

# ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Second Sunday of Christmas  
Holy Eucharist: Rite II

January 4, 2026  
10 a.m.

**Welcome to St. John's**



## **THE ORDER OF WORSHIP**

*The Congregation joins in the portions printed in **bold italics**.*

**HYMN 128,**

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

Tune: THREE KINGS

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 355****And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

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, S280**

Robert Powell

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Let us pray.

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 LESSONS***All sit***Jeremiah 31:7-14**

**T**hus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.” See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He

who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my

people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

### **Psalm 84**

*How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! \**

*My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.*

*The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \**

*by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.*

*Happy are they who dwell in your house! \* they will always be praising you.*

*Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \* whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.*

*Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \* for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.*

*Recite in unison*

*They will climb from height to height, \* and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.*

*Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; \* hearken, O God of Jacob.*

*Behold our defender, O God; \* and look upon the face of your Anointed.*

*For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \* and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.*

*For the Lord God is both sun and shield; \* he will give grace and glory;*

*No good thing will the Lord withhold \* from those who walk with integrity.*

*O Lord of hosts, \* happy are they who put their trust in you!*

### **Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19**

**B**lessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of

his power for us who believe.

*Thanks be to God.*

The Word of the Lord.

**GRADUAL AND ALLELUIA**

*All stand, as able*

Al-le - lu-ia, Al - le - lu -ia, Al-le - lu-ia, Al-le - lu -ia.

5  
Open our ears, O merciful God; Let us hear your sav - ing Word.

Repeat Alleluia as needed

**Matthew 2:13-15,19-23**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

**A**fter the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to

the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

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

**THE SERMON**

**The Nicene Creed**

*All stand, as able*

*BCP, p. 358*

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*All kneel, as able*

Form VI, BCP, p. 392

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;  
*For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.*

For this community, the nation, and the world;  
*For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
*For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
*For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
*For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

For Sara, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean,

Presiding Bishop; Justin, our Bishop; Bishops Retired; and for all bishops and other ministers;  
*For all who serve God in his Church.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Daytona Beach, and St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Daytona Beach.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the bishops and clergy of The Church of the Province of Central Africa.

Hear us, Lord;  
*For your mercy is great.*

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Heavenly Father, watch over and protect our nation's military members and their families, especially, *Caleb, Chase, Geoffrey, Jack,*

**Johnny, Kyle, Matthew B., Matthew M., Milton, Murray, Ricky, Sarah, and Siena.** *Silence.*

We pray for our brothers and sisters who cannot be here with us today especially **Frank.** And for those on our weekly prayer list. *Silence*

We will exalt you, O God our King; **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. *Silence*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; **Who put their trust in you.**

God of peace and justice, we pray for all those who live under armed conflict in the Holy Land, Ukraine, Sudan, Iran and other places around the world. We pray for those with power over war or peace and those commanded to fight; for wisdom, compassion and restraint to guide their decisions. We pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold

and protect them. In the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

*The celebrant adds a concluding collect.*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Holy Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

## **Announcements**

All sit

## **Birthday and Anniversary Prayer**

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

*(Eucharistic Prayer A)*

*BCP, p. 361*

### **At the Offertory 247, Hymn**

“Lullay, lullay, thou little tiny child”

Tune: COVENTRY CAROL

### **Presentation Hymn 380,**

Doxology  
(We will sing stanza #3 only)

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH

All things come of Thee, O Lord.

***And of Thine own have we given Thee.***

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.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always

and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*Here the Celebrant adds a Proper Preface.*

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 and Benedictus, S-129**

Setting: Robert Powell

*Please kneel, as able*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord 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 he 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Christ has died.***

***Christ is risen.***

***Christ will come again.***

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. ***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.*

*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 Breaking of the Bread**

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*The Holy Eucharist is Christ's eternal banquet, to which all adults and children are invited. If you are a baptized Christian of any tradition (and regardless of your current status in any other church) we welcome you to receive communion with this community of God's people. At the time of communion, the ushers will indicate when your row should come forward. Please come to the altar rail; you may stand or kneel. The bread will be placed in your outstretched hands; the appropriate response is "Amen." When the chalice of wine comes, hold out your bread for the minister to dip it in the wine for you, or decline it by crossing your arms over your chest. If for any reason you prefer not to receive the bread and wine, or if you have not been Baptized, you may come forward and cross your arms over your chest for a blessing.*

### **At the Distribution,**

**Voluntary**

*O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild*

Samuel Scheidt

**Hymn 324,**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Tune: PICARDY

### **The Post-Communion Prayer**

*All kneel, as able*

*BCP, p.366*

*Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

### **The Blessing**

**Hymn 82,**

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”

Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

*Thanks be to God!*

**Voluntary**

Postlude on *Divinum Mysterium*

Ludwig Lenel



## THIS MORNING'S MUSIC

In this season, there are more liturgical occasions than Sundays – and more liturgically relevant hymns and anthems than could possibly fit in a single week! So this morning's music and the music for next Sunday will be somewhat eclectic.

The prelude “The Star Proclaims the King is Here” and the opening hymn “We Three Kings of Orient Are” look forward to Epiphany, which falls on January 6 and celebrates the arrival of the wise men. Both the words and music of “We Three Kings of Orient Are” were written by John Henry Hopkins Jr. (1820-1891), a leading Episcopal musician who served as the first music instructor at General Theological Seminary.

The offertory hymn looks back to Holy Innocents' Day on Dec. 28. Today's reading in Matthew alludes to Herod's campaign to destroy Jesus, which led to the massacre of children in Bethlehem. This tragedy is commemorated in the Coventry Carol, an English carol dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The communion voluntary, “O Jesus Sweet, O Jesus Mild” is a meditation on Christ's mission that is fitting for the Feast of the Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, which is celebrated on Jan 1. The communion hymn, “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” is one of the earliest Christian hymns still used today. Based on the fourth-century Greek text “Prayer of the Cherubic Hymn” from the liturgy of St. James, it explores the mystery of Incarnation.

Our closing hymn, “Of the Father's Love Begotten”, is another ancient hymn that ponders the depth of God's love manifested in Christ. The original Latin text was written by Aurelius Prudentius Clemens as part of the larger collection “Hymnus omnes horae”, which consisted of twelve hymns that correspond to the hours of the daily offices used in monasteries. Many musicologists believe that the hymn's theologically rich lyrics were composed specifically to combat Arianism and confirm that Christ co-existed with the Father throughout eternity.



**VISITORS AND GUESTS:** Welcome to St. John's! We hope you will stay after the service for an opportunity to chat. Snacks and beverages are provided in our Parish Hall. If you have questions about baptisms, weddings, membership, or to be included on our newsletter and mailing lists please email the Church Office at [office@stjohnsmlb.org](mailto:office@stjohnsmlb.org).

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS AND SANCTUARY CANDLE** may be given in memory of a loved one, or to commemorate some occasion. Contact the church office at [office@stjohnsmlb.org](mailto:office@stjohnsmlb.org) or 321-254-3365.

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:** Dorinda Campbell, Veronica Mitz, Marie Johnson.

**ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK:** Gary & Clarissa Harrell.

**THE 2026 DIOCESAN CONVENTION** is January 23-24. If you would be interested in representing St. John's as a delegate please contact Fr. Timothy by next Sunday.

**THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:** Will take place on Sunday, January 25, 2026, following the 10:00 a.m. service. Everyone is encouraged to attend. This year we will vote for three new Vestry members. A brief autobiography for each candidate will be available prior to the meeting.

**NEW BIBLE STUDY:** "Read the Bible in a Year", every Wednesday, at 10:00 a.m. in the Rector's office. Drop-ins are welcome!

**ADULT & YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION:** 9:00 a.m. Adults in the Parish Hall, Youth in the Chapel.

**TGIF:** Join the Men's Bible study, Fridays, 8 a.m. at La Loma Coney Island, 1180 Aurora Rd, Melbourne, 32935. 321-254-8559.

**BRING A CAN TO CHURCH:** Mentioned in prayer at the Vestry Meeting last month. Let's help our

neighbors and make next Sunday, Jan 11 just that. If every person would bring one can it would greatly help our neighbors. Many thanks for your generous support.

**A PRAYER REQUEST BOX** is available from the St. John's Order of the Daughters of the King, beside the Daughters' banner in the Sanctuary. Alternatively, you may contact Sarah Kendall, (702) 203-6093, [537sarah@gmail.com](mailto:537sarah@gmail.com), or any Daughter. The Daughters have taken a vow to pray for others and take this vow seriously. All prayer requests are strictly confidential, and as Daughters, honor that confidentiality. Prayers will be passed on to Fr. Timothy if requested.

**DONATE TO ST. JOHN'S ONLINE!** You can now make a safe and convenient donation to St. John's via PayPal. Scan the QR code at right or visit [stjohnsmlb.org](http://stjohnsmlb.org) and click on Donate Now!



**MILITARY MEMBERS:** If a military member is no longer on the list in the Prayers of the People please contact Jackie Bond immediately to rectify the oversight, and let us know your relationship to the active member.

**THANKS TO ALL** who participated in our 2026 Stewardship Campaign. Pledge cards are still available in the church or by contacting the church office. You can also pledge online at "[stjohnsmlb.org](http://stjohnsmlb.org)" and clicking on "stewardship."

**ST. JOHN'S Focus** for the month of January is The Priest's Discretionary Fund. This Ministry will now use the funds for charitable giving within the St. John's congregation.



You are invited to join a community of women who believe in the power of prayer, service to others, and the sharing of the gospel to expand the Kingdom of God. You can find out more about the DOK by contacting Sallie Razor at 859-585-5836, srazor@bellsouth.net; or Pam Davis, at 321-480-9283, SunHatPam@hotmail.com.

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:** Isaiah 42:1-9, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17, Psalm 29.  
To find all the lessons visit the webpage: [lectionarypage.net](http://lectionarypage.net) and click on the date.

**SUNDAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE:**

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
<b>Greeters</b>	A. Weeks A. Lacy	A. Weeks B. Rincones	A. Weeks J. Miller	A. Weeks
<b>Ushers</b>	B. & T. Chernault	A. & J. Lacy	J. Bond L. Miller	B. Chernault R. Huffman
<b>Chalice Bearer</b>	M. Salmon	K. Oas	Reader: Pam Davis Chalice Bearer: TBD	M. Salmon
<b>Acolytes</b>	Asher & Beowulf	Asher & Beowulf	Asher & Beowulf	Asher & Beowulf
<b>Altar Guild</b>	M. Salmon	K. Oas	L. Bennett	M. Salmon
<b>Counter</b>	K. Wilson	K. Wilson	K. Wilson	K. Wilson
<b>A/V</b>	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

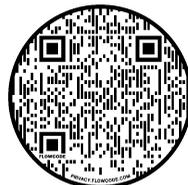
- Sun (1/4) Christian Formation, 9:00 a.m. Adults, Parish Hall; Youth, Chapel.  
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10 a.m., also Livestreamed.  
Daughters of the King, 11:30 a.m., Chapel.
- Mon (1/5) AA, 5:30 p.m., Parish Hall.
- Tues (1/6) Boy Scouts, 5:30 p.m., Parish Hall.
- Wed (1/7) Bible in a Year Study Group, 10 a.m., Rector's office.  
Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m. Choir Loft.
- Thurs (1/8) Staff Meeting, 9 a.m., Rector's office.  
Ladies AA, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall.  
Outreach Meeting, 7:00 p.m., on Zoom.
- Fri (1/9) TGIF, Men's Bible Study, 8 a.m. La Loma Coney Island Restaurant, 1180 Aurora.
- Sun (1/11) Christian Formation, 9:00 a.m., Adults, Parish Hall; Youth, Chapel.  
Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:00 a.m., also Livestreamed.

*All Zoom and Livestream links are available by visiting [stjohnsmlb.org](http://stjohnsmlb.org) > Calendar, then clicking on the event. Or you may email [office@stjohnsmlb.org](mailto:office@stjohnsmlb.org) and we will send you the link.*

## ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*. . . is a worshipping community, obedient to scripture,  
growing as servants of Christ, and sharing His love in word and deed.*

610 Young Street ✕ Melbourne, FL 32935 ✕ 321-254-3365 ✕ [www.stjohnsmlb.org](http://www.stjohnsmlb.org)  
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**The Rev. Timothy Rutherford**, Rector  
Pastoral Care: 803-565-6750 (Call or Text)  
[rector@stjohnsmlb.org](mailto:rector@stjohnsmlb.org)

**Sylvia Tammen**, Music Minister  
[sylvia.tammen1@gmail.com](mailto:sylvia.tammen1@gmail.com)

**Jackie Bond**, Office Assistant  
[office@stjohnsmlb.org](mailto:office@stjohnsmlb.org)

**Carole Taylor**, Bookkeeper  
[ctaylor9797@yahoo.com](mailto:ctaylor9797@yahoo.com)

**The Vestry of St. John's Church**  
Kathy Oas, Sr. Warden  
Paul Mitz, Jr. Warden  
Keith Salmon, Treasurer  
Amy Lacy, Secretary

*Serving thru 1/2025*  
Jackie Bond, Kathy Oas, Katie Wilson

*Serving thru 1/2026*  
Jack Kenworthy, Amy Lacy, Julie Miller

*Serving thru 1/2027*  
Peter Fischel, Ben Kendall