took its rest, and there it did both  
5 ly up - on their knee, and of - fered there in



1 keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
2 gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
3 their in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
4 stop and stay right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.  
5 his pres - ence their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



6 Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bough  
*Refrain*

Words: English carol, 18th cent.

Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1840-1901)

$\text{♩} = 108$   
Irr. with Refrain

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## A Bidding Prayer

*Presider* Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to gather up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

*People* **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.**

*Presider* The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

## First Lesson

Genesis 3:1–23

### ***Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden***

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.”

He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.”

The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

To the woman he said, “I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

And to the man he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

And the LORD God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them.

Then the LORD God said, “See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”—therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken.

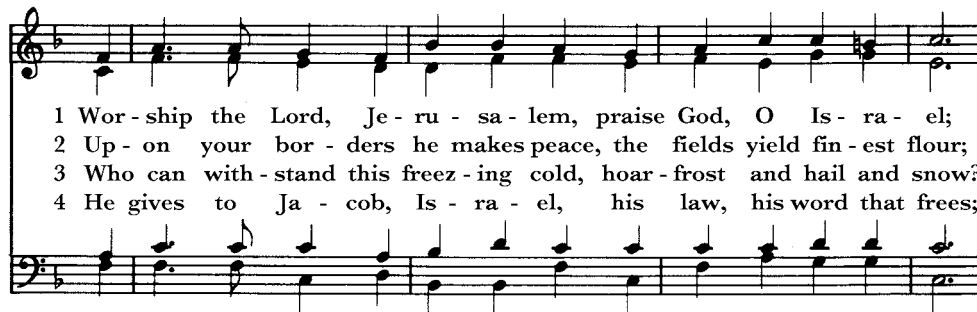
*Reader* Here ends the lesson.

## Hymn

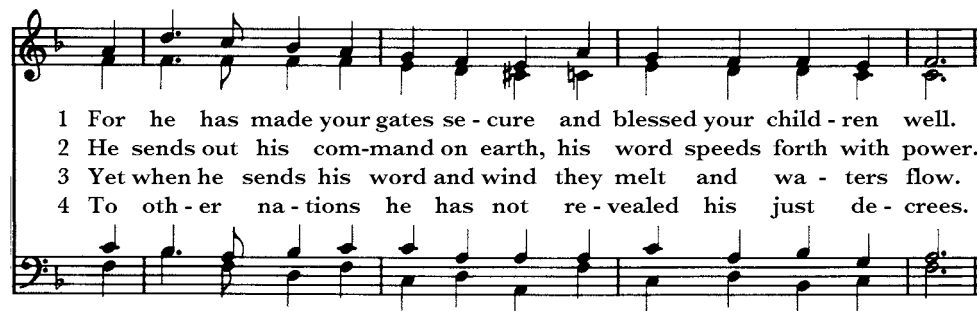
### Worship the Lord, Jerusalem

TUNE: *Winchester Old*

A metrical setting of Psalm 147:13–21 from *A New Metrical Psalter*.



1 Wor - ship the Lord, Je - ru - sa - lem, praise God, O Is - ra - el;  
2 Up - on your bor - ders he makes peace, the fields yield fin - est flour;  
3 Who can with - stand this freez - ing cold, hoar - frost and hail and snow?  
4 He gives to Ja - cob, Is - ra - el, his law, his word that frees;



1 For he has made your gates se - cure and blessed your child - ren well.  
2 He sends out his com - mand on earth, his word speeds forth with power.  
3 Yet when he sends his word and wind they melt and wa - ters flow.  
4 To oth - er na - tions he has not re - vealed his just de - crees.

Words: *Psalm 147:13-21*, from *A New Metrical Psalter*, by Christopher L. Webber, 1986, Church Publishing, used by permission.

Music: *Winchester Old*, melody from *The Whole Booke of Psalms*, 1592;  
harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1922

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## Second Lesson

Isaiah 40:1–11

**God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!”

See, the LORD God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

*Reader* Here ends the lesson.

## Hymn 84

Love came down at Christmas

TUNE: *Gartan*

1 Love came down at Christ - mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;  
2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;  
3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,  
love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.  
wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?  
love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), alt.

Music: *Gartan*, melody from *Petrie Collection of Irish Melodies, Part II*, 1902;  
harm. David Evans (1874-1948)

67. 67

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## Third Lesson

Isaiah 7:10–15

**God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as “God with us”**

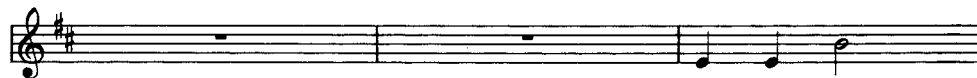
The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.”

*Reader* Here ends the lesson.

## Hymn 92

On this day earth shall ring

TUNE: *Personent hodie*



- 1 On this day
- 2 His the doom,
- 3 God's bright star,
- 4 On this day



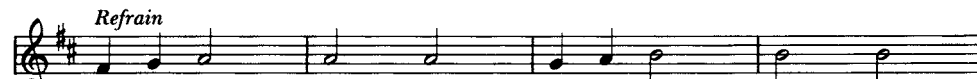
earth shall ring      with the song      chil - dren sing  
ours the mirth;      when he came      down to earth  
o'er his head,      Wise Men three      to him led;  
an - gels sing;      with their song      earth shall ring,



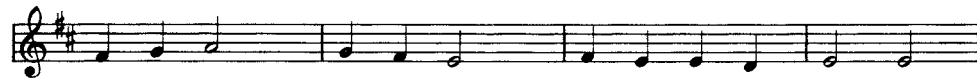
to the Lord,      Christ our King,      born on earth to  
Beth - le - hem      saw his birth;      ox and ass be -  
kneel they low      by his bed,      lay their gifts be -  
prais - ing Christ,      hea - ven's King,      born on earth to



save us;      him the Fa - ther gave us.  
side him      from the cold would hide him.  
fore him,      praise him and a - dore him.  
save us;      peace and love he gave us.



*Refrain*  
Id - e - o - o - o,      Id - e - o - o - o,



Id - e - o      glo - ri - a      in ex - cel - sis      De - o!

*“Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!” is Latin for “Therefore, glory to God in the highest!”*

Words: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; tr. Jane M. Joseph (1894-1929)  
Music: *Personent hodie*, melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

$\text{♩} = 60$   
666. 66 with Refrain

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## Fourth Lesson

Luke 1:26–58

### ***The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High***

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

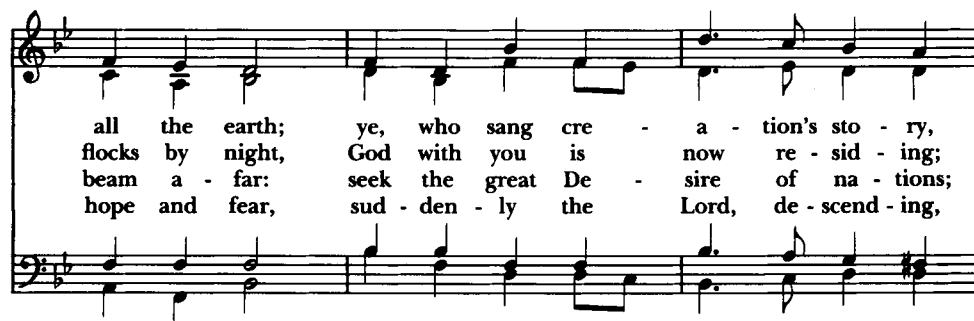
*Reader* Here ends the lesson.



## Angels from the realms of glory

TUNE: *Regent Square*


1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in



all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;  
 beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;  
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

*Refrain*



now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,  
 ye have seen his na - tal star:  
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:



come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt.  
 Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)

87. 87. 87

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## Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:57–80

***John the Baptist is born and his father rejoices that his son will prepare the way of the Lord***

The time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, “No; he is to be called John.” They said to her, “None of your relatives has this name.” Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, “What then will this child become?” For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.”

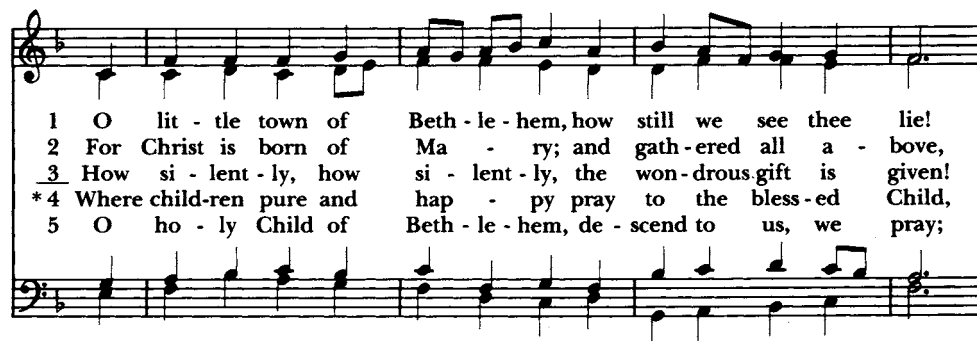
And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

*Reader* Here ends the lesson.

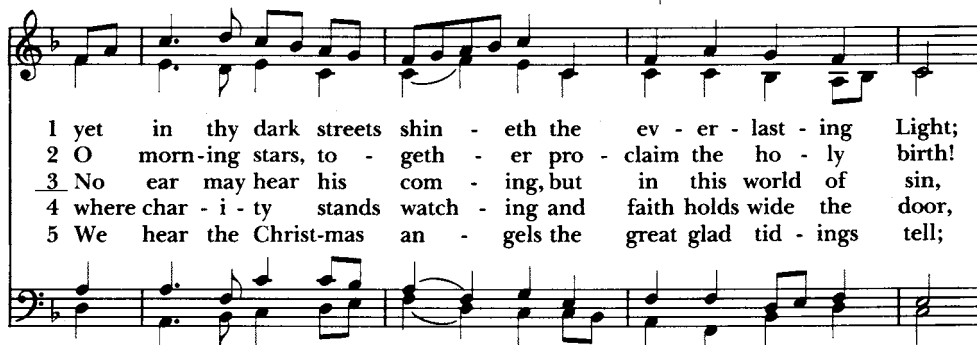
## O Little Town of Bethlehem

TUNE: *Forest Green*


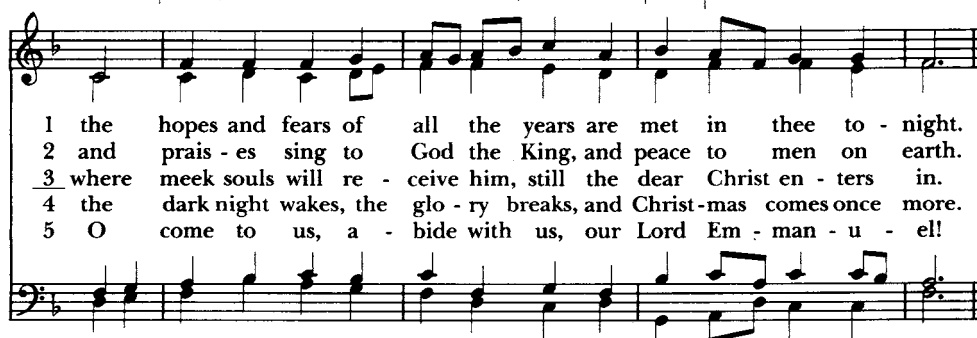
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 \*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,  
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



1 A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;  
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,  
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.  
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.  
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Words: Philips Brooks (1835-1893)

Music: *Forest Green*, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

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## Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1–20

***Jesus is born at Bethlehem and is worshiped by angels and shepherds***

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Reader* Here ends the lesson.

# Hymn

## Go, tell it on the mountain

TUNE: *Go Tell It*

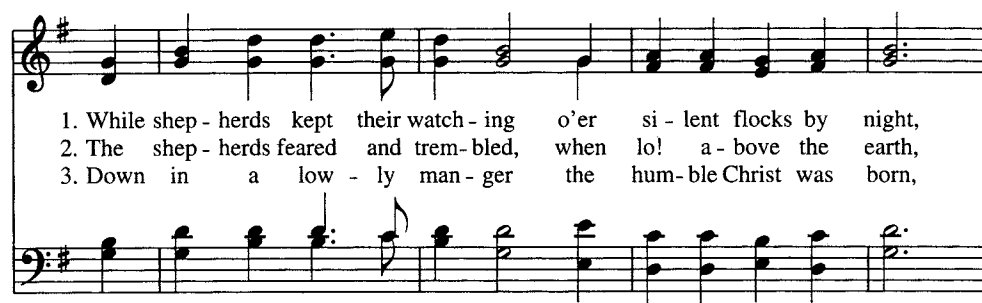
Hymn 21 from the supplemental hymnal *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*.



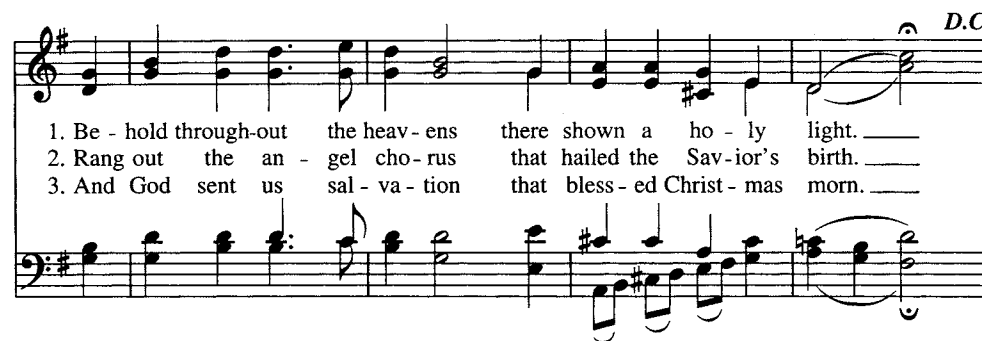
Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery-where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born.



1. While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2. The shep - herds feared and trem - bled, when lo! a - bove the earth,  
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



1. Be - hold through-out the heav - ens there shown a ho - ly light. \_\_\_\_  
2. Rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed the Sav - ior's birth. \_\_\_\_  
3. And God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn. \_\_\_\_

Words: Luke 2:8-20; adapt. John W. Work, Jr. (1871-1925)

Music: Negro Spiritual; adapt. and arr. William Farley Smith (b. 1941)

Words used by permission of Mrs. J. W. Work.

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## Seventh Lesson

John 1:1–18

***The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory***

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*Reader* Here ends the lesson.

## Hymn 104

A stable lamp is lighted

TUNE: *Andújar*



1 A sta - ble lamp is light - ed Whose  
2 (This) child through Da - vid's ci - ty Shall  
3 (Yet) he shall be for - sak - en, And  
4 (But) now, as at the end - ing, The



glow shall wake the sky; The stars shall bend their voic - es,  
ride in tri - umph by; The palm shall strew its branch - es,  
yield - ed up to die; The sky shall groan and dark - en,  
low is lift - ed high; The stars shall bend their voic - es,



And ev - ery stone shall cry. \_\_\_\_\_ And ev - ery stone shall cry,  
And ev - ery stone shall cry. \_\_\_\_\_ And ev - ery stone shall cry;  
And ev - ery stone shall cry. \_\_\_\_\_ And ev - ery stone shall cry,  
And ev - ery stone shall cry. \_\_\_\_\_ And ev - ery stone shall cry,



And straw like gold shall shine; A barn shall har - bor hea - ven,  
Though hea - vy, dull, and dumb, And lie with - in the road - way  
For ston - y hearts of men: God's blood up - on the spear - head,  
In prais - es of the Child By whose de - scent a - mong us



A stall be - come a shrine. \_\_\_\_\_ 2 This  
To pave his king - dom come. \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Yet  
God's love re - fused a - gain. \_\_\_\_\_ 4 But  
The worlds are rec - on - ciled. \_\_\_\_\_



Words: © Richard Wilbur (b. 1921)  
Music: *Andújar*, David Hurd (b. 1950)

76. 76. 66. 76

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## Homily

The Reverend Canon Elise B. Johnstone, D. Min.

*There will be a moment for quiet personal reflection.*

## The Nicene Creed

*Standing as able.*

*People* 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 became truly human.

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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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.

## The Peace

*Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Those present celebrate the peace with a bow, hands raised in blessing, or the peace sign.*

*You may be seated.*

## Welcome and Announcements

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*If you wish to make online donations to the ministry  
of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church,  
please visit <https://sjbwestseattle.org/give>  
or use the SJB Venmo QR code. Thank you.*

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**venmo**



# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## Offertory Sentence

*Presider* Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.  
— Hebrews 13:14–15

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Hymn 112

In the bleak midwinter

TUNE: *Cranham*

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;  
3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,  
4 What — can I give him, poor — as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:  
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim throng - ed the air;  
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed  
but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
if I were a wise — man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord — God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
wor - shipped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
yet what I can I give him give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Music: *Cranham*, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)

Public domain.

112.

*The congregation's gifts of money for the mission and ministry of St. John's and food for the Food Bank and Little Free Pantry are presented and placed on the Holy Table.*

## Presentation

*People* All things come from you, O God, and from your own have we given you.

*Please remain standing.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Eucharistic Prayer B, expansive language*

*Celebrant*                      *People*

God be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*                      *People*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*Presider* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## Sanctus S128

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 the one who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Setting: William Mathias (b. 1934), alt.

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*Please remain standing.*

*Presider* We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ 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 Jesus 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

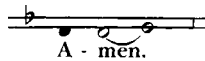
*People* **We remember Christ's death,  
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,  
We await Christ's coming in glory;**

*Presider* And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

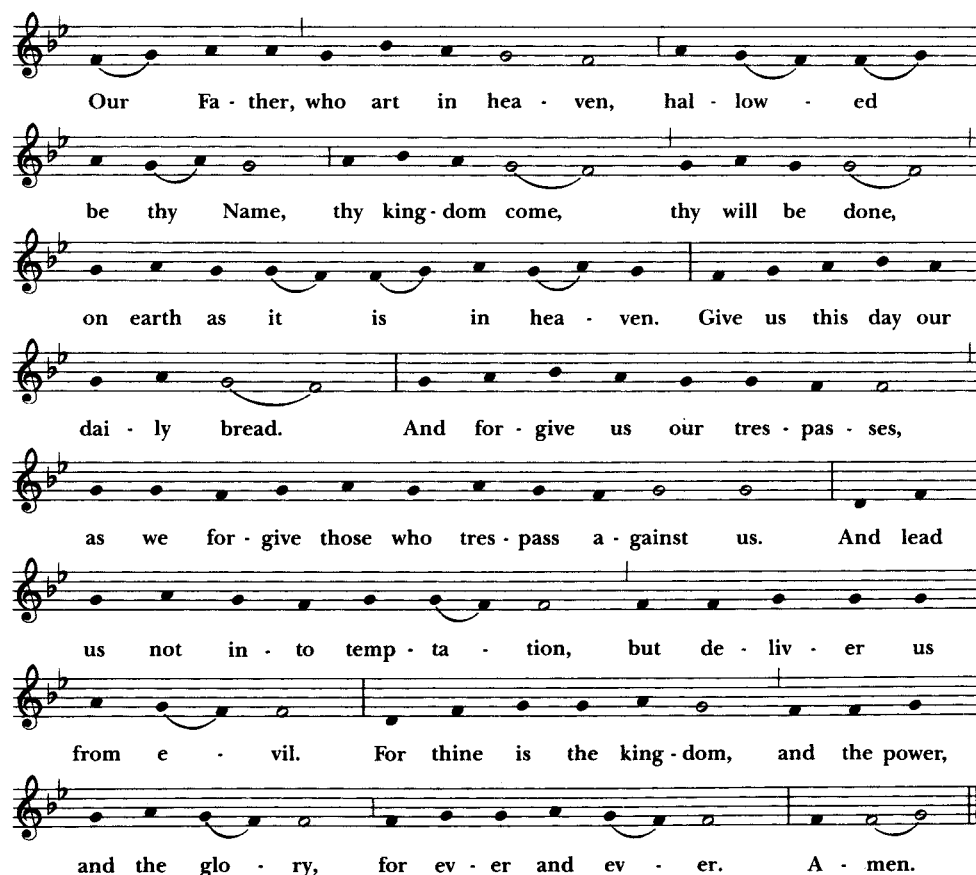
In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.



## The Lord's Prayer

*Presider* And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,



Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed  
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our  
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,  
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead  
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us  
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,  
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Setting: Plainsong; adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

## Breaking of the Bread

*The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

## Fraction Anthem S155



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is  
sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Setting: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942)

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## The Invitation to Communion

*Presider* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*You may be seated.*

*To receive Communion, you are invited to come to the altar rail and stand or kneel at one of the cushions. To receive the bread (wafer), please hold your hands palms up, and the Presider will place a wafer in your hands. Gluten-free bread is available for those requiring it. Please indicate this by holding your hands palms down initially. If you do not wish to partake of the consecrated wine from the common chalice, you may consume the wafer at the altar rail or return to your seat to consume it.*

*To receive the wine, please consume your wafer, and then wait for the Eucharistic Minister to bring the common cup to you at the altar rail. Please do not attempt to intinct (dip) the wafer into the chalice. If you prefer not to partake of the common cup, but would like to receive the words of ministrations, simply cross your arms in front of your chest when the Eucharistic Minister comes to you at the altar rail.*

*Reception of the sacrament in one kind (either bread or wine) is considered a full experience of the sacrament.*

*If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead of communion, when you come to the altar rail, simply cross your arms in front of your chest, and the Presider will greet you and offer God's blessing.*

*If you are unable to come forward, ask an usher or someone nearby to request that communion be brought to you.*

## **Communion Music**

*The Sussex Mummers' Christmas Carol*

Percy Grainger (1882-1961)

## **Prayer for Those Worshipping at Home During the Time of Communion**

*Those worshipping at home are invited to pray.*

*People* **O Christ, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.**

— from *Saint Augustine's Prayer Book*, Forward Movement, 2014

## **Postcommunion Prayer**

*Please stand as you are able.*

*Presider* Let us pray.

*People* **Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of 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 Savior. Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

*Presider* May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

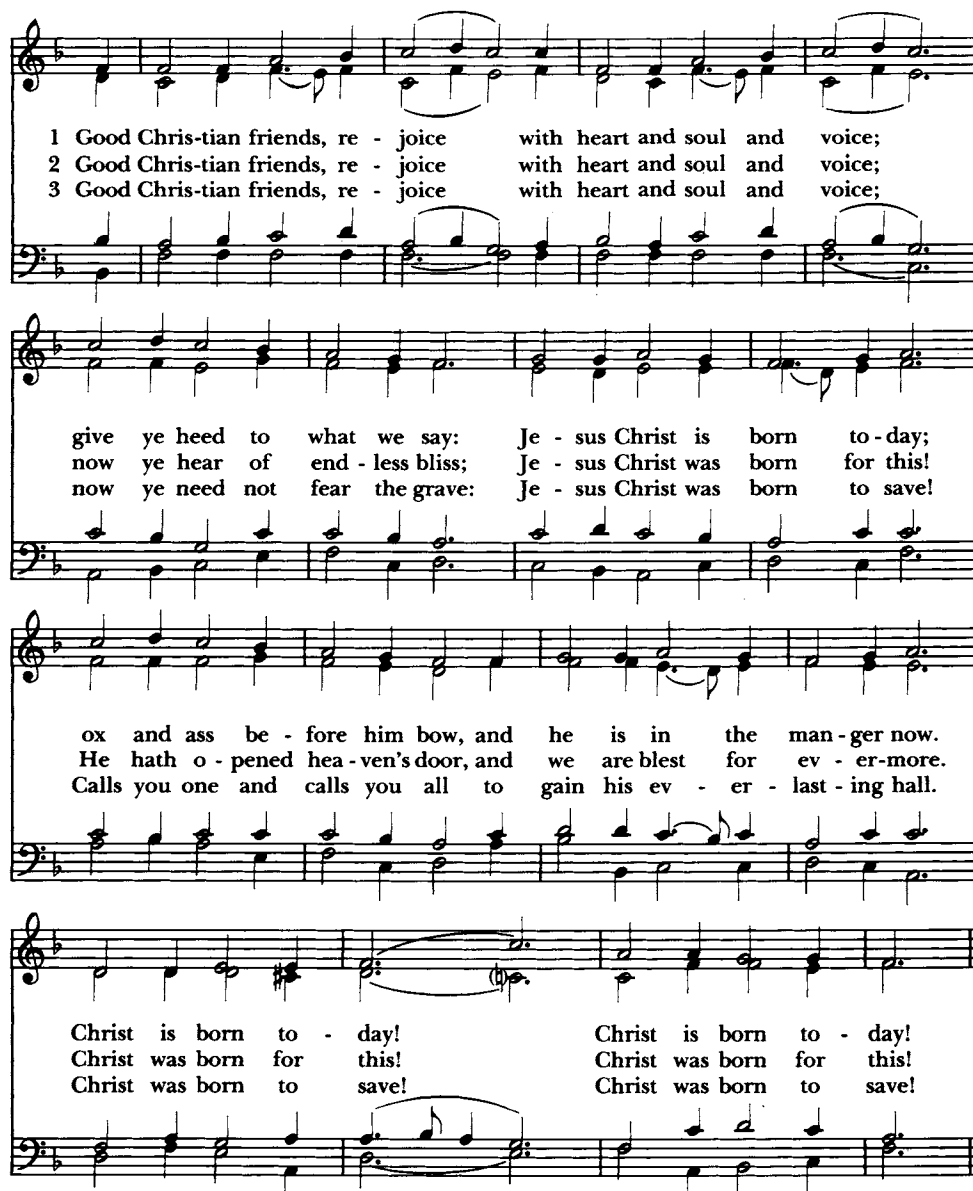
May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## Hymn 107

Good Christian friends rejoice

TUNE: *In dulci jubilo*



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

Music: *In dulci jubilo*, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

66. 77. 78. 55

Public domain.

## Dismissal

*Presider* Go in peace to love and serve Jesus Christ our Savior.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

*Presto* from *Sonata in F Major*, K 280

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall

Join us for a time of fellowship in the Parish Hall following our 10:30 a.m. service every Sunday for snacks and coffee. Newcomers are especially invited to attend so we can better get to know you and welcome you to SJB. If you are interested in providing snacks and hospitality during our weekly Coffee Hour, please consider signing up to support this ministry on the yellow sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. Hosts serve in teams. Experienced hosts are happy to show newcomers the ropes. Thank you!

### Zoom Evening Prayer

Zoom Evening Prayer is a lovely way to wind down the day. At the beginning of the service everyone chooses a role. The bulletin is displayed on the screen. At the conclusion there is a short social hour. Come join us on Zoom, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/229332884>

### Youth Group

Students in grades 6–12 are invited to the Parish Hall 7–8:30 p.m. for snacks, games, and conversation on the first and third Sundays of the month. Our next youth group is Sunday, January 4. Contact Jackson with any questions. [familylife@SJBWestSeattle.org](mailto:familylife@SJBWestSeattle.org)

### Spiritual Practices Small Groups

SJB will continue our exploration of Spiritual Practices in Small Groups. Our evening Spiritual Practices Group will meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays, 6 p.m., while our daytime group will be meeting the second and fourth Wednesdays at 11 a.m. Please note that we are taking a brief hiatus for Christmas and will resume our scheduled gatherings in January. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Robert. [robert@SJBWestSeattle.org](mailto:robert@SJBWestSeattle.org)

### Walking Through the Bible

Join us on the second and fourth Sundays for *Walking Through the Bible*. You do not have to have a deep knowledge of the Bible to join in these explorations. Join us as we explore a different book of the Bible. We will begin the fall with a study of Paul's Letter to the Galatians, where Paul writes about how, through Christ, God's blessing is for all, regardless of ethnicity, social status, and more. The group will discern together which book we will explore next. Questions? Please email Canon Elise. [elise@SJBWestSeattle.org](mailto:elise@SJBWestSeattle.org)

### Services for Judy Walbaum

Services for Judy Walbaum will be held at SJB, Saturday, January 3, 2 p.m. Please continue to keep Bill and the rest of the Walbaum family in your prayers.

### Epiphany Service Tuesday, January 6

Join us and our Neighbors from First Lutheran Church to mark the Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ with the Blessing of Chalk at SJB on Tuesday, January 6, 6:30 p.m.





## St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in the Admiral District of West Seattle

### A Note from Our Rector

We are so glad you are worshipping here today!

Visiting?

If you are visiting with us, we would be glad to answer any questions you may have about the Episcopal Church or about St. John's. I'm Elise, the Rector (the priest in charge) of St. John's—I encourage you to reach out to me—I'd love to meet you!

Interested in Baptism?

In the Episcopal Church, we believe that Baptism by water and in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is full initiation into the Body of Christ, the Church—regardless in which Christian tradition you may have been baptized.

If you are interested in Baptism, please reach out to me—I would love to talk with you about this.

As we like to say here, wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you have a place at St. John's!

Welcome!

Elise+  
[elise@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:elise@sjbwestseattle.org)

If there is a ministry you're interested in knowing more about or getting involved, you can also contact the office  
[office@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:office@sjbwestseattle.org)

### St. John the Baptist Vestry

#### Class of 2025

Katie Bucy  
Dan Johnson  
John Kettel, *junior warden*  
Anne Rogers

#### Class of 2026

Kitt Gassman  
John Hainze  
Lurilla Lee  
Cathy Thompson,  
*senior warden*

#### Class of 2027

Linda Barson  
Terry Brady  
Lauren Cox  
Mary Kay Jones

#### Chair

The Rev. Cn. Elise Johnstone  
**Clerk**  
Carol Sutcliffe  
**Treasurer**  
Monte Frazier

Would you like to request that our Prayer Chain pray for you or someone you know? Would you like to add a name to the Prayers of the People? Please visit

<https://sjbwestseattle.org/prayers>

### St. John the Baptist Staff and Office Information

3050 California Ave SW  
Seattle WA 98116

Phone 206-937-4545  
[www.sjbwestseattle.org](http://www.sjbwestseattle.org)

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

The Rev. Canon Elise B. Johnstone, *rector*  
[elise@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:elise@sjbwestseattle.org)

The Rev. Robert G. Stevens, *curate*  
[robert@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:robert@sjbwestseattle.org)

Katelyn Cowell, *parish administrator*  
[office@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:office@sjbwestseattle.org)

Thomas Aláan, DMA, *choir director*  
[thomas@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:thomas@sjbwestseattle.org)

Anita McKay, *bookkeeper*  
[finance@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:finance@sjbwestseattle.org)

Jackson Espeut, *family life minister*  
[familylife@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:familylife@sjbwestseattle.org)

Nora Jindrich, *nursery and youth assistant*

David O. Ruberg, *bulletin guru*

Joyce Gibb, *pianist*

If you wish to reach a staff person who does not have an email listed, please contact the office.

[office@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:office@sjbwestseattle.org)

### What's going on at SJB this week

Wednesday, December 24, 10:00 AM	Church Office
<b>Office Closed- Christmas Eve</b>	
Wednesday, December 24, 5:00 PM	Nave
<b>Christmas Eve Pageant and Holy Eucharist</b>	
Wednesday, December 24, 9:30 PM	Nave
<b>Carol Singing</b>	
Wednesday, December 24, 10:00 PM	Nave
<b>Christmas Eve Eucharist</b>	
Thursday, December 25, 10:00 AM	Church Office
<b>Office Closed- Christmas Day</b>	
Thursday, December 25, 9:30 AM	Nave
<b>Christmas Day Eucharist</b>	
Thursday, December 25, 6:30 PM	Community Room
<b>AA 12x12</b>	
Friday, December 26, 6:00 PM	Community Room
<b>AA Shipwrecked</b>	
Saturday, December 27, 7:45 AM	Parish Hall, Community Room
<b>Al-Anon</b>	
Sunday, December 28, 9:30 AM	Nave
<b>Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist</b>	
Monday, December 29, 6:00 PM	Community Room
<b>AA Shipwrecked</b>	
Tuesday, December 30, 7:00 PM	Community Room
<b>AA Into Action</b>	
Wednesday, December 31, 10:00 AM	Church Office
<b>Office Closed- New Year's Eve</b>	
Wednesday, December 31, 10:00 AM	Parish Hall
<b>Emerald City Wanderers Event*</b>	
Thursday, January 1, 7:00 AM	Parish Hall
<b>Emerald City Wanderers Event*</b>	
Thursday, January 1, 10:00 AM	Church Office
<b>Office Closed- New Year's Day</b>	
Thursday, January 1, 7:00 PM	Community Room
<b>AA 12x12</b>	
Friday, January 2, 6:00 PM	Community Room
<b>AA Shipwrecked</b>	
Saturday, January 3, 8:00 AM	Parish Hall, Community Room
<b>Al-Anon</b>	
Saturday, January 3, 1:00 PM	Nave, Parish Hall
<b>Services for Judy Walbaum</b>	
Sunday, January 4, 8:30 AM	Nave
<b>Spoken Holy Eucharist</b>	
Sunday, January 4, 9:30 AM	Choir Room
<b>Choir Practice</b>	
Sunday, January 4, 10:30 AM	Nave
<b>Holy Eucharist with Music</b>	
Sunday, January 4, 10:30 AM	Nave, Large Godly Play Room
<b>Children's Chapel with Godly Play</b>	
Sunday, January 4, 3:00 PM	Providence Mt St Vincent
<b>Worship at the Mount</b>	
*Indicates that a group is renting SJB for this use.	