ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & PARISH DAY SCHOOL

> The Second Sunday After Christmas

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025 11:00 A.M. • HISTORIC CHURCH

We welcome you here at St. John's to be met by God, who already knows you and loves you.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Music pages can be found following page 8. During the service, the congregation reads the parts in bold.

PRELUDE We Three Kings

ENTRANCE HYMN As with Gladness

WELCOME

OPENING ACCLAMATION

To us a child is born.

Come let us adore him.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE Angels We Have Heard on High (vs. 1 & 3)

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING (*Please be seated.*)

Thus 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.

(H 119) M-1

(H 96) M-2

Jeremiah 31:7-14



and the young men and the old shall be merry. 2

THE SECOND READING

Blessed 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 will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM HYMN: *Hail to the Lord's Anointed (Psalm 72)*

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away;

I will let them walk by brooks of water,

for I have become a father to Israel. and Ephraim is my firstborn.

With weeping they shall come,

say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,

and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

and with consolations I will lead them back,

in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;

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,

I will turn their mourning into joy,

I will give the priests their fill of fatness,

(H 616) M-3

Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-19a

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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL (Please stand as you are able.)

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

`And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED (Please stand.)

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.

The Ven. Ruth Elder

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*Please stand.*)

The world's deep night is shattered by the light of God's new day. Filled with the wonder of God's grace and joy, we embrace God's gift of love given in the Son born for us, as one of us. Filled with hope, let us offer our prayers for the world, the church and the needs of all as we pray: Glory to God in the highest,

Peace to all people of good will.

Creating God, the heavens and earth rejoice together as the newborn Christ, the morning star, eclipses all other light. Through this birth empower us to restore your creation that the universe may praise your name, and all creatures call you blessed. Glory to God in the highest: **Peace to all people of good will.**

Redeeming God, you have come to dwell with us in Jesus. Make your church the manger of transforming and healing love for the world yearning to be reconciled to you. Send us into the world to live as your good news of saving hope and love for all. Glory to God in the highest: **Peace to all people of good will.**

Merciful God, in Jesus, you give us the Prince of Peace. As people and nations, especially in Israel, Gaza, the West Bank, Ukraine, and Lebanon, live amid the terror of war, guide the leaders of all the nations in the ways of justice and peace. Deliver all those engulfed by the chaos of war, oppression and displacement. As Jesus is a sign of your peace, make us the children of peace in al that we undertake. Glory to God in the highest:

Peace to all people of good will.

Comforting God, in this birth you exchange our wretchedness for your blessedness. You make the stable the ark of healing and transforming love. Send hope to all who are sick and suffering, lonely and bereaved, homeless and destitute. As you abide in us, make us generous givers so that all may experience a home in your loving-kindness. Glory to God in the highest: **Peace to all people of good will.**

Eternal God, you came to earth in our frail flesh, so that at the end of our days we might once again embrace eternity. We give thanks for those who have died and who bore witness to your saving grace and truth. May we follow in their footsteps, by bringing your light to the world. Glory to God in the highest:

Peace to all people of good will.

Into the manger of your love, holy God, we lay our prayers, trusting in your promise made known to us in you Son, Jesus Christ, child of Mary, our brother and Savior. Fill us with wonder and joy that we may with gladness embrace your salvation. Transform us so that we may embody in our lives your justice and mercy, peace and concord, hope and love, now and always. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. ~ *Romans 15:13*

Willan

For your convenience, you may scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Arise, Shine

St. John's Choir

THE PRESENTATION HYMN *The First Nowell (H 109, vs. 5 and refrain) The First Nowell*



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

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 God 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 in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Schubert



We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 pray,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

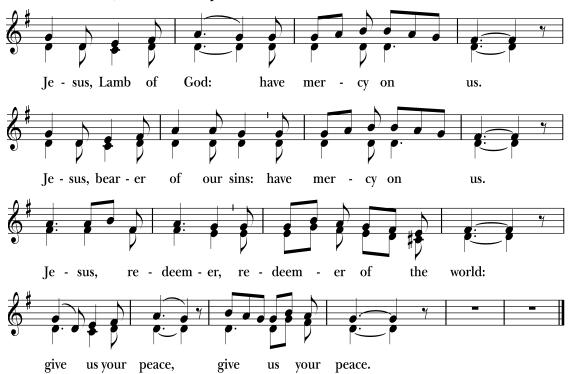
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Schubert

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

(A silence is held.)

FRACTION ANTHEM Jesus, Lamb of God



The Gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION: At God's Table All Are Welcome

If you trust that Jesus Christ lived, died, and rose from the dead for your salvation and the life of the world, please come forward to receive the Body of Christ and the cup of Salvation. When only one chalice bearer is present, we are adhering to the policy of only sipping and not intincting (dipping the bread) into the cup. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please ask the clergy. To receive a Blessing instead of Communion, cross your hands across your chest. The clergy will offer God's blessing to you. If you would like to receive Communion, but are unable to come forward, please let an usher know.

COMMUNION HYMNS	Brightest and the Best	(H 117) <mark>M-5</mark>
	How Bright Appears	(H 497) <mark>M-6</mark>

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN Songs of Thankfulness & Praise

(H 135) M-7

DISMISSAL (*The Deacon or Celebrant dismisses the People, to which we respond*) **Thanks be to God**.

POSTLUDE

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Brenda Ashworth, Deb Avant, Jacyn Baker, Ron & Judi Bonig, Jim Bruce, Al Cooke, Jane Deweib, Brian Donovan, Leslie Edmonds, John Furda, Joseph Gilbert, Sunny Good, Marti Guillet, Lissa Bounds Hammond, Lauren Hopkins, Glenn Houston, James Houston, Houston Family, Rose Jones, Henry Kramer, Glenda Lovchik, George Maestri, Pat Merson, Charles H. Miller, Mike Miller, Jane Mooney, Tim Nunley, Kathy O'Dunne, Charles Osmond, Barbara Prettyman, Jean Purcell, Richard Rabb, Chuck Robbins, Roland Russoli, Jane Sims, Joseph Stavely, Jessica Stricks, Alicia Townsend, Gerald Williams, Mickey Williams, and Carter Yates.

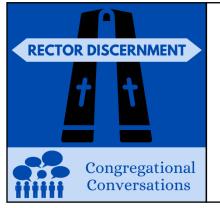
FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Banjy Nwosu

FOR THE SEARCH FOR OUR NEW RECTOR

To have someone included on our prayer list, you may: Contact the Parish Office by phone or email your prayer request to Tracey Stone at tstone@stjohnsec.org. Names will remain on the prayer list for 30 days. After the initial 30 days, if you wish to have a name stay on the list, please re-submit your request.

ENTRANCE HYMN As With Gladness





Have you attended a Congregational Conversation? JOIN US TODAY!

The Discernment Committee's last Congregational Conversation is scheduled for **TODAY** – **Jan. 5th**, **3:00-4:00** p.m., in the Auditorium. If you haven't participated yet, please come and share your perspective on our church's current strengths and hopes for the future.

If you have any questions about the Rector Discernment process, please reach out to the Committee at <u>discernment@stjohnsec.org</u>.

M-2 (H 96) HYMN OF PRAISE Angels We Have Heard on High (vs. 1 & 3)



Gloria

(H 616) M-3 THE PSALM HYMN Hail to the Lord's Anointed (Psalm 72) Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein

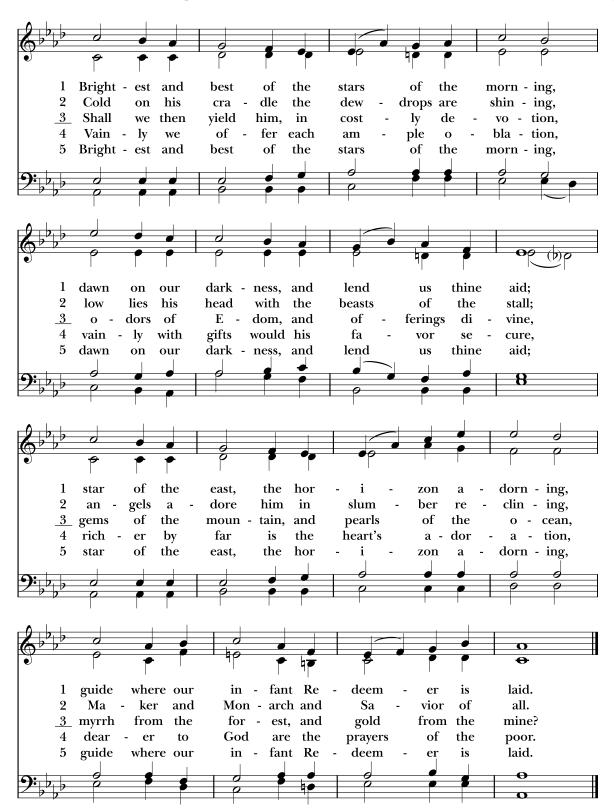


M-4 (H 128) GOSPEL HYMN We Three Kings (vs. 1-2 before; vs. 5 after)

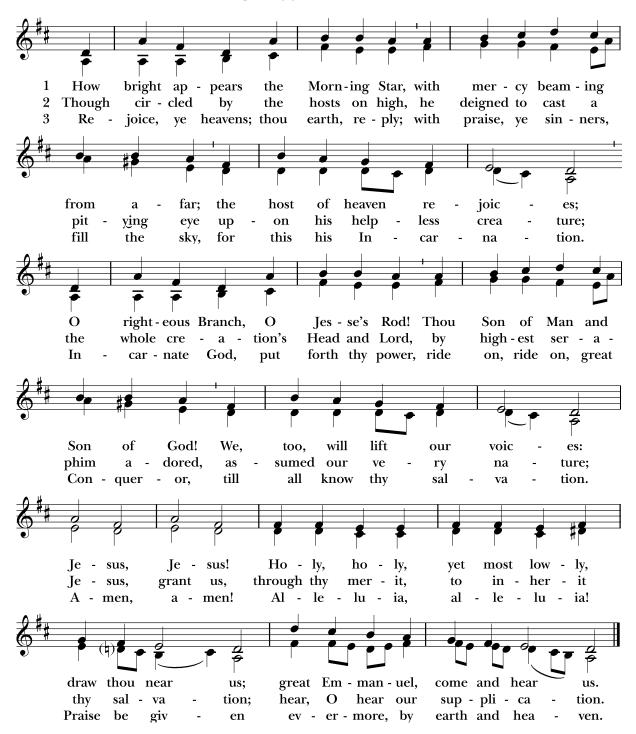
Three Kings of Orient



COMMUNION HYMN I Brightest and Best



M-6 (H 497) COMMUNION HYMN II How Bright Appears



CLOSING HYMN Songs of Thanksgiving and Praise



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & PARISH DAY SCHOOL

9120 Frederick Road 🔊 Ellicott City, MD 21042 Office: 410-461-7793 🔊 Clergy On-call Phone: 443-538-2806 Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Fri. Closed www.stjohnsec.org 🔊 www.stjohnspds.org

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m.: Contemplative Worship, Historic Church Sundays, 9:00 a.m.: Family-friendly, Contemporary Worship, All Saints Hall Sundays, 11:00 a.m.: Traditional Worship, Historic Church (11:00 a.m. is livestreamed whenever possible on YouTube — https://bit.ly/SJEC-YouTube) 주일 성찬예배 오전 10:30, 한국어 성찬예배는 *Resurrection* 채플에서 드립니다.

Find more worship information at https://www.stjohnsec.org

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Mary Sulerud Interim Rector

The Venerable Ruth Elder Deacon

The Rev. Peter Gachira Assisting Clergy

The Rev. J. Joseph Hart Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Gigie Sijera-Grant Assisting Clergy

Ms. Georgi Funderburk Minister of Faith & Practice for Children & Youth

> Ms. Kathy Hahn Director of Finance

Mr. Warren Harris Facilities Tech

Mr. Brad Jones Director of Facilities

Ms. Annie Kao Finance Assistant

Mr. Justin Pechulis Director of Music Ministries

> Mr. Mike Ritonia Facilities Tech

Ms. Tracey Stone Director of Communications

> Ms. Kathy Young Parish Administrator

St. John's website www.stjohnsec.org/give



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Gordon Knox Senior Warden

Geoff Walker Junior Warden

> **Doug Hall** *Treasurer*

Becky Daugherty Asst. Treasurer

Clare Brooks Registrar



Becky Daugherty Lucy Eldridge Tom Goss Doug Hall Class of 2025

> Scott Geist Katie Kelel Lucia Martin Marsha Trant Class of 2026

Susan Fedors David Hale Kim Kerry Janet Loughran Class of 2027

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