

ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord
Holy Eucharist: Rite I

December 25, 2025
9:00 a.m.



Welcome to St. John's!

Welcome and thank you for worshiping with us today! Whatever your religious background and however you have come to be here with us, we welcome you. Whether you are online or in-person, we are glad that you have found us and we invite you to return here any Sunday so that we may continue to worship with you. Please visit us on the web at www.stjohnsmlb.org where you can also sign our Virtual Guest Book, and, if you are in-person, please pick up a welcome bag at the back of the church.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

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

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

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.

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

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

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
 Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love
 thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
 Lord, have mercy upon us.

Glo - ry be to God on high, to all peo - ple,
 Je - sus Christ, we now de - clare Lamb of God and
 Prais - es to the Ho - ly One, Prais - es sing in

peace on earth An - gels, shep - herds draw - ing nigh, Join to ce - le -
 Lord of Love. Grant us mer - cy, hear our prayer, Give us grace from
 high - est heav'n; To the Fath - er and the Son and the Ho - ly

brate His birth. Glo - - - - - ri - a
 heav'n a - bove.
 Spi - rit giv'n.

1, 2.
 in ex - cel - sis De - o! in ex - cel - sis De - - - o!

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

All sit

Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and

by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called,

"The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 97

Recited in unison

BCP, p. 725

***The Lord is King; let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.***

***Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations
of his throne.***

***A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.***

***His lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.***

***The mountains melt like wax at the presence
of the Lord, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.***

***The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.***

***Confounded be all who worship carved
images and delight in false gods! ****

Bow down before him, all you gods.

***Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of
Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O Lord.***

***For you are the Lord, most high over all the
earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.***

***The Lord loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers
them from the hand of the wicked.***

***Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are
truehearted.***

***Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.***

Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through

Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Luke 2:1-20

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

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

All sit

The Nicene Creed

All stand, as able

BCP, p. 326

Prayers of the People

All kneel, as able

BCP, Form IV, p. 388

Confession and Absolution

BCP, p. 331

The Peace

All stand, as able

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with thy spirit.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

At the Offertory, Voluntary *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* J.S. Bach

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharist Prayer I* BCP, p. 333

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.

The usher will indicate when it is time for your row to come forward to the altar rail to receive Communion. If you wish to receive Communion in your pew, please let the usher know and it will be brought to you. When you go forward, an usher will indicate where to kneel at the rail, then hold your hands in front of you, one on top of the other, to receive the wafer. If you wish to receive the wine, after the clergy places the wafer in your hand, just hold it out for him to intinct, or you may take wine from the common cup held by the chalice bearer. If you do not wish to receive the wine, simply consume the bread and cross your arms over your chest, then return to your seat.

At the Distribution,
Hymn 81

“Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming”

Tune: ES ISTEIN ROS

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath sprung!
2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir gin Mo ther kind.
It came, a blos-som bright, a - mid the cold of win - ter,
To show God's love a - right, she bore to us a Sa - vior,
when half spent was the night.
when half spent was the night.

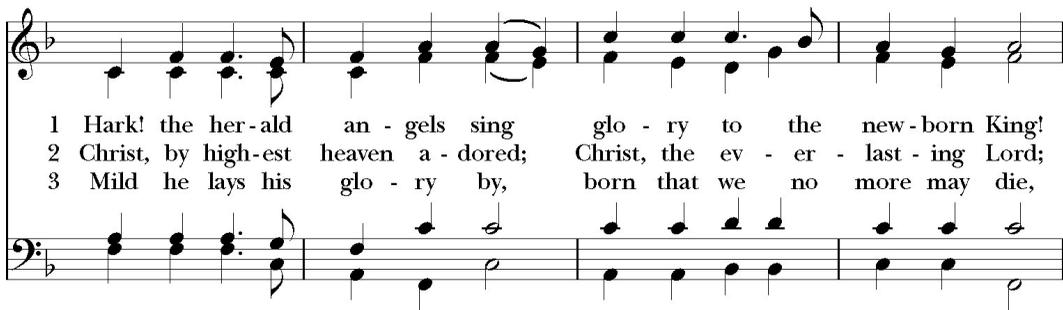
The Post-Communion Prayer

All kneel, as able

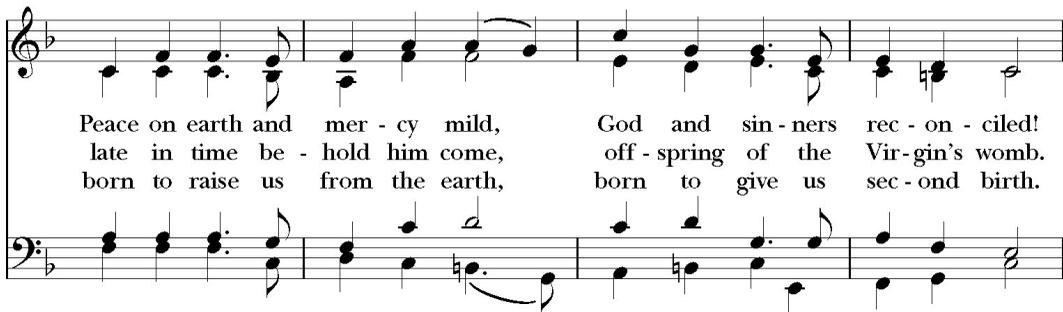
BCP, p. 339

The Blessing

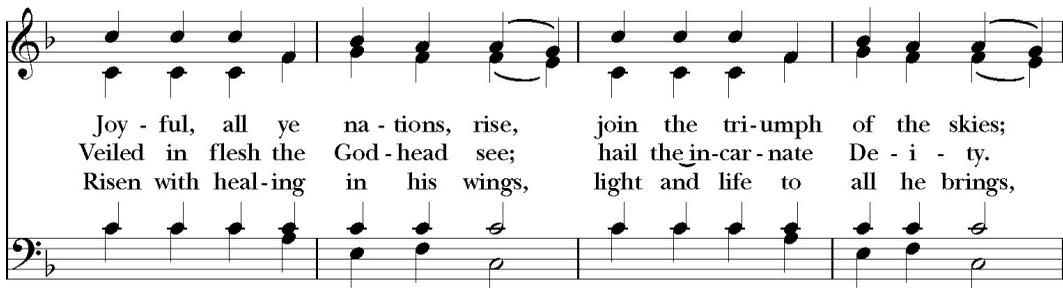
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1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



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!

Refrain

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

The image shows a musical score for a refrain. It consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Dismissal

Let us go in peace to love and serve the newborn King!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Voluntary

Away in a Manger

William James Kirkpatrick



VISITORS AND GUESTS: Welcome to St. John's! If you have questions about baptisms, weddings, membership, or any other need we can respond to, please email us at 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 or 321-254-3365.

ADULT & YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION: Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Adults meet in the Parish Hall. Children in the chapel. All are welcome!

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

BIBLE STUDY: "Read the Bible in a Year" every Wednesday, at 10:00 a.m. in the Rector's office.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Festival Worship

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 8 p.m. Carols, 7:45 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship

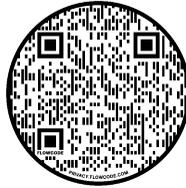
Thursday, Dec. 25, 9 a.m.

LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, Dec 28, 10 a.m.

A PRAYER REQUEST BOX is available from the St. John's Order of the Daughters of the King in the Sanctuary beside the Daughters' banner. We have taken a vow to pray for others and we take this vow seriously.

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 and click on Donate Now!



THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM thanks all of you who have generously submitted 2026 pledge cards.

St. JOHN's Focus for the month of December has been designated for the two families in foreign missions supported by The Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida. Outreach offerings for the month of December will be divided between the Dass and Fox families.

Serving in San Paolo, Brazil are the Rev. Steven and Mary Dass. You can learn more about them on their blog at spmercyministry.com.

Serving in support of other missionaries are the Rev. Loren and Linda Fox. The Foxes live in northern Thailand. To learn more email: ReachUs@EngagingTheAdventure.org.

SUNDAY MINISTRIES

	December 24 Christmas Eve, 8:00 p.m. Carols, 7:45 p.m.	December 25 Christmas Day, 9:00 a.m.	December 28 Lessons & Carols 10:00 a.m.
Greeters	A. Lacy W. Waite	R. Huffman	A. Weeks
Ushers	B. & T. Chernault J. Bond & L. Miller	R. Huffman	A. & J. Lacy
Chalice Bearer	K. Oas	Beowulf	J. Bond
Altar Guild	K. Oas	K. Oas	L. Bennett
Counter	N/A	N/A	K. Wilson
Acolytes	Asher Beowulf	Asher Beowulf	Asher Beowulf
A/V	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz	B. Kendall V. Mitz

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Wed. (12/24) Christmas Eve Worship, 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, In-person and livestream.
Carols, 7:45 p.m.

Thurs. (12/25) Christmas Worship, Rite I, In-Person and livestream, 9 a.m.
Ladies AA, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall.

Fri. (12/26) TGIF Men's Bible Study, La Loma Coney Island, 1180 Aurora Rd, Melbourne, 8 a.m.

Sun. (12/28) Christian Formation, 9:00 a.m., Adults, Parish Hall; Youth, Chapel.
Festival of Lessons and Carols, 10 a.m., In-person and livestream.

All Zoom and Livestream links are available by visiting stjohnsmlb.org > Calendar, then clicking on the event. Or you may email office@stjohnsmlb.org and we will send you the link.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

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Pastoral Care: 803-565-6750 (Call or Text)
rector@stjohnsmlb.org

Sylvia Tammen, Music Minister
sylvia.tammen1@gmail.com

Jackie Bond, Office Assistant
office@stjohnsmlb.org

Carole Taylor, Bookkeeper
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