ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

IN THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

THE THIRD SUNDAY *of* ADVENT

Holy Eucharist Rite II – 9:30 a.m.

December 14, 2025

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:30 Holy Eucharist Rite II

Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is the house of God.
Before the service speak to the Lord; during the service let the Lord speak to you;
after the service speak to one another.

THE RECTOR'S WELCOME

Welcome to St. John's as we enter this holy season of Advent—four weeks set aside by the Church to help us prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ. While the world around us rushes toward December with noise, hurry, and busyness, Advent gently invites us to slow down, to breathe, and to remember what (and whom) we're truly waiting for.

This season calls us to preparation and reflection: the same kind of hopeful readiness we see in Mary and Joseph as they awaited the birth of Jesus, and the same readiness we are called to as we look forward to Christ's return and the fulfillment of God's Kingdom. Our liturgy shifts to help us make that space—penitence, quiet expectation, and a renewed desire to walk more closely with Jesus.

So let this place be your refuge from the rush of the world. Come, pray, sing, listen, and let the Holy Spirit draw you into deeper relationship with God. As we await the joy of Christmas, may we also let the humility and love of Christ shape the way we live, love, and shine his light into the world.

May this Advent bring you peace, wonder, and a holy stillness in which you can hear the voice of Jesus calling you home.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Christian M. Wood
Rector

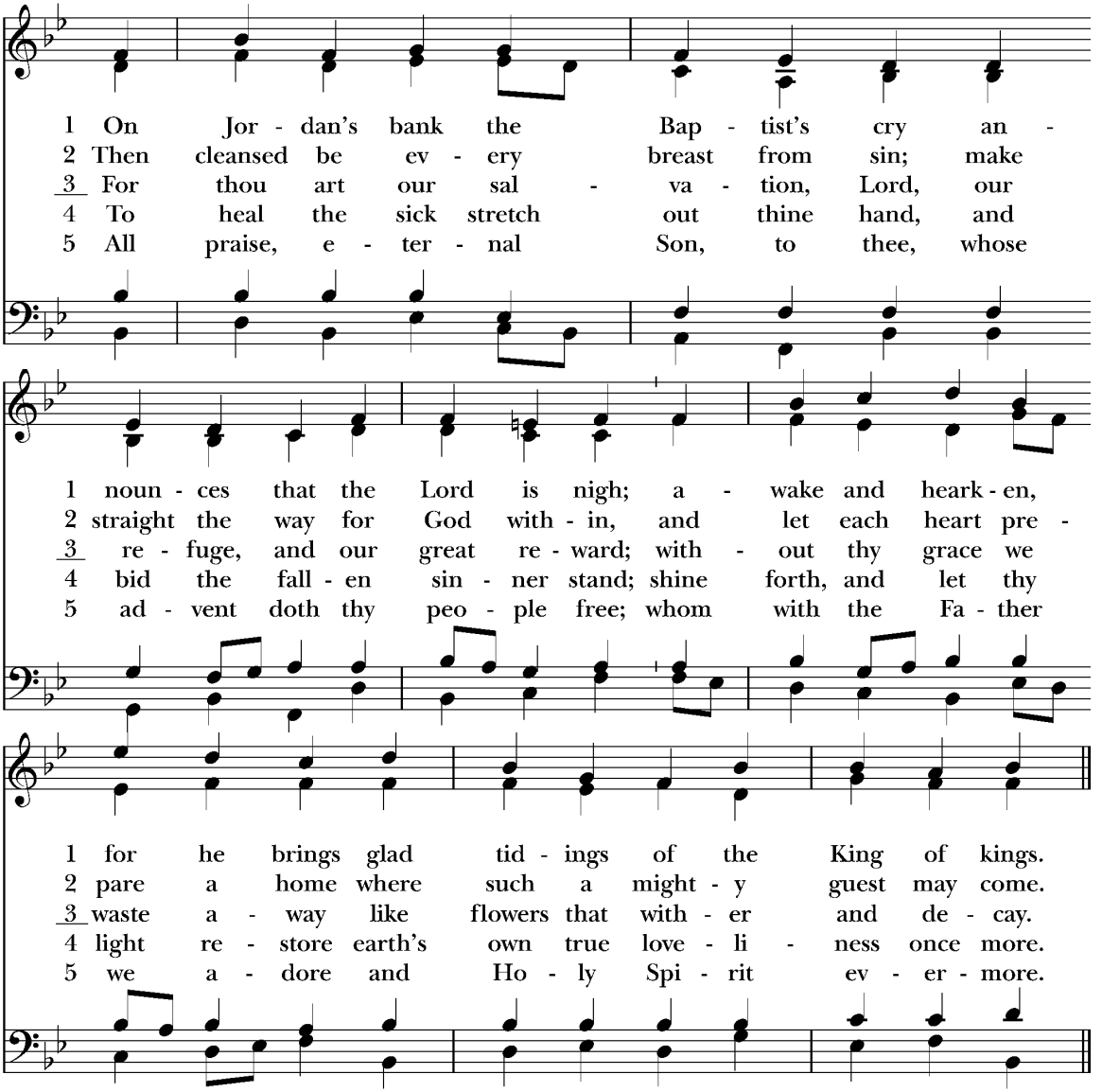
Organ Voluntary

Chorale Prelude "Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen" — Johannes Brahms

The people stand as the ministers enter

Processional Hymn 76

Winchester New



PROPER ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;
People **His mercy endures for ever.**

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."
Mark 12:29-31

Deacon

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

The people kneel

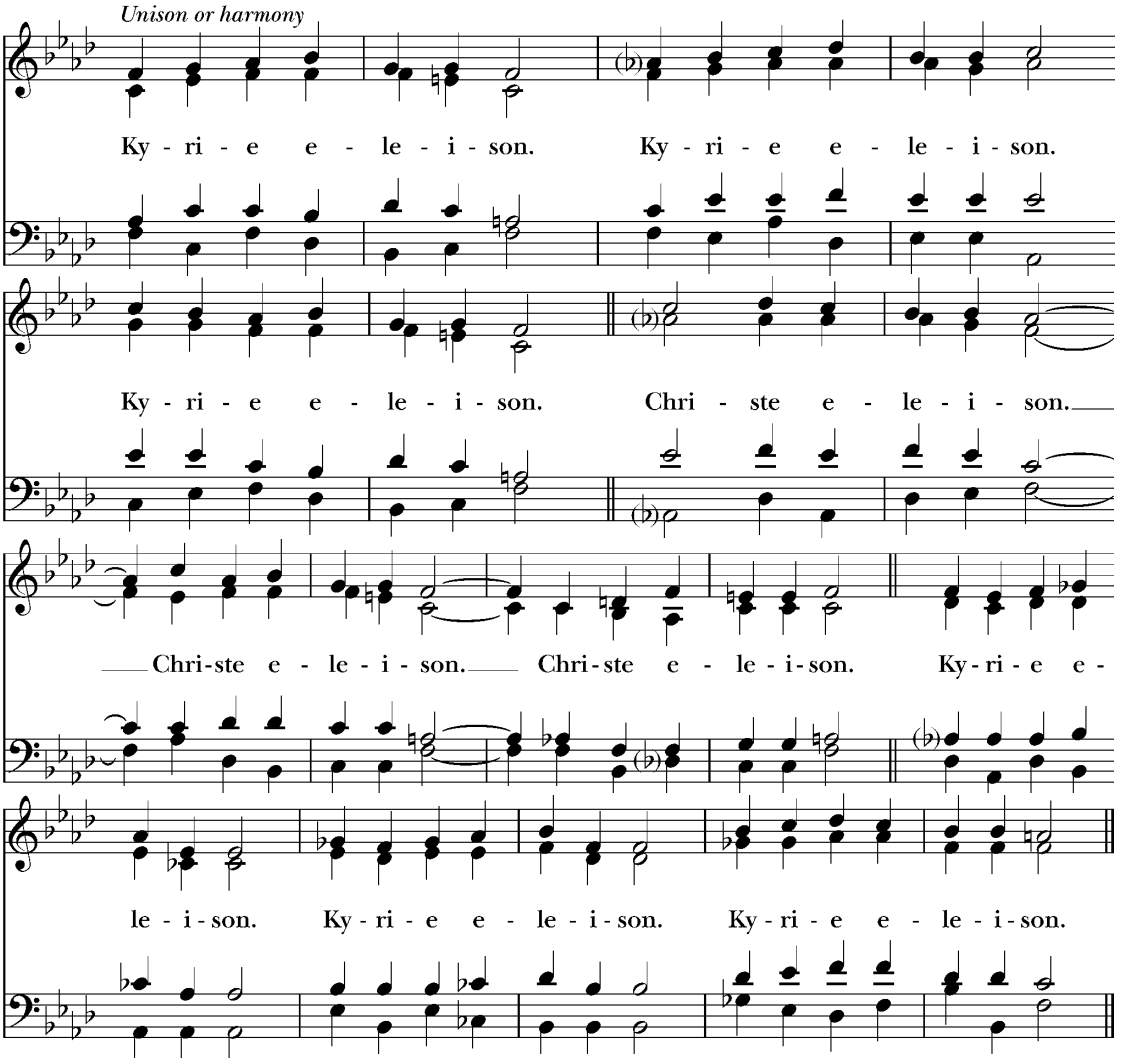
Celebrant and People

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare all those who confess their faults, restore all those who are penitent, according to your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

Celebrant

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

KYRIE S-89 Hans Leo Hassler



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people sit

THE LESSON Isaiah 35:1-10

Lector A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not pass over it, and fools shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

GRADUAL: MAGNIFICAT IN D EJ Moeran

Sung by the choir

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE EPISTLE James 5:7-10

Lector A reading from the Letter of James.

Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it until it receives the early and the late rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble, brethren, against one another, that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the doors. As an example of suffering and patience, brethren, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

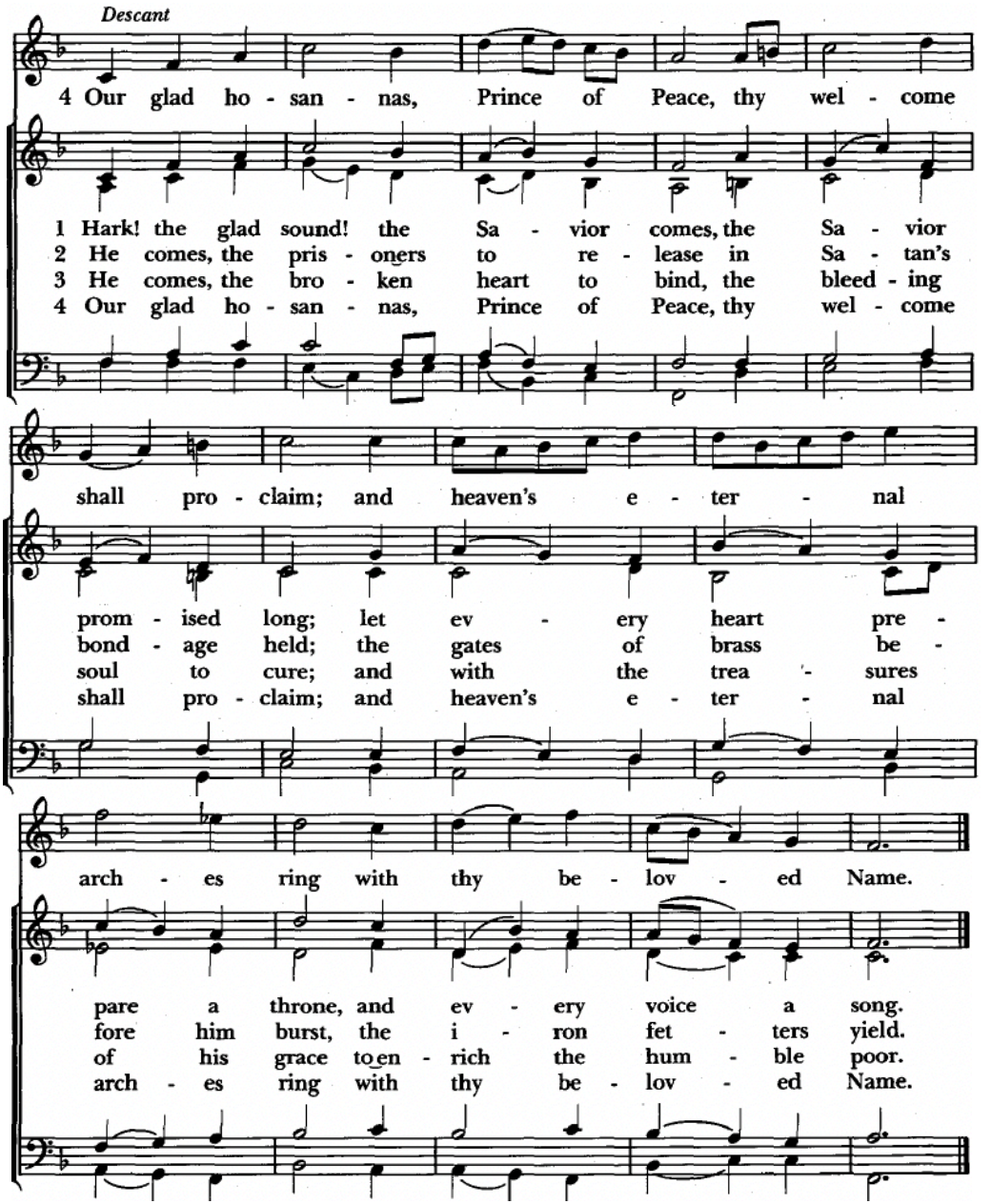
Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand

All elementary-aged students will now follow the cross down the center aisle and process to Children's Chapel in the Parish Hall

SEQUENCE HYMN 72

Richmond



THE GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is he who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? Why then did you go out? To see a man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, those who wear soft raiment are in kings' houses. Why then did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee.' Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has risen no one greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

The people sit

THE SERMON Father Christian M. Wood

THE NICENE CREED *(standing)*

Celebrant and People

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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Form V)*

The people kneel

Deacon or other leader

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury elect, Sean, the Presiding Bishop, Douglas, our Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For for Donald, our president, Ron, our governor, Jane, our mayor, and those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all who live and work in this community, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those in hospital and those in hospice, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the recent faithful departed; [for _____ in whose memory the Altar Flowers are given today;] for all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed John, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.
To you, O Lord our God.

The Celebrant adds this concluding Collect
Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All stand

THE PEACE

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

All greet one another with the sign of peace then sit for any necessary announcements

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offertory Sentence

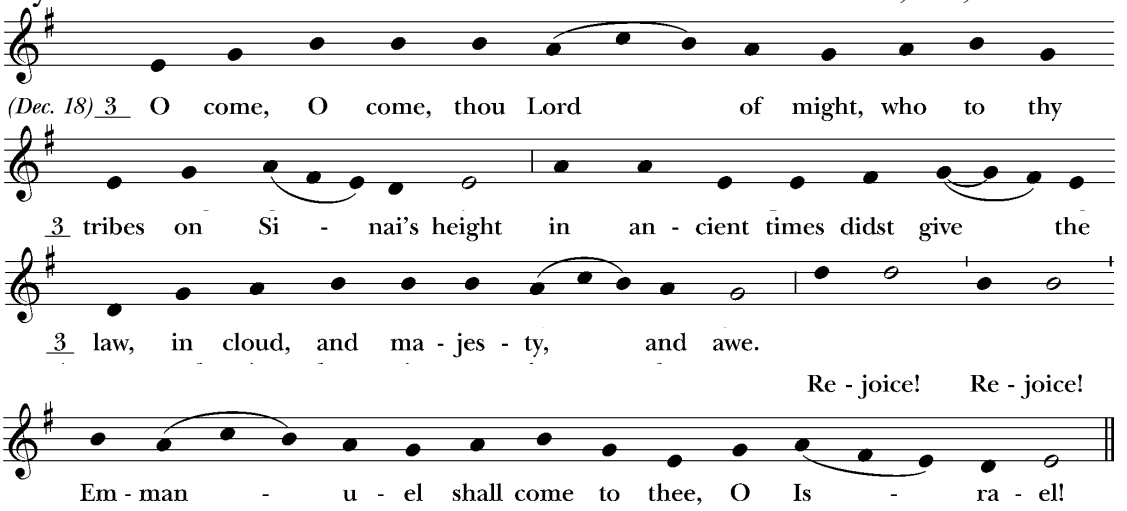
Offertory Anthem

This is the Record of John — Orlando Gibbons

> *This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord.*

All stand

Hymn 56 Stanza 3 *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer B*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

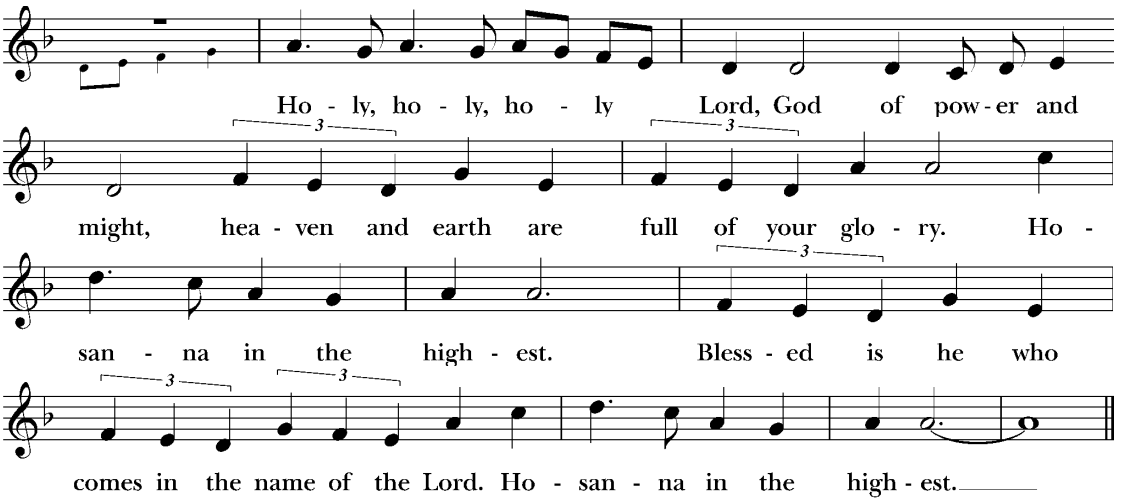
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant 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 a proper preface is sung or said

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 Robert Powell



The people kneel

Celebrant

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,

Celebrant and People

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

Celebrant

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 the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed 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 say,

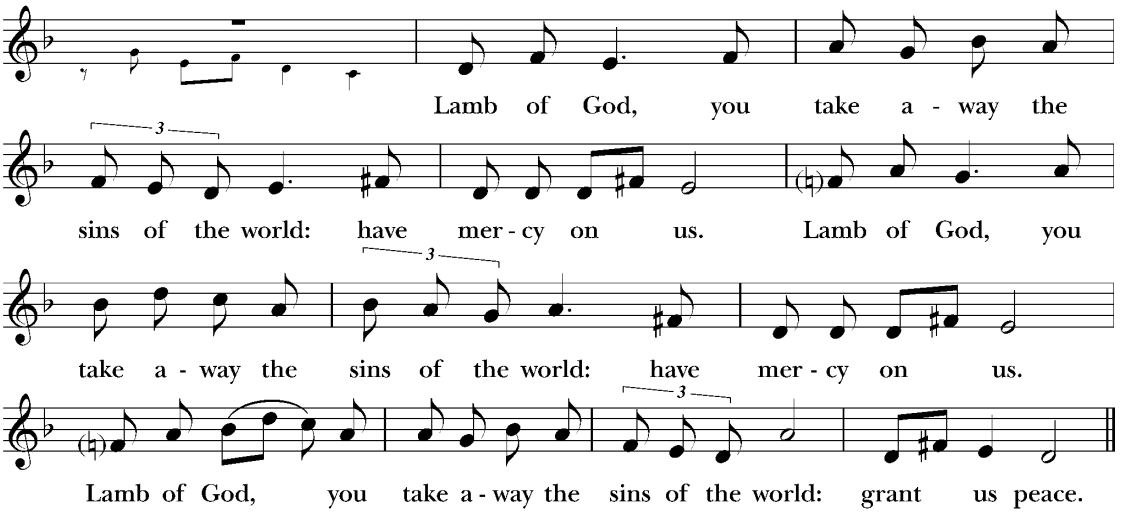
Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread after which the following is sung

Fraction Anthem S-163 Robert Powell



Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table. If you are not receiving, you are invited to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest. Please follow the direction of the ushers, and inform them if you need communion brought to you. Gluten-free hosts are available upon request.

Communion is offered in both kinds (bread and wine). You may receive the host and then sip from the chalice, receive the host only, or receive by intinction. For intinction, a member of the clergy or a chalice bearer will dip the host into the chalice and place it directly on your tongue. Even if receiving in one kind, please remain at the altar rail until the chalice has passed.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

or with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. **Amen.**

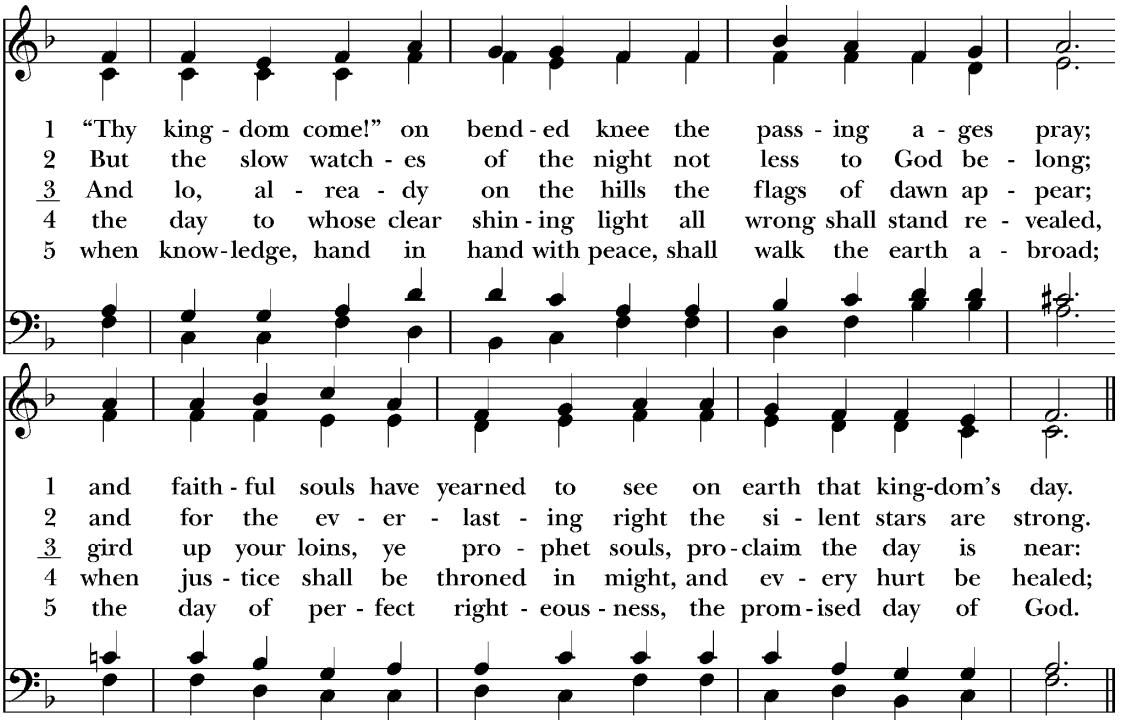
Communion Motet

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree — Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit and always green; The trees of nature fruitless be, Compared with Christ the Apple Tree. His beauty doth all things excel, By faith I know but ne'er can tell The glory which I now can see, In Jesus Christ the Apple Tree. For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought; I missed of all but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the Apple Tree. I'm weary with my former toil - Here I will sit and rest awhile, Under the shadow I will be, Of Jesus Christ the Apple Tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive; Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the Apple Tree.

COMMUNION HYMN 615

St. Flavian



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

The people kneel

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant gives the Blessing

People **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

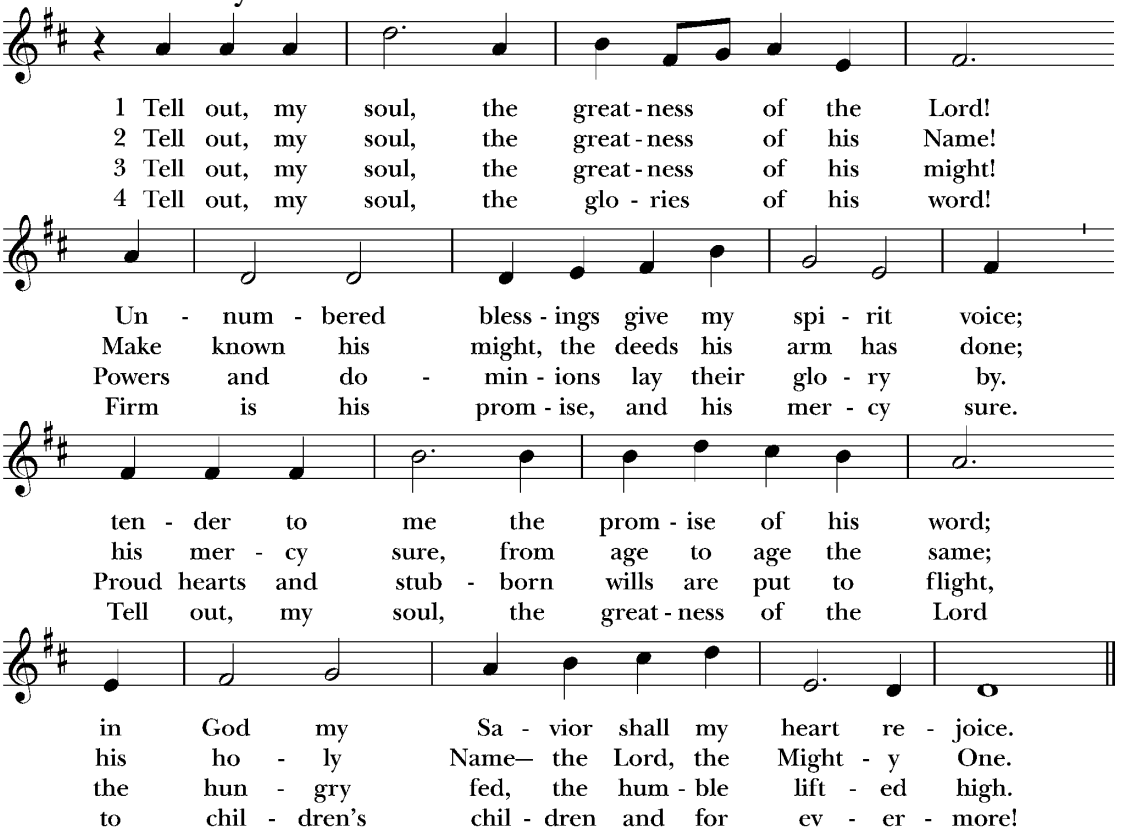
The Deacon gives the Dismissal

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand

Processional Hymn 438

Woodlands



Organ Voluntary

Fugue on the Magnificat (BWV 733) — J.S. Bach

Assisting in Today's Services

Altar Guild: Trish McKay, Nancy Watkins, Cece Lane, Janice Straske, Vera Farmen, Lisa Leal, Laura Silva, Perry Soash

Linens: Yvonne Santiago, Janice Williams

Acolytes: 8:00 Dave Kenyon

9:30 Cindy Gardner, Tom Gardner, Olivia Rainey, Adelaide Lawson, Sadie Lawson

Chalice: Lisa Leal, Jan Elliott

Lectors: 8:00 Christin Ditchfield Lazo, Rich Hadlow

9:30 M. C. Jenkins, Drew Graham, Lisa Leal

Ushers: 8:00 Kenneth E. Lane, Daoud Georgis

9:30 Mike Barna, Doug Arthur, Stephen French, John Giordano, Stephen Leal, John McKay

Verger: Dave Kenyon **Subdeacon:** Greg Gaar

Prayer Requests

Your prayers are bid today and throughout the week for:

All bishops and other ministers: Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury elect; Sean, the Presiding Bishop; Douglas, our Bishop; and the clergy and staff of our Parish

Those who govern: Donald, our President; Ronald, our Governor; and Jane, our Mayor

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: The Smith Center, DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center and St. Thomas Chapel; St. Anselm's Chapel, University of South Florida Chapel Center; Florida Gulf Coast University, Ft. Myers; Episcopal College Chaplaincies: College of Florida Chaplaincy, Bradenton, and Clergy spouses and widows of the Diocese of Southwest Florida

Our Companion Dioceses: Dominican Republic, Georgia, South Carolina, and Western Louisiana

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

Also remembering in prayer: Our Parish Day School, our Pastoral Care Team, healthcare workers, first responders, and all who serve the common good, peace in Ukraine and the Holy Land

Members of our armed forces deployed abroad and their families: Rich, Mike, Jake, Matthew, David, and Tyler (Libya)

Those celebrating the anniversary of their birth:
December 14: Donna Gem, Ab Goodman, Mary Greacen, Kathy Lewis, Anderson O'Kelley, Sharon Stoll
December 15: Marty Angiulli, Hayden Atzenhoefer, Caroline Diaz, Peggy Thompson
December 16: Andrew Mason, Samuel Shoukry, Bridget Wiese
December 17: Jackson Andrews, Craig Bexley, Molly Grimard, Guy King, Lynn Rydene, Brennan Vaughan
December 18: Ronnie Goodheart

December 19: Keith Bexley, Marilin Espino-Maya, Molly Frazier, Daoud Georgis Lora Hulse, Paul Keesling, Evan Lick
December 20: Meagan Dorsch, Ivy Gustafson, Nate Lacktman, Grayson Leal, Walker Martin

The sick and others for whom our prayers have been especially requested:

Maureen and Ken Johnston; Jackie Faircloth and family; Pam, Shailee, and Courtney; Anna, her family and her medical team; Jayce Hicks, Jeff LeVines, Richard, Michael Wood, Tor, Collin, Lee, David, Sam, Absley, Jim B., Katy, Ron, Carey, Scott, Nancy C., Lane, Jack, Miriam, Suzanne, Laine, Grace, Minnie, Will, Peter, Armando, Berta, Mary, Susan, Ellie, Patrick, Ann, David W., Craig, Gwen, Helen, Joseph, David W. Reffue, Melinda, Sunny, Davis, and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

For all the faithful departed

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

St. John's Church
and Episcopal Parish Day School

906 South Orleans Avenue · Tampa, Florida 33606-2941
Tel. 813.259.1570 · **Email:** parish@stjohnstampa.org
stjohnstampa.org

The Diocese of Southwest Florida

The Right Reverend Douglas Frederick Scharf
VI Bishop of Southwest Florida

The Wardens, Vestry, and Officers of the Parish

John H. McKay (2025)
Senior Warden

Andrew M. Brown (2025)
Junior Warden

Douglas F. Arthur
Treasurer

Elizabeth S. GRAHAM
Assistant Treasurer

Amy Yost
Clerk of the Vestry

Norman F.J. Allen III (2027)
Robert O. Alter (2026)
Roddy D. Belfatti (2025)
Cary R. Brown (2026)
C. Tweed Eckhard (2025)
Lynn L. Fluharty (2027)
Andrew B. Galavis, Sr. (2027)
Jeffrey M. Hunt (2026)
Lisa J. Leal (2026)
Christina C. McAdams (2027)

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Reverend Christian M. Wood
XVII Rector

The Reverend Andrew Lazo
Associate Rector

The Reverend Caroline F. Devitt
Priest Associate for Evangelism & Communications

The Reverend Mary Alice Lopez
Deacon

Simon J. Morley
Organist and Director of Music

Laurie D. Lawther
Parish Administrator

Ayana S. Grady
Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Samantha Santos
Parish Coordinator

The Reverend Donald P. Goodheart
Retired Priest in Residence

The Reverend Charles E. Connelly
Retired Priest in Residence

Hugh A. R. Jebson
Head of St. John's School

Noah Scribner
Sexton