

December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent
The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

“Our mission is to know and to share the love of Jesus Christ”

Mission Statement adopted April 2023

St. John's Episcopal Church
www.stjohnsbangor.org
Email – office@stjohnsbangor.org
225 French Street, Bangor, Maine 04401

Organ Voluntary

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (Basque Carol) - Setting by Paul Manz

Choir Introit - Kyrie eleison

Sung by Choir

The musical score consists of nine staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, flowing style with many slurs and ties, suggesting a continuous, breathless performance. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first three staves are for the phrase "Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son." and the next six staves are for the phrase "Chri - ste e - le - i - son." The final staff returns to the "Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son." phrase. The music is arranged for a choir, with each staff representing a different voice part.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Processional Hymn

Hymn 66 - *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

1 Come, thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e-ter-nal Spi-rit rule in all our hearts a-lone;

from our fears and sins re-lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de-sire of ev-ery na-tion, joy of ev-ery long-ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev-er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.
by thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

Opening Acclamation

Presider: To you O lord, we lift up our souls.

People: **In you, we put our trust.**

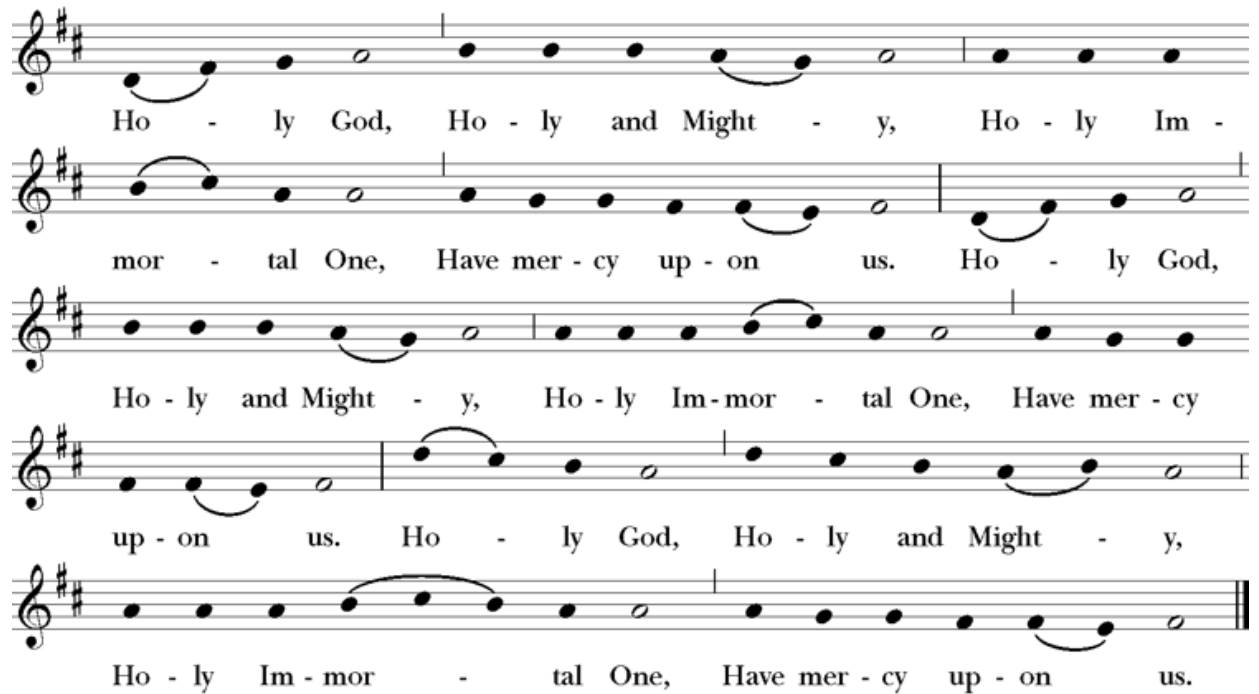
Presider: The Lord our God is coming soon.

People: **Amen. Lord Jesus, Quickly Come!**

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.

Trisagion S 100



The Collect

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

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

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 *Qui regis Israel*

Sung by the choir

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Hymnal 56 vs. 7 - *O come, O come, Emmanuel*



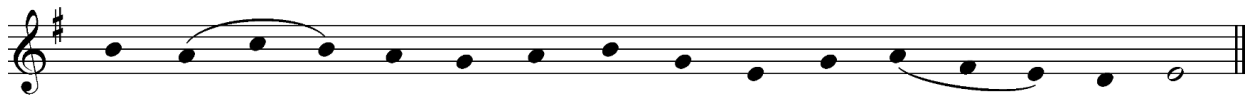
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

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

Many: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

Many: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sequence Hymn

Hymnal 56 vs. 8 - *O come, O come, Emmanuel*

See printed music before the Gospel reading

The Sermon

The Rev. Jarrett Kerbel

The Nicene Creed

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

As our season of Advent preparation draws to a close, continue your work in our hearts, our homes, and our parish community, that we may be made ready for the new light dawning in the holy child Jesus:

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts.

You have made the blessed Virgin Mary to be an inspiration among the peoples, and Joseph to be a model of faithfulness, that you might bring forth for us a savior, even our Emmanuel:

Let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Labor in the hearts of our children and mark them with your grace, that in the wonder and mystery of this season they may be bound to you and made wholly yours all the days of their lives:

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts.

Remember children in need and poverty, and rise up for them, interceding especially for the poor within our reach. Through your daily visitation stir our conscience and show us how to make a difference for the least of these our brothers and sisters:

Let your face shine, that we may be saved.

As we make ready for the Prince of Peace, fit us to be peacemakers in our time, striving in all ways for a more tranquil world:

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts.

Be with all the clergy in our diocese as they prepare for the holy days to come, intercessions for your sacraments may be celebrated with joy, and your word preached with vigor:

Let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Show tenderness to the lonely and downcast, and grant them comfort. Tend the sick, bind up the frail, receive the dying, and make us mindful of your everlasting embrace:

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

We pray for every person God will send our way. May their hearts be opened to new life in Christ and may we be prepared to share that life with them.

I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me.

The congregation is invited to offer prayers of thanksgiving, lament, and intercession, aloud or silently.

Silence is kept for open intercessions

We encourage you to take home the prayer list found at the end of the bulletin and include them in your prayers.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A brief silence is kept for examination of conscience.

**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.**

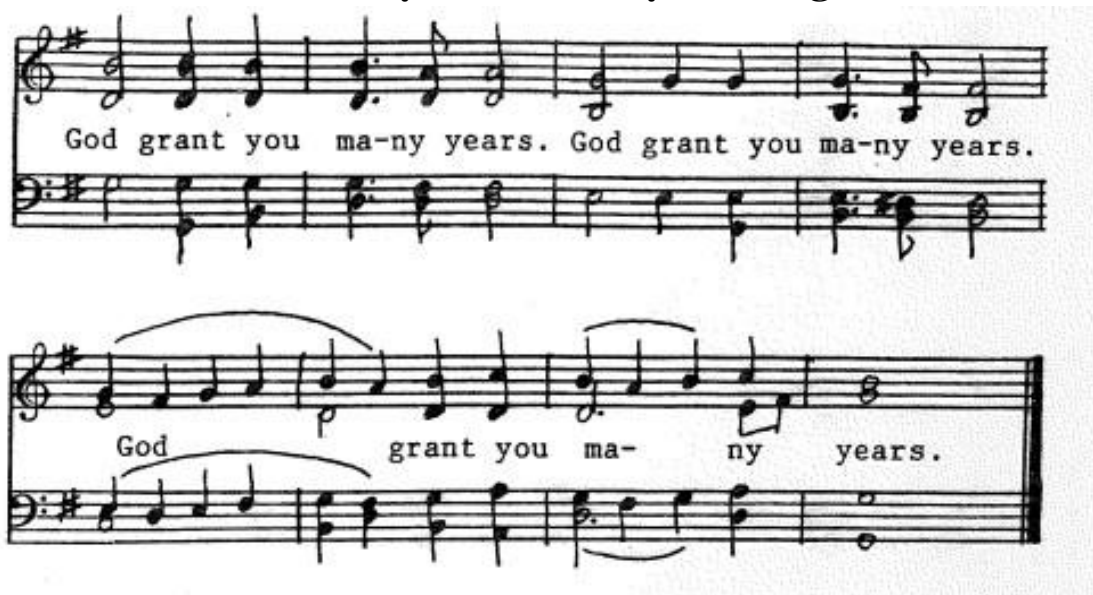
Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Anniversary and Birthday Blessings



The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

How lovely are the Messengers

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Doxology

Unison or harmony

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with

1 cheer - ful voice: him serve with mirth, his praise forth

1 tell, come ye be - fore him and re - - joice.

The Great Thanksgiving

The_ Lord be__ with_ you. And_ al - so 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.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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

Hymn S 124 - *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 of love upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice of love 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

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,

forever and ever. Amen.


The Breaking of the Bread

One: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Many: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**


Hymn S 170 - *Whoever eats this bread*

Antiphon
Cantor; then All




Who - ev - er eats this bread will live for ev - er.

Cantor

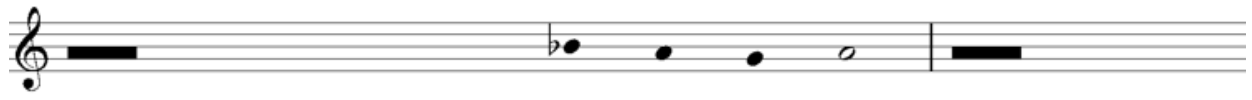


1. This is the true bread which comes down from hea - ven


Cantor



and gives life to the world. [Ant.] 2. Who - ev - er



believes in me shall not hun - ger or thirst, for the bread



which I give for the life of the world is my flesh. [Ant.]

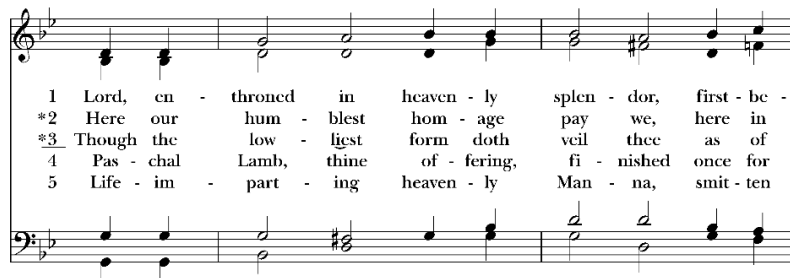
Invitation to Communion

All who feel called to receive communion are welcomed at the Lord's Table. If you are not yet baptized and feel called to join the body of Christ, please see the Priest after the service.

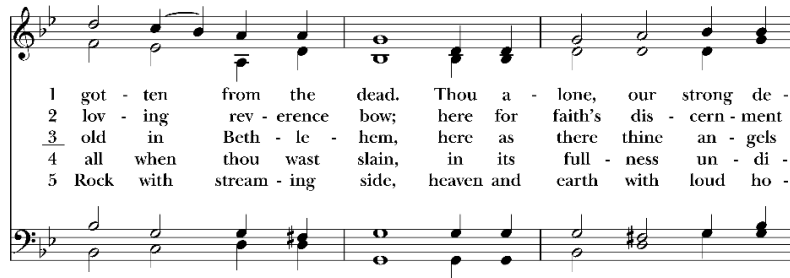
Communion

Communion Hymns

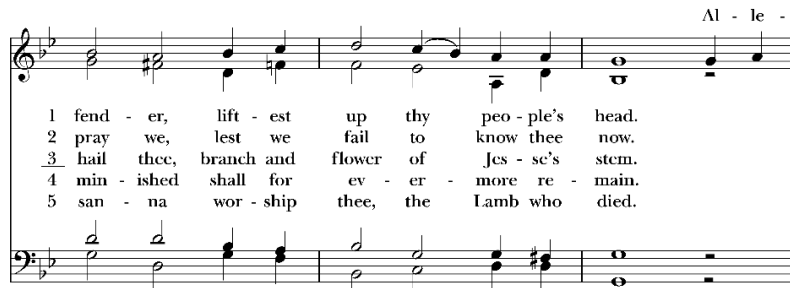
Hymnal 307 - Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendor



1 Lord, en - throned in heaven - ly splen - dor, first - be -
 *2 Here our hum - blest hom - age pay we, here in
 *3 Though the low - liest form doth veil thee as of
 4 Pas - chal Lamb, thine of - fering, fi - nished once for
 5 Life - im - part - ing heaven - ly Man - na, smit - ten



1 got - ten from the dead. Thou a - lone, our strong de -
 2 lov - ing rev - erence bow; here for faith's dis - cern - ment
 3 old in Beth - le - hem, here as there thine an - gels
 4 all when thou wast slain, in its full - ness un - di -
 5 Rock with stream - ing side, heaven and earth with loud ho -



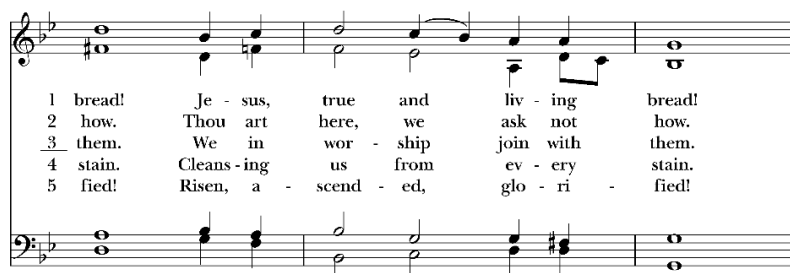
Al - le -
 1 fend - er, lift - est up thy peo - ple's head.
 2 pray we, lest we fail to know thee now.
 3 hail thee, branch and flower of Jes - se's stem.
 4 min - ished shall for ev - er - more re - main.
 5 san - na wor - ship thee, the Lamb who died.



lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

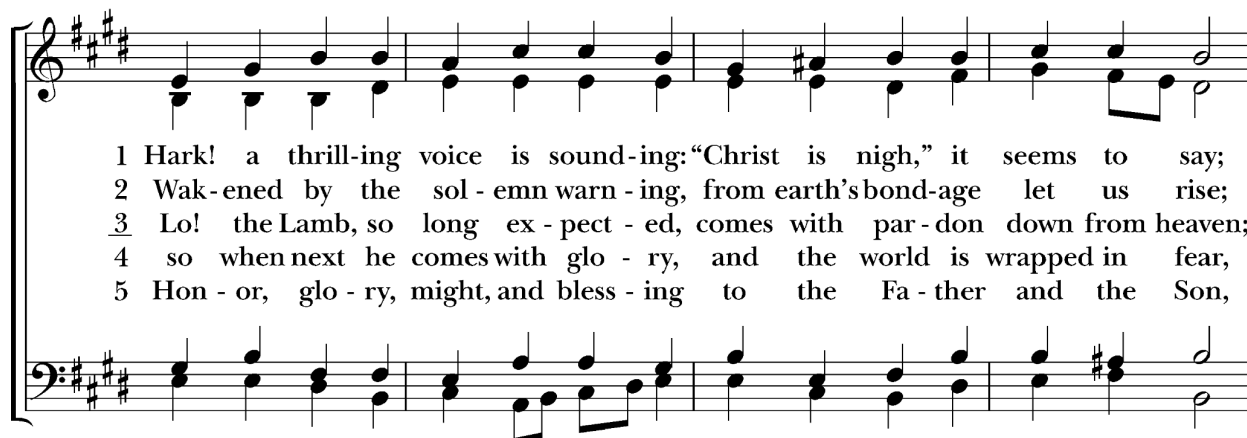


lu - ia!
 1 Je - sus, true and liv - ing
 2 Thou art here, we ask not
 Al - le - lu - ia! 3 We in wor - ship join with
 4 Cleans - ing us from ev - ery
 5 Risen, a - scend - ed, glo - ri -

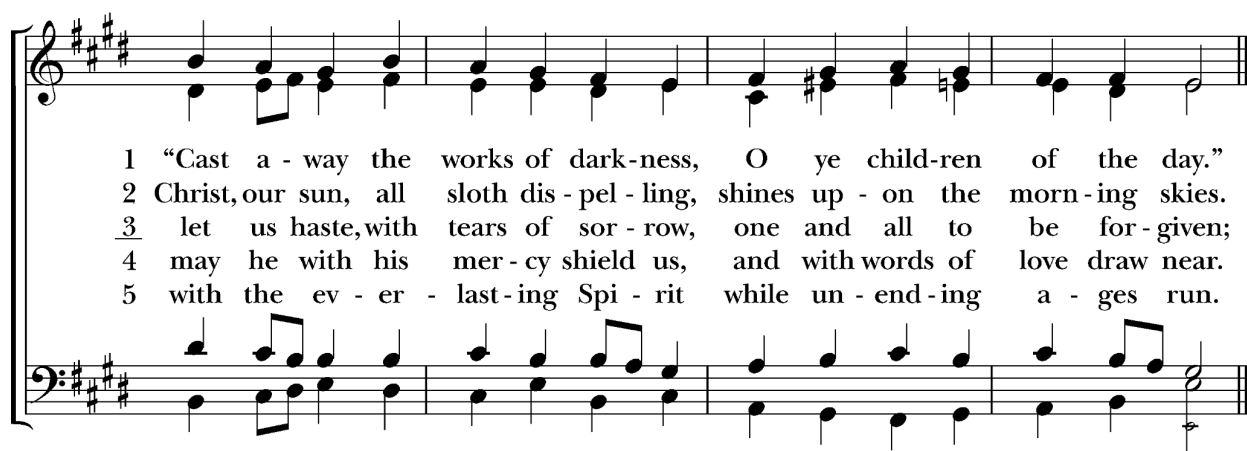


1 bread! Je - sus, true and liv - ing bread!
 2 how. Thou art here, we ask not how.
 3 them. We in wor - ship join with them.
 4 stain. Cleans - ing us from ev - ery stain.
 5 fied! Risen, a - scend - ed, glo - ri - fied!

Hymnal 59 - *Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding*



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing; "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, comes with par - don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,



1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Hymnal 73 - *The King shall come when morning dawns*



1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
2 Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, to
3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
4 and let the end - less bliss be - gin, by
5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and

1 light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the
2 bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glo - ry
3 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing
4 wear - y saints fore - told, when right shall tri - umph
5 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy

1 east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
2 like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
3 of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;
4 o - ver wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled.
5 peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of kings.

Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

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.

Sending out Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts
that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and
blood. With whom will you share this communion?

Eucharistic Visitors: (they say the names of those they will visit.)

Congregation: **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread
one cup.**

Final Blessing

Announcements

Hymn at the Retiring Procession

Hymnal 260 - *Come now, and praise the humble saint*

1 Come now, and praise the hum - ble saint of Da - vid's house and line,
2 The Ar - chi - tect's high mir - a - cles he saw, and what was done,
3 For him there was no glo - ry here, no crown or mar - tyr's fame;
4 But now with - in the Fa - ther's grace where saints and an - gels throng,

the car - pen - ter whose life ful - filled our gra - cious God's de - sign.
the Vir - gin's spouse, the guard - ian of great Da - vid's great - er Son.
for him there was the pa - tient life of faith and hum - ble name.
be - side his spouse, be - fore the Son, he joins the heaven - ly song.

Dismissal

One: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Many: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Organ Voluntary

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - Setting by Paul Manz

Serving on Sunday December 21st:

Lectors – Ann H., Joe F. and Mary-Frances B.

Acolytes – Grant P., Isaac P. and Scott B.

Chalice Bearers – Nancy D. and David C.

Ushers – Sheila S. and Joe F.

Counters – Jim B and Delores L.

Serving on Wednesday December 24th 4:00pm:

Lectors – Mary-Frances B., Nancy D. and Emma P.

Acolytes – Dakota M., Edmund H. and Gavin F.

Chalice Bearers – Robert F. and Jacquie W.

Ushers – Andy H. and Patty H.

Serving on Wednesday December 24th 9:00pm:

Lectors – Jacqueline C., Nancy D. and Chris M.

Acolytes – Scott B., Nancy D. and Robert F.

Chalice Bearers – Scott B. and Nancy D.

Ushers – Jim B. and Roger G.

Serving on Thursday December 25th 9:00am:

Acolytes – Robert F.

Chalice Bearers – Robert F.

Ushers – Ken H.

Serving on Sunday December 28:

Lectors – David F., Nancy D. and Kelsi H.

Acolytes – Eric G., Ruth G. and Edmund H.

Chalice Bearers – Robert F. and Grant P.

Ushers – Ken H. and Jeff P.

Counters – Rex B., Marsha C. and Delores L.

Thank you to all who volunteer as Lectors, Acolytes, Chalice Bearers and Ushers. If you would like to serve in one of these positions, please let the **office** know.

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What's Happening at St. John's

Rector's Essay

Mr. Rogers was Right

Fred Rogers left my generation many blessings. One such blessing is his sage counsel to children frightened by any sort of emergency. "Look for the helpers," Mr. Rogers advised in his gentle, soothing voice of love. After a weekend of horrors served up through every channel of the media, I needed to recall these words from someone I count as a Saint.

Our prayers go up for the Brown University Community, for the people of Sydney, Australia, the Jewish Community world-wide, and for Hollywood as well. In addition to our prayers, the Episcopal Church explicitly and emphatically denounces all Anti-Semitism, all Gun-Violence, all violence of any kind, and continues to work against the conditions that encourage such hatefulness. Jesus taught a non-violent path of faithfulness to God. He carried no weapons, and when his disciples did, he told them to put the swords away.

The wisdom of Elder Fred Rogers - he was an ordained Presbyterian Elder - reminded me to take note of the acts of heroic love that marked the Sydney massacre. The man who tackled one of the shooters and disarmed him, for example. He risked his life to save his neighbors. The Holocaust survivor who shielded his wife from the shooter with his own body. The woman who held a three year old -who became separated from her parents in the chaos - close and shielded the child with her body. Both people gave their lives to save others. This is the highest expression of love.

So we look to the helpers and to the heroes to see all that is good on display, even in the midst of evil. We pray especially for survivors and first responders and emergency medical staff who, although they survive the event, are marked by the trauma. The sickness of violence is endemic - an individual is infected by the culture of violence and then passes on that infection by acting violently. School shooters and other mass shooters are people poisoned by hateful ideologies that dehumanize 'others' and, it seems clear, these shooters see murder on a mass scale as a way to 'fame,' even if that fame is infamy.

What breaks that cycle of violence? There have been 392 mass casualty shootings in the USA this year so we need to get busy! For followers of Jesus, we see the cycle broken by Jesus who responds to human violence with love and emerges from death with the offering of forgiveness, reconciliation, and transformation in his new creation. Following him, we are called to learn and practice non-violence and to learn and practice de-escalation and reconciliation. The people of faith who marched with Rev. Dr. King, did not just believe in non-violence; they dedicated time to train in it. Life as a disciple is a discipline that calls for training through practice. - Jarrett

2026 Stewardship update

Thank you to everyone who has generously made a pledge in our 2026 campaign. We are off to a great start. 66 households handed in cards totaling \$224,701 for our 2026 budget. WOW! Thank you so much. If you have not yet made a pledge and would like to, pledge cards can be found in the pews and at the back of the church. You may place them in the collection plate or mail them to the office at 225 French St. Bangor ME 04401. Thank you so much for your continued support of St. John's.

Vestry Nominations

Seeking Leaders for the Vestry: The St. John's Vestry is accepting nominations to serve on the Vestry for a three year term beginning in February 2026. A member in good standing (someone who attends worship regularly, is active in at least one ministry, and is giver of record through a pledge or other identifiable financial gift) may nominate themselves or someone else in the congregation for Vestry. In the latter case we recommend that you consult with the person you wish to nominate. The names of nominees may be submitted to the Wardens Robert Ford and Jeff Perry or the Rector, Jarrett Kerbel. A nominating committee will create a slate of candidates who will be elected at the Annual Meeting in January 2026. The elections are not competitive, i.e. we nominate only enough people for the leadership positions available.

The Greening of the Church

We'd love for you to join us in our annual Greening of the Church, on Sunday December 21st following the 10:00am service. Please come and help to make our Church beautiful with wreaths and poinsettias following the service.

Christmas Caroling

Share the yule-tide joy with our neighbors at a fireside caroling event on the church lawn December 21st at 3:00pm. We will gather around a firepit to sing beloved Christmas Carols while sipping hot cider and hot chocolate. Bring your kids, bring your neighbors to this fun event!

Christmas Memorial Flowers

In honor of loved ones passed, please consider sponsoring the greens to decorate the church for Christmas. Contributions of any amount are gratefully accepted and are pooled to purchase the poinsettias and wreaths. They may be mailed or placed in the collection plate. Please make checks payable to "St John's Episcopal Church" and mark the memo "Christmas Memorials". The deadline for submitting names is no later than December 21st.

St. John's Elevator

On Sunday the Vestry approved the funds to repair the elevator. A repair technician will be at the church on Monday to - fingers crossed - repair for the elevator. If you know any prayers for elevators, now is the time to pray them!

Attention Choir and Acolyte Alums returning to Maine for Christmas!

We welcome you to sing in the choir and to acolyte on Christmas Eve if you would enjoy that. We have a 4 pm and 9 pm service on Christmas Eve. You could also join the mini Christmas pageant at 4 pm if you are inclined to amateur theater. Please let us know if you are interested in singing or serving by contacting the church office at office@stjohnbangor.org.

Christmas Baskets

Cassy Palmer, Vanessa Young, and Rachel Palmer delivered the Christmas Basket food on Wednesday, December 17th, to the Penquis Cap Child Care Center at Eastern Maine Community College. Our contact at Penquis, Connie Jipson, expressed that the 16 families will be particularly grateful for the food and gifts this year. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who generously contributed to the Christmas Basket fund or purchased a gift for a child. This year marked a special moment as parishioners purchased the gifts after several years of the church purchasing them with donated funds. Your kindness truly makes a difference.

Christian Theology Class

Our next class will be held on Tuesday, December 30th, on Zoom at 6:30pm, covering Chapter Fourteen "Human Nature, Sin, and Grace" from the book Christian Theology: An Introduction. Please review the following video prior to the class - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGosdENjpW4&t=40s>.

If you have any questions or would like more information about joining the class, please contact Pat S. at formation@stjohnsbangor.org

Considering Baptism?

The next opportunity for Baptism will be Sunday, January 11 which is "Baptism of Our Lord Sunday." Please reach out to Rev. Kerbel if you are interested in Baptism on that day or on another day in January or the first week of February. We take a break from Baptism during Lent and resume on the Sunday after Easter.

Upcoming Advent / Christmas / Epiphany Events

The Greening of the Church - TODAY immediately following the service

Christmas Caroling - TODAY at 3:00pm

Christmas Eve Festive Eucharist - December 24th at 4:00pm and 9:00pm

Christmas Day Eucharist - December 25th at 9:00am

Contemplative Worship Service in the style of Taizé - December 31st at 5:00pm

The Epiphany Pageant - January 4th at 10:00am

Announcements and Prayer Requests

Please be sure to submit all announcements and prayer requests to the office by noon on Thursday for them to be included in the weekly announcements and bulletins.

Please submit photos / posters as a JPEG. *****The office will be closed from December 24th-January 4th. All announcements for the December 28th and January 4th bulletin/announcements need to be submitted prior to noon on Monday December 22nd. Thank you!*****

Together Place Warming Center Seeking Volunteers

The Together Place Peer-Run Recovery Center (Across from the YMCA) is currently operating a much needed warming center for our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. Volunteers are needed for two volunteer shifts, 7:00 PM–12:00 AM and 12:00 AM–7:00 AM. In total, there are 56 shifts that need to be covered each week. Volunteers assist with security check-ins, running totes, monitoring bathrooms, and helping maintain a safe and respectful environment. I will be volunteering for a shift so please join me if that will make you more comfortable responding to this opportunity to serve God's beloved. Potential volunteers can reach out directly to Nicole Demont at 207-852-6157. - Jarrett

Phishing scam alert

If you receive an email or text from “Rev. Jarrett Kerbel” asking you for a favor and could you please email him back, please don’t! Rev. Kerbel will never ask you to purchase gift cards for him. If you aren’t sure about a request that you received from St. John’s, please call or email the office at 947-0156 or office@stjohnsbangor.org.

What's Happening This Week

- **Sunday, December 21st, 10:00am:** Worship, in-person and online followed by coffee hour in the Undercroft. Nursery and Sunday School are available during the service.
- **Sunday, December 21st, following the service:** The Greening of the Church
- **Sunday, December 21st, 3:00pm:** Christmas Caroling
- **Sunday, December 21st, 7:00pm:** AA meeting in the Undercroft.
- **Tuesday, December 23rd, 9:30am:** Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen, help to serve a warm meal to our community at the Salvation Army, 65 S. Park Street Bangor. FMI, contact Claudia and Jim B. at claudia&jim@stjohnsbangor.org.
- **Wednesday, December 24th-January 4th -** The Parish Office will be closed. Worship services will continue during this time.
- **Wednesday, December 24th, 4:00pm:** Christmas Eve Festive Eucharist in person and on YouTube.
- **Wednesday, December 24th, 9:00pm:** Christmas Eve Festive Eucharist in person.
- **Thursday, December 25th, 9:00am:** Christmas Morning Eucharist in person.
- **Sunday, December 28th, 10:00am:** Wear your "Ugly Christmas Sweater" to worship, in-person and online followed by coffee hour in the Undercroft. Nursery and Sunday School are available during the service.
- **Sunday, December 28th, 7:00pm:** AA meeting in the Undercroft.

For more information about these and future events, as well as ways to get involved, check out www.stjohnsbangor.org.

Parish Prayer list

If you would like to add or reinstate a name or concern for our parish prayer list, please contact the church office or prayers@stjohnsbangor.org.

For the Sick, Injured, or Distressed, and for those who have requested prayer:

Donald H., Susan J., Judy S., and Frank S. **Continued prayers for** – Esther R., Everett M., MarLynne M., Russell M., Kyra H., Persis S., Duane P., Donald K., Jane Z., Steve S., Margaret C., Elena B., Jay B., Susan S., Loretta, Kent C., David B., Jane P., Kelly M., Katie B., Ross M., and Claude K.

For our Homebound Members: Lilly P., Earlene B., and Eileen H.

For the World: for Peace and Goodwill among Nations and for peoples in places of violence or oppression, and for the many places in our world where there is danger and desperation. We continue to pray for the people in Ukraine and the Holy Land, especially for the people in Gaza in this time of great suffering, and for the innocent people of Sudan caught in a brutal civil war. For an end to war and all forms of violence. For all who suffer for conscience's sake. For our enemies and those who wish us harm. For all suffering effects of climate change and of natural disasters. For refugees, immigrants, and those who are displaced.

For our Nation: For the healing of divisions and the celebration of diversity; for the recognition that no single viewpoint on any issue, no matter how important, is without human error; and for all who struggle to change our world and its systems of oppression and exploitation.

For the Leaders of our Country, State and Community: Donald J. Trump, President; Members of Congress, especially, Susan Collins, Angus King, Chellie Pingree, Jared Golden of Maine; Janet Mills our Governor; and Susan Hawes our Mayor; for those who administer justice in the courts of this land, that they all may serve our nation and the world with wisdom, civility, and compassion.

For our Military Personnel, especially those of this Parish: Sarah M., Dillan L., and Joshua M. and we also give Thanksgiving for all veterans and their willingness to lay down their lives for our country.

With Thanksgiving for the lives of those celebrating birthdays during the coming week including: Paul M. and Isaac P.

For the Departed: Chris Royal and Dean Neal

The Ministers: *All the members of this church because
we believe in the “priesthood of all believers”
(1 Peter 2:5).*

Vestry and Officers

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Jeff Perry, *Junior Warden*, 944-6413
Delores Landry, *Treasurer*, deloreslandry175@gmail.com

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The Rev. Jarrett Kerbel, *Rector*
Mr. Colin Graebert, *Choir Director*
Mr. Joshua Singer, *Organist*
Ms. Vanessa Young, *Office Manager*
Ms. Mary-Frances Beesorchard, *Director of Christian Education*
Ms. Tricia Drake, *Sexton*
Mr. Dakota Miller, *Bookkeeper*
Ms. Susanna Pathak, *Parish Librarian*
Ms. Patricia Sprague, *Director of Adult Formation*
Ms. Lorna Whedon, *Office Assistant*