

SAINT JOHN'S
The Episcopal Church in Pine Meadow
The First Sunday after Epiphany. January 12, 2025

Welcome to Saint John's! Please visit our website at RedDoors.com for more information. Greeters are available for questions or requests. Regarding our worship today, we are following the Book of Common Prayer, Rite II. The blue hymnal is for hymns with simple numbers, hymns from LEVAS, the red and black hymnal, are noted with an 'L'. Italics and all uppercase are directions or section notes; while the congregation is invited to read aloud all bolded sections and to sing all the hymns with fearless joy!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: 'Noel Provençal' *P. Candeille*

THE TOLLING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

HYMN 76 'On Jordon's Bank the Baptist's Cry'

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.

A COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.

THE GLORIA PATRI

Glorify be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Congregation sits.

THE FIRST READING

ISAIAH 43:1-7

A reading from Isaiah

Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth--everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29

Afferte Domino

The reading from the Psalter appointed for today is Psalm 29. We will say the psalm responsively by verse.

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

7 The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

9 And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

10 The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore.

11 The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

THE SECOND READING

ACTS 8:14-17

A Reading from Acts

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 513

‘Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song’

THE GOSPEL

LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE DOXOLOGY – HYMN 380 V. 3

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

SERMON: The Rev. Marilyn Anderson

Please rise in body or in spirit

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was

crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God’s help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God’s help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God’s help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God’s help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God’s help.

Sprinkling of the Congregation

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form III BCP p. 387

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;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

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.

Silence

We pray for Joseph our President, Donald our President-elect, Ned our Governor, Daniel our Selectman, and all those who hold public office; and for Sean, our Presiding

Bishop, Jeffrey and Laura, our Bishops, Reverend Marilyn Anderson our Supply Priest, and all those who lead your Church.

We pray for the members of St. John's parish and for all who find grace in this church.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week, especially Laura Frey, Blake Hall, Chloe Gargiulo, and Bodhi Hinman; we pray for those celebrating anniversaries this week, especially Joan and Ron Caine.

We pray for the members of the armed forces, the diplomatic service, emergency responders and essential workers.

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept.

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.

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.**

Please rise in body or in spirit

THE EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Community exchanges a sign of peace.

THE OFFERTORY

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 13:15, 16

HYMN 135 'Songs of Thankfulness and Praise'
A collection is taken for the work of the Church.

AT THE PRESENTATION OF ALMS

All things come of Thee, O Lord.

And of thine own have we given thee.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING – PRAYER C BCP 369

The people remain standing.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS: S130

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,
We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

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

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 FRACTION AND INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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 ACT OF RECEPTION

Gracious God, in union with the faithful across the Church, we thank you for gathering us as your people. We present ourselves to You, along with all who cannot gather around the altar at this time, believing and trusting in Your real presence in the sacrament of Holy Communion. We love you above all things; our soul longs for you. And so, we call to remembrance the many times we have been fed at your table. If we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we still implore you to come spiritually into our hearts. We embrace you with all the affection of our soul. May this spiritual Communion be for us an armor of faith and shield of goodwill and liberation. Sustain us, heal us, and encourage us, with your Holy Spirit until we meet again as one Church and one Body. We ask this for your love. Amen.

HYMN L134

'Take Me To the Water'

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING OF THE PEOPLE

May the Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, giving you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is lord, and to proclaim the wonderful works of God; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN 448v 1,2,5,6 'O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High'

Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: 'Noel'

A. Boely