

8:00 SERVICE



# The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist

(831) 708-2278 125 Canterbury Drive Aptos CA 95003  
[www.st-john-aptos.org](http://www.st-john-aptos.org)



The Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 19, 2023

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer (1979)

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## Welcome to St. John's!

- **Face Masks are required indoors for worship.** (The music director does not wear a mask, but tests for COVID before every service. The clergy also test before services.) Masks are optional for outdoor worship and indoor small group meetings, but encouraged when in close proximity with others.
- **Restrooms** are located on both ends of the building.
- **For prayer requests, email [prayer@st-john-aptos.org](mailto:prayer@st-john-aptos.org)** (routes to a group of 40+ parishioners who will pray for your request immediately upon receipt of the message.)
- **To reach a priest 24/7**, call the clergy on-call line: **831-531-7187**.

## † The Liturgy of the Word †

### Opening Acclamation

*BCP 355*

*Presider* Bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins.

*People* His mercy endures for ever.

### The Collect for Purity

*Presider* 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 (said three times)

*BCP 324*

*Presider* Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

*People* Have mercy upon us.

### Collect of the Day

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray. (Silence.) Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

*The Jerusalem Bible*

In our first lesson, God chooses David to be King of Israel, working through the prophet Samuel.

Yahweh said to Samuel, 'How long will you go on mourning over Saul when I have rejected him as king of Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' Samuel replied, 'How can I go? When Saul hears of it he will kill me.' Then Yahweh said, 'Take a heifer with you and say, "I have come to sacrifice to Yahweh." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and then I myself will tell you what you must do; you must anoint to me the one I point out to you.' Samuel did what Yahweh ordered and went to Bethlehem. The elders of the town came trembling to meet him and asked, 'Seer, have you come with good intentions towards us?' 'Yes,' he replied, 'I have come to sacrifice to Yahweh. Purify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.'

He purified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely Yahweh's anointed one stands there before him,' but Yahweh said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but Yahweh looks at the heart.' Jesse then called Abinadab and presented him to Samuel, who said, 'Yahweh has not chosen this one either.' Jesse then presented Shammah, but Samuel said, 'Yahweh has not chosen this one either.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'Yahweh has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. Yahweh said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of Yahweh seized on David and stayed with him from that day on. As for Samuel, he rose and went to Ramah.

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

A bell is rung. We wait until we cannot hear the residual of the bell ringing before continuing.

## **Psalm 23**

*BCP Translation*

- 1        The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
          I shall not be in want.
- 2        He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
          and leads me beside still waters.
- 3        He revives my soul \*  
          and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

- 4     Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5     You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6     Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

### **Epistle Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14**

*The Jerusalem Bible*

The second lesson is from the letter to the church at Ephesus, which was comprised mainly of Christians from non-Jewish backgrounds.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

“Wake up from your sleep,  
rise from the dead,  
Christ will shine on you.”

*Lector*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*           **Thanks be to God.**

A bell is rung. We wait until we cannot hear the bell ringing before continuing.

### **Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41**

*The Jerusalem Bible*

*Deacon*   The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

*People*   **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Today's story of the healing of the blind man appears only in the Gospel of John. It invites us to consider the difference between physical sight and spiritual sight.

As he went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered, 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.' Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier

had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus,' he answered, 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam;" so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know,' he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet,' replied the man.

However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we don't know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said, 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied, 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you'. The man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and worshipped him. Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have

come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind'. Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see," your guilt remains.

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

### **Sermon: Deacon Joan Anderson**

#### **The Nicene Creed**

*BCP 358*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, and 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 for Lent**

*compiled by the Rev. Terry Gleason*

*Deacon*            In this holy season, we bring to God the deepest needs and desires of our  
                         hearts: for ourselves, for one another, and for our world.

*Intercessor*      For those preparing for Baptism and for all the holy people of God, that  
                         we may heed the voice of the Lord and reform our ways and our deeds.

                         Lord, in your mercy,

*People*            **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* For Lucinda, our Bishop, and the congregations of our diocese; for the Anglican Communion and the entire Church of God; that in the wilderness of this world the church may provide waters of life to all who thirst. Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church of Southern Africa. In our diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for the emergence of the “New Church.” In our Parish cycle of prayer we pray for Carolyn Ames, Karen Hellgren and Myra Prestidge.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* That civil authorities may open their ears and listen to the voices that cry out for food and shelter, for dignity, for equality and peace. Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* That enemies will be reconciled to God and to one another in our parish, our community, our nation, and our world. Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* For lands made desolate by war, and refugees driven from their homes by conflict, that we may come to a sabbath of healing and a season of peace. Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* For the sick and those who have asked our prayers; especially those we now name, either silently or aloud: (pause). May they find in Christ crucified new strength in their suffering and, in Christ’s disciples, wise allies in their struggles. Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* That those who have been sown with Christ in death, particularly those we now name: (pause). may bear an abundant harvest with Christ in eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

### **Concluding Collect (A Collect for Peace)**

*BCP 123*

*All* Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

## Confession of Sin

BCP 360

*Deacon* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence, to allow time for individuals to silently confess specific sins to God.

*All* **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.**

## Absolution

EOW 1

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

## The Peace

*Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

Because the sharing of the peace symbolizes being reconciled with one another before receiving communion, it is particularly appropriate to seek out anyone with whom you may have had a conflict recently and offer a sign of peace at this time.

## Community Prayers

*Modified from BCP 830, 421, 431, & 831*

### For Birthdays, Baptism Anniversaries, Wedding Anniversaries, and Travelers

*Presider* Watch over Jack Beebe (3/23), O Lord, as his days increase;

*People* **Bless and guide him wherever he may be. Strengthen him when he stands; comfort him when discouraged or sorrowful; raise him up if he falls; and in his hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of his life.**

*Presider* We ask for courage, patience and vision for Myra Prestidge (3/19) and Pat Dorr (3/24), who celebrate their baptism anniversaries this week.

*People* **Strengthen them in their Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others.**

*Presider* Send your blessing upon \_\_\_\_ as they celebrate their wedding anniversary.

*People* **May they so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace.**

*Presider* O God, whose glory fills your whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go, preserve \_\_\_\_\_ as they travel.

*People* **Surround them with your loving care, protect them from every danger, and bring them in safety to their journey's end. Amen.**

# † The Holy Communion †

## The Offertory

During the offertory portion of the service, we offer our gifts to God. At St. John's, that takes the form of both financial gifts and gifts of our time. Time donated is documented on a form and put in the offering plate along with financial offerings. If you're participating online, you can find links to donate on the Virtual Worship page of our website: [www.st-john-aptos.org/virtual-worship.html](http://www.st-john-aptos.org/virtual-worship.html)

## Offertory Sentence

*2 Corinthians 9:8, Jerusalem Bible*

“There is no limit to the blessings which God can send you – he will make sure that you will always have all you need for yourselves in every possible circumstance, and still have something to spare for all sorts of good works.” - *The Apostle Paul*

## Eucharistic Prayer A

*BCP 361*

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Presider* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. 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:

*All* **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

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

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

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.” Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*All*                    **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Presider*            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**

*BCP 364*

*Presider:*            As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*All*                    **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Presider:*            Jesus, Lamb of God,

*People:*             **Have mercy on us.**

*Presider:*            Jesus, bearer of our sins,

*People:*             **Have mercy on us.**

*Presider:*            Jesus, redeemer of the world,

*People:*             **give us your peace.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

*Presider*            The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Receiving communion is an act of renewing one’s commitment to Christ and receiving grace to continue to follow him. Please join us in the circle, even if you choose not to receive communion, which you can indicate by crossing your arms over your chest as the servers come by. If you choose not to receive, the priest will say a blessing over you instead.

## Distribution of Communion

The bread is distributed first. Please hold out your hands to indicate your desire to receive; the priest will place the bread in your hand. Gluten-free wafers are available if needed; they are in a separate gold container on the paten (plate) with the bread. The wine will be served in the common cup (chalice) and from a flagon (pitcher) that is not shared with others. To receive from the non-shared flagon, you must have brought a cup from home; hold out that cup as the servers come around so they can see that you would like to receive from the flagon instead of the chalice. If you would like to abstain from the wine entirely, cross your arms over your chest when the wine comes by.

## For Online Participants: Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Those not physically present to receive communion can say this prayer while communion is being distributed: "In union, O Lord, with the faithful of St. John's, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen." If you live in Santa Cruz County and would like someone to bring you communion at home, please contact the church office at 831-708-2278 or email [LEVs@st-john-aptos.org](mailto:LEVs@st-john-aptos.org).

## Sending Forth of Lay Eucharistic Visitors

*Deacon* We send you forth bearing these gifts

*People* that those to whom you go may share with us in this Holy Communion.

## The Postcommunion Prayer

*Anglican Church of Australia (adapted)*

*All* Compassionate and loving God, through your Son Jesus Christ you have fed us, and reconciled your people to yourself. May we who have shared in this holy meal know your forgiveness in our lives, bring your reconciliation to others, and be a sign of your wholeness in this broken world. Following Christ's example of fasting and prayer, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love. Amen.

## Solemn Prayer Over the People

*Lent 4*

Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Dismissal

*BCP 366*

*Deacon* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Serving Today at 8 a.m.

<i>Presider:</i>	The Rev. Tracy Wells Miller, Rector
<i>Preacher:</i>	The Rev. Joan Anderson, Deacon
<i>Server:</i>	Win Fernald
<i>First Reading:</i>	Nancy Goehring
<i>Epistle:</i>	Bob Nelson
<i>Usher:</i>	Bart Coddington
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Kathy Butler, Lise Crowley, Andrew Pudan
<i>Scripture Introductions:</i>	The Rev. Tracy Wells Miller



## The Leadership of St. John's

Ministers: All of us!



### Clergy Staff

**The Rev. Tracy Wells Miller** (“Mother Tracy”), Rector  
rector@st-john-aptos.org, (831) 708-6828 (cell)

**The Rev. Joan Anderson** (“Deacon Joan”), Deacon  
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**Lay Staff** staff@st-john-aptos.org

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**Andrew S. Carter, Director of Music Ministries**  
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**Matt McCabe, Sexton**  
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**Maritza Medina, Nursery Coordinator**  
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**Rosa Miriam Escobar, Janitor**

**Diane Scofield, Helpful Shop Manager**  
helpfulshop@st-john-aptos.org, 831-332-7711 (cell)

**Lisa Freeman, Community Youth Prog. Director**  
media@st-john-aptos.org, 831-854-7265 (cell)

**Avihay Saady, Media Technician**  
community-youth@st-john-aptos.org, 831-239-7867 (cell)

**Realm** (view directory & giving info, post messages to parishioners)  
www.onrealm.org (contact the office for a password)

**Assisting Clergy** clergy@st-john-aptos.org

The Rev. Mary Craig Caruthers (“Rev. Mary Craig”)

The Rev. John Duncan (“Father John”)

The Rev. Eliza Linley (“Amma Eliza”)

The Rev. Mary Lou McKenney (“Rev. Mary Lou”)

### Vestry (Governing Board)

To reach the entire vestry, email vestry@st-john-aptos.org.

**Administration Team** vestry-admin@st-john-aptos.org

Mother Tracy, Rector

Win Fernald, Senior Warden

Debra Spencer, Junior Warden

Alliee DeArmond, Clerk

Nelson Crandall, Treasurer

Jon Showalter

### Internal Ministry Support Team

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Anne Baker, Liz Lindsley, Antonette Wood

### External Ministry Support Team

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Kathy Butler, Joanna Phillips, Susan von Schmacht