



# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

## The **NATIVITY** of **OUR LORD**

### **Christmas Day**

December 25, 2024

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.*



## Welcome

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

These words from the Gospel according to John ring out through the challenges of our current time, reminding all of us that Christ, the light, the Word, shines, even through times of great adversity.

As we gather together to worship and celebrate Christ's birth—the advent of God with us, Emmanuel, I welcome you to St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church. It is a blessing to worship with you today!

Each of us is walking a journey where we bear different burdens, and in whatever challenges you may be facing, please be assured that you are not alone—God is with you, as God is with us, as we celebrate and mark Christ's Incarnation. God is walking with each of us and you are not carrying those burdens on your own.

Also, please know that you are welcome here at St. John's! We strive to be a welcoming and inclusive community that shares the love of God and neighbor, and we are glad you are here! If you'd like to know more about this faith community, please reach out to me.

We are so glad you are here! Merry Christmas!

Peace and good,

*Elise+*

The Reverend Canon Elise B. Johnstone, D. Min., *rector*  
St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church  
[elise@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:elise@sjbwestseattle.org)

## Christmas Flowers



Layne and Rick Bautista in memory of our friend Paul Abrahamson

Anne Bucci and Mary Kay Jones in honor of Loy and Curt

Pam Crenshaw in memory of her parents

Sten Crissey in memory of Dick and Nell Rehm

Lu Drevecky in memory of Harold Drevecky

Ken and Joanne Duvall in memory of the Duvall and Malek Family

Karen and Jim Jarvis in memory of Loved Ones

Carolyn Koehler in memory of Fred Koehler and Helen Hansen Koehler

Kathy Lund in memory of her entire family

Donna McNamara in memory of Harry Stephen Epply

Janet Murphy in memory of Terry Murphy

Sue Quanbeck, Terrie Ingram, Tom Rehm and David Rehm  
and the Rehm grandchildren in loving memory of Dick and Nell Rehm

Robbie Ralkowski in memory of Jan Ralkowski

Carol Sutcliffe in memory of Brian Sutcliffe

Paul and Maria Weber in memory of William C. Heffner, Naeko Heffner,  
Paul Heffner, Tom Weber, Margaret Raley, and Linda Firkel

Richard and Julia Wight in honor of Dau Flynn and in memory of Andy Kohn

Bonnie Young in memory of Robert Young

Portions of this service are from the optional expansive-language versions  
of the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*, as authorized by the 79th General Convention in 2018.

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### Prelude

*Silent Night*

arr. Eugénie Rocherolle (b. 1939)

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

### Hymn 83

O come, all ye faithful

TUNE: *Adeste fideles*

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God from — God, — Light from Light e - ter - nal, —  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —  
6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; —

1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
2 lo! he ab - hors — not the Vir - gin's womb;  
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
6 Je sus, to thee — be — glo - ry given;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son — of the Fa - ther;  
3 glo - ry to God, — glo - ry in the high - est;  
6 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

*Refrain*  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others  
Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786);  
harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Irr.

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## Opening Acclamation

*Presider* Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.

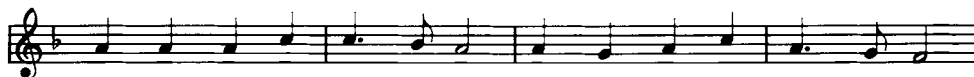
*People* **And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Presider* 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 Hymn 96

Angels we have heard on high

TUNE: *Gloria*



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.  
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

*Refrain*



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.

Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

77. 77 with Refrain

Public domain.

## The Collect of the Day

Christmas

*Presider* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*You may be seated.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## First Reading

Isaiah 52:7–10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Response

*Read responsively by whole verse.*

**Psalm 98** • *Cantate Domino*

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 **With his right hand and his holy arm \***  
**has he won for himself the victory.**
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \***  
**and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 **Sing to the LORD, with the harp, \***  
**with the harp and the voice of song.**
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 **Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \***  
**the lands and those who dwell therein.**
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 **In righteousness shall he judge the world \***  
**and the peoples with equity.**

## Second Reading

### Hebrews 1:1–4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

*Standing as able.*

### John 1:1–14

*Presider* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* **Glory to you, O Christ.**

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.

*Presider* The Gospel of our Savior.

*People* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*You may be seated.*

## The Sermon

**The Reverend Robert Stevens**

*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.



## Prayers of the People

*Intercessor* All things have been clothed in grace by the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ; all the earth has been enlightened in his dawning. Trusting in Christ's light and grace, let us pray for all people in need and for all the world saying, God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all the churches throughout the world, that united, they may be faithful witnesses to your Son, who has come among us.

God in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* For this nation and the leaders of the nations, that they may turn from the ways of fear and warfare to the ways of your wisdom and grace.

God in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* For all families, that they may be renewed in joy, receive the word of mercy into their hearts, and become places of hospitality to the stranger.

God in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* For the poor of the earth, for victims of violence and tyranny, that their suffering be ended, and that they may come to know joy. We pray for all who are sick, injured, the unhoused, those dealing with addiction, mental illness, and any kind of adversity, especially \_\_\_\_\_, and those we name now, silently or aloud.

*Silence may be kept.*

God in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* For this congregation, that we may renewed by the light and grace of your incarnate Word. We give thanks for the many blessings we experience, especially \_\_\_\_\_, and those we name now, silently or aloud.

*Silence may be kept.*

God in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* For those who have died, that their efforts continue to inspire our action and that they may rest in your care until that day when all shall rise again in your new Creation. We pray especially for \_\_\_\_\_, and those we name now silently or aloud.

*Silence may be kept.*

God in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Presider* Rejoicing in the company of Mary, the mother of our Lord, and of all the witnesses of the incarnation, we commend these prayers and all our life to you, O God, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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

# 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

If you wish to make online donations to the ministry of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, please visit:

<https://sjbwestseattle.org/give>

Please stand as you are able.

## Hymn 87

Hark! the herald angels sing

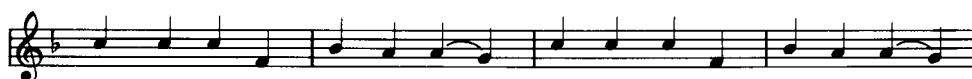
TUNE: Mendelssohn



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!  
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,



with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.  
Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William  
H. Cummings (1831-1915)

77. 77. D with Refrain

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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 D*, expansive language

*Presider* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Presider* It is truly right to glorify you, Holy One, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

*Presider* It is truly right to glorify you, Holy One, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

## **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 acclaim you, holy God, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death.

In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Holy God, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, Jesus lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose Jesus gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for Christ who died and rose for us, you sent the Holy Spirit, your own first gift for those who believe, to complete your work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for Jesus to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them Jesus 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."

Almighty God, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and descent among the dead, proclaiming Christ's resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting Christ's coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

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

*Presider* God our Creator, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

[Remember (NN. and) all who minister in your Church.] [Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.] [Remember \_\_\_\_\_.] [Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.]

And grant that we may find our inheritance with [the Blessed Virgin Mary, with matriarchs, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, (with \_\_\_\_\_) and] all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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

*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.**

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

## Fraction Anthem S155



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 ministration, 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.*

# Hymn 82

Of the Father's love begotten

TUNE: *Divinum Mysterium*



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -  
 2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,  
 3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that  
 bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry



are, that have \_\_\_\_\_ been, and that fu - ture  
 world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his  
 earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in  
 and do - min ion, and e - ter - nal



years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_  
 vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! \_\_\_\_\_

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)  
 and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt.

Music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th cent; adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

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 87. 87. 87 with Refrain

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## **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.**

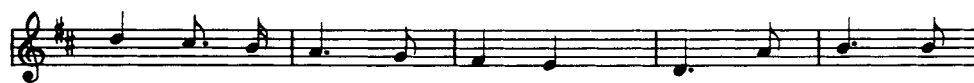
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**



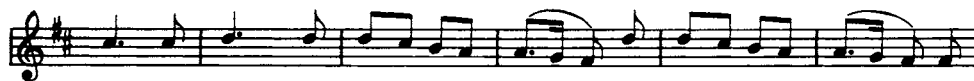
## Hymn 100

Joy to the world!

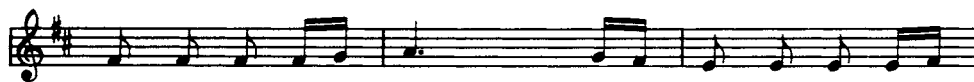
TUNE: *Antioch*



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
\*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and



heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.

Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

CM with Repeat

Public domain.

## Dismissal

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

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

*You are invited to remain and sing along on the postlude.*

*Chestnuts roasting on an open fire*

Mel Tormé (1925-1999) and Robert Wells (1922-1998)

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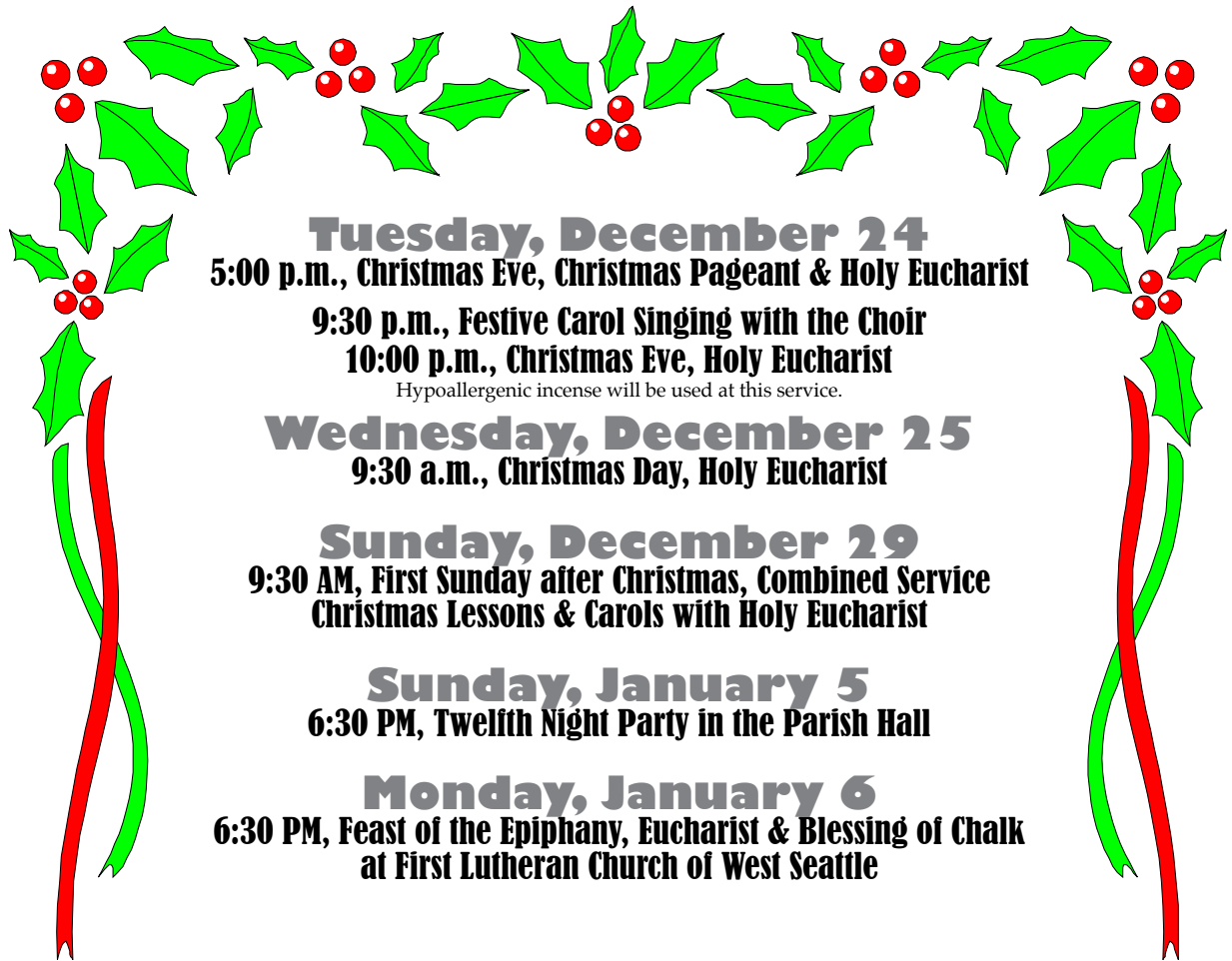
## Serving in Worship Today

**Advent Wreath:** Carol Eaton, Wilma Hansen; **Altar Guild:** Carolyn Koehler;

**Eucharistic Minister/Intercessor:** Layne Bautista; **Music:** Joyce Gibb;

**Preaching/Presiding:** The Rev. Robert Stevens; **Reader:** Carolyn Koehler;

**Usher:** Wayne Heuschele; **Verger:** Layne Bautista.



## **Tuesday, December 24**

**5:00 p.m., Christmas Eve, Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist**

**9:30 p.m., Festive Carol Singing with the Choir**

**10:00 p.m., Christmas Eve, Holy Eucharist**

Hypoallergenic incense will be used at this service.

## **Wednesday, December 25**

**9:30 a.m., Christmas Day, Holy Eucharist**

## **Sunday, December 29**

**9:30 AM, First Sunday after Christmas, Combined Service**

**Christmas Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist**

## **Sunday, January 5**

**6:30 PM, Twelfth Night Party in the Parish Hall**

## **Monday, January 6**

**6:30 PM, Feast of the Epiphany, Eucharist & Blessing of Chalk  
at First Lutheran Church of West Seattle**

## **INVITE · WELCOME · CONNECT** **WORKSHOP FEBRUARY 8**

SAVE THE DATE

It is not always easy or natural to invite, welcome, or connect someone new with your beloved church community, but SJB will be offering a workshop on February 8 to help you do these things in a way that is authentic to you!

Guided by the gospel imperative to “Go and make disciples of all nations,” the ministry of *Invite Welcome Connect* equips and empowers individuals and congregations to share the Good News of the risen Christ. This ministry of transformation hinges on the intentional practices of evangelism, hospitality, and belonging, and in this workshop founder Mary Foster Parmer will share the deep truths of this ministry as well as practical steps to assess your faith community. Mary will also preach on February 9. All SJB folks are welcome, as are teams from other Episcopal and full communion partner congregations!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Tuesday, December 24 at St. John the Baptist**

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Pageant in the Church Nave

9:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling in the Church Nave

10:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Incense in the Church Nave

## **Wednesday, December 25 at St. John the Baptist**

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist in the Church Nave

## **One Service on December 29— Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist**

We'll gather for a service of Christmas Lessons and Carols for one combined service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 29. Please join us as we continue the celebration of Christmas throughout the 12 days!

## **Coffee Hour Hosts Needed**

If you are interested in providing snacks and hospitality during our weekly Coffee Hour, please sign up to host a Sunday on the blue sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. We are currently in need of Coffee Hour hosts starting December 22 through January. Please consider signing up to support this ministry. Thank you!

## **Coffee Hour Host Organizational Conversation**

Have you hosted coffee hour some time in the last few years? Are you interested in possibly hosting coffee hour? Please join Canon Elise and Lilith Lysistrata for a conversation to discern how we might best be approaching coffee hour hosting for where SJB is right now. We will get some coffee and snacks and meet in the Community Room at Noon on January 19.

## **2024 Pledge Fulfillment**

We are so grateful to all of you for your support of SJB's mission and ministry in 2024. If you have not yet met your annual pledge amount and would still like to give towards that commitment, or if you would like to make any kind of offering for 2024, there is still time! Contact Cn. Elise or [finance@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:finance@sjbwestseattle.org) for more information on your 2024 pledge and giving amounts. Thank you!

## **Adult Formation**

Adult Formation will take a brief hiatus over the Christmas Season and will resume on January 12, 9:40–10:20 a.m., in the library and on Zoom. Topics: 1/12: What is Epiphany; 1/19: Conversation with Mission to Seafarers; 1/26: Annual Meeting. Email Canon Elise for the Zoom link or more information: [elise@sjbwestseattle.org](mailto:elise@sjbwestseattle.org)

## **Wednesday Evening Prayer on Zoom**

Evening Prayer will be on a brief hiatus during the Christmas season and will resume on Wednesday, January 8. Join us on Zoom Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. for Evening Prayer. At the beginning of our time together we will assign roles and participate together in this sacred way to wind down at the end of the day. If you wish to have a social time preceding, join or log in at 6:15 p.m. (optional). Meeting ID: 229 332 884. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/229332884>

## **Cold and Flu Season Reminder**

We encourage you to take precautions to protect yourself and others from illness, such as getting your Flu and Covid vaccines, joining worship via our livestream on Sunday if you are ill, and considering wearing a mask when attending in-person events. Your attention to these precautions helps us to protect our most vulnerable. Thank you.

## **2025 Estimates of Giving**

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have submitted their Estimate of Giving cards for 2025. There is still time to pledge your support to SJB for next year. Contact Cn. Elise with any questions.

## **Youth Group**

All youth 6th–12th grades are invited to join youth group in the Parish Hall on the first and third Sundays of each month for food, fun, and fellowship! Our next Youth Group will meet January 5 after the meal portion of the Twelfth Night Party, which begins at 6:30 p.m.

## **Twelfth Night Party**

We'll gather in the Parish Hall on Sunday, January 5, 6:30 p.m., for a festive celebration to include food, king cake, wassail, and song! If you'd like to contribute, contact Anne Rogers, 206-694-3690.

## **Epiphany Service with First Lutheran Church, WS**

We have been invited to share the celebration of Epiphany with our full communion partner neighboring church of First Lutheran Church of West Seattle, 4105 California Ave SW. Our joint service will be Monday, January 6, 6:30 p.m., with the blessing of chalk.

## **Services for Jim Barnecut**

Services for Jim Barnecut will be held Thursday, January 2, 2 p.m., at St. John the Baptist. Please keep his spouse Jamie, his sister, Maggie Abrahamson, and all of Jim's family in prayer.

## **Services for Paul Abrahamson**

Services for Paul Abrahamson will be held Saturday, January 11, 2 p.m., at St. John the Baptist. Please continue to keep Maggie and family in prayer.



## 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 2024

Maria Weber, *senior warden*  
Betty Ede  
Sharon Parker  
Tom Taylor

#### Class of 2026

Kitt Gassman  
John Hainze  
Lurilla Lee  
Cathy Thompson

#### Class of 2025

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

#### 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

Phone 206-937-4545

Seattle WA 98116

[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)

Wayne Heuschele, *sexton*

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

Tuesday, December 24, 2024, 5:00 PM	Nave
<b>Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist</b>	
Tuesday, December 24, 2024, 9:30 PM	Nave
<b>Christmas Eve Carols</b>	
Tuesday, December 24, 2024, 10:00 PM	Nave
<b>Christmas Eve Eucharist with Incense</b>	
Wednesday, December 25, 2024, 9:30 AM	Nave
<b>Christmas Day Holy Eucharist</b>	
Thursday, December 26, 2024, 7:00 PM	Community Room
<b>AA 12x12</b>	
Saturday, December 28, 2024, 8:30 AM Parish Hall and Community Room	
<b>AI-Anon</b>	
Sunday, December 29, 2024, 9:30 AM	Nave
<b>Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist</b>	
Sunday, December 29, 2024, 10:40 AM	Parish Hall
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	
Tuesday, December 31, 2024, 9:00 AM	Parish Hall
<b>Emerald City Wanderers</b>	
Wednesday, January 1, 2025, 7:00 AM	Parish Hall
<b>Emerald City Wanderers</b>	
Thursday, January 2, 2025, 11:00 AM	Nave
<b>Services for Jim Barnecut</b>	
Thursday, January 2, 2025, 6:30 PM	Nave
<b>Choir Practice</b>	
Thursday, January 2, 2025, 7:00 PM	Community Room
<b>AA 12x12</b>	
Sunday, January 5, 2025, 8:30 AM	Nave
<b>Spoken Holy Eucharist</b>	
Sunday, January 5, 2025, 10:30 AM	Nave
<b>Holy Eucharist with Music</b>	
Sunday, January 5, 2025, 10:30 AM	Nave, Large Godly Play Room
<b>Children's Chapel with Godly Play</b>	
Sunday, January 5, 2025, 12:00 PM	Community Room
<b>Walking Through the Bible</b>	
Sunday, January 5, 2025, 3:00 PM	Mt St Vincent
<b>Worship at the Mount</b>	
Sunday, January 5, 2025, 6:30 PM	Parish Hall
<b>Twelfth Night Party</b>	
Sunday, January 5, 2025, 7:00 PM	Community Room
<b>Youth Group</b>	
Monday, January 6, 2025, 4:00 PM	Parish Hall
<b>Endolyne Children's Choir</b>	
Monday, January 6, 2025, 6:30 PM	First Lutheran Church
<b>Feast of the Epiphany Joint Holy Eucharist</b>	
*Indicates that a group is renting SJB for this use.	