

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE EPIPHANY



HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
JANUARY 4, 2026 AT 10:15 A.M.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. John's is an Open and Affirming congregation. In faithfulness to Jesus and His commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, we invite everyone to celebrate with us in the full life and ministry of the Church. We believe strongly in our mission statement to Grow in God, Act in Service, and Witness in Love.

A NOTE ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

Our Rite II service comes from the Book of Common Prayer and is filled with vibrant music, sacred scripture, and the breaking of bread. This service is filled with the joyful sound of children rustling in the pews, anthems sung to the glory of God, and the heartfelt prayers of those gathered. With acolytes and processions, communal singing, and a mission to love and serve our neighbors, this service invites one to participate in the coming of the Kingdom. At St. John's everyone is welcome to the Lord's table.

TO THOSE WHO MAY BE NEW OR ARE VISITING

We are so glad you are here! Ushers are stationed at the back of the church and can answer any questions you may have or please ask a neighbor in the next pew. Restrooms can be found on the other side of the Parish Hall. In addition to worship, opportunities for fellowship exist after the service in the courtyard. A nursery is available every Sunday for our littlest members next to the Parish Hall. Thank you for being here!

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

Thank you to those who have joined our Annual Giving Campaign, "Tell out my Soul!" We are part of a holy narrative, and your pledge allows us to live into our sacred story and share that story through worship, formation, and service! 75 people have submitted pledge cards for a total of \$338,691. We are still in need of \$45,000 to balance our 2026 budget. Please help us meet our goal and share the story of God's love this coming year!!! Pledge packets can be found in the back of the church or on our website.

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*If you have an announcement, you would like the clergy to share,
please fill out the form on our website or let the office know no later than Thursday.*

PRELUDE *Variations on a Polish Carol* Alexandre Guilmant
"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

OPENING HYMN *On This Day* **HYMNAL 92**

OPENING ACCLAMATION *(please remain standing as you are able)*

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY **BCP 355**

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.*

GLORIA *Gloria in excelsis* **HYMNAL S-280**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant 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 LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-6 *(please be seated)*

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

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

PSALM 72:1-7,10-14

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, *
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously *
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, *
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, *
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, *
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

- 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
- 11 All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.
- 12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no helper.
- 13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
- 14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

THE EPISTLE: Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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

GRADUAL HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

HYMNAL 112

Verses 1&2 before the Gospel Reading; verses 3&4 after the Gospel Reading

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12 *(please remain standing as you are able)*

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

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

SERMON

THE REV. AMANDA KNOUSE

THE NICENE CREED *(please rise in body or spirit)*

BCP 358

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. *(pause)*
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: FORM III

BCP 387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; in the Diocesan and Anglican Cycle of prayer we pray for St. Andrew's, Alden; St. Luke's, Altoona; St. John's, Westfield; the Clergy of the Diocese of the Susquehanna; and for Peace in Sudan & South Sudan.
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Audrey and Kevin, our Bishops; Amanda and Joe, our clergy; and Emma and Kim, our seminarians.

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially Donald, our President; Josh, our Governor; Jaime, our Mayor; and those serving in the Armed Forces.

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble especially Ella, Kevin, Judy Modene, Andrew Gilpin, Cheryl & Rhoda, Ted Griswold, Collin, Eileen Waite, Ann Marie, Karlah Gibbs, Kathy Dodge & family, Sandy Patrone, Marshall, Leslie Tahsler, Marianne, Elly, Steve; Heidi, Danny & Kenneth; Ginny, Norma, Ibrahim, Garth, Gladys Engle, Holly, Alex, Mary Ann Justice, Anthony Suliveras, Kate Benson. We pray for our friends at home especially Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Sandy Grove, Peggy Zuke, Peggy Buscher, and Teresa Sullivan.

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Celebrant 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.*

THE PEACE

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

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BCP 830

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts, may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY *O Come, and Dwell With Me* Clarke

PRESENTATION HYMN *Jesus, whom the Gentiles worshiped
 at thy glad epiphany,
 unto thee, with God the Father
 and the Spirit, glory be.* **HYMNAL 127, vs. 5**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer B **BCP 367**

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 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:

THE SANCTUS

*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.

HYMNAL S-125

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 all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who
sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 364

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

The Episcopal Church invites all who seek God to our Lord's table. If you wish to receive, please come forward to the altar rail when the usher indicates. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. For the wine, you can receive by guiding the chalice to your lips or by dipping your wafer into the separate intinction cup. If you do not wish to receive the wine, cross your arms over your chest when the wine passes. If you desire a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest. When finished, please exit to your right. Gluten free wafers are also available.

COMMUNION HYMNS

As With Gladness

HYMN 119

What Star is This, With Beams So Bright

HYMN 124

SENDING FORTH OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Celebrant In the name of God and on behalf of this parish, 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.

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

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

May the light of Christ's life be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN

We Three Kings

HYMNAL 128

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE

As With Gladness (Dix)

Craig Phillips

St. John's Traveler Letter:

Did you know St. John's has pilgrims who travel to the places we pray for in the Anglican communion? Follow John as he shares about the places he visits:

Dear Pastors Amanda and Joe,

I'm writing to you about South Sudan, but not from South Sudan. The US State Department advises against traveling to South Sudan, and for good reason. It's war torn and sadly one of the poorest countries in the world. It's rarely safe for visitors or the people trying to live and raise families here. Bishop James Lule recently expressed bewilderment at the cross border fighting with soldiers from Uganda, and a call for compassion for displaced families. Bishop Lule is the head of the Diocese of Kajo-Keji in the southern part of the country, where there are currently about 8,000 people made homeless by the violence, including more than 800 children.

I recently learned that (what was) the Diocese of Bethlehem has a long-standing sister relationship with the Diocese of Kajo-Keji, which consists of 43 parishes. They've raised \$4million to build schools and a seminary and, when it was safe, sent members on visitation trips. Having merged into the Diocese of the Susquehanna the Prayers of the People are going to include prayers for these parishes. I'll look forward to learning more about these people and the good work they're doing in the midst of this upheaval. Bishop Lule is appealing to all of us for humanitarian intervention, peaceful resolution of the conflicts between the warring forces, and protection of the civil population that are too frequently caught in the middle. We can start by adding our prayers to that end, and see where the spirit moves us from there.

God's peace to you, and to all.

John Traveler

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S:

TODAY

Coffee Hour to follow each service

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

4:30 PM Trans Loving Community

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

1:30 PM Martha's Ministry
2:30 PM Food Pantry
5:00 PM Immigration Clinic

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

12:00 PM Healing Service
2:00 PM Bible Study
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:30 AM Ministers' Meeting
10:00 AM Worship Committee
2:30 PM Food Pantry

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

Rector's Day Off

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

12:30 PM Citizen's Lobby Group

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

Coffee Hour to follow each service

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II
1:00 PM Education for Ministry

MORNING PRAYER WITH BR. DAVID

THURSDAYS AT 9:00 A.M.

We will continue praying the Daily Office through the season of Epiphany! We will gather every Thursday at 9:00 a.m. in the Saint Mary Chapel.

Our Thursday Morning Prayer service will be a 30-minute service of prayer, silence, and scripture readings. You are welcome to join us each Thursday in the beautiful Saint Mary Chapel at St John's.

JOE'S ORDINATION!

JANUARY 24TH AT 10 A.M.

Please mark your calendars for our Assistant Rector's Ordination to the Priesthood! Our bishop, clergy, and friends will be gathering at St. John's for this wonderful celebration and your prayers and presence are requested!

WINTER CLOTHING COLLECTION

Collecting on Sundays in January and February 2026! Donations can be dropped off in the box in the Atrium.

Needed: new gloves, socks and hats for men, women, and children

Items will be distributed at the Community Meals at First Reformed Church and the St John's Food Pantry. Questions? Contact Br David Rutledge drutledge1225@gmail.com

WELCOME

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church! We are glad you are here. Please tell us a little bit about yourself by filling out a pew card and placing it in the offertory plate.

OUR MINISTERS

All Baptized Members

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey C. Scanlan, Diocesan Bishop

The Rev. Amanda Knouse, Rector
amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Dr. Joe Pritchett, Assistant Rector
joe@stjohns-lancaster.org

VESTRY

Drew Dorgan (*Sr. Warden*), Charles Wear (*Treasurer*), Gretchen Walden,
Penn Glazier, Mary Huber, Bruce Waskowicz, Sarah Jones,
Emma Luck, Bruce Morgan, Brad Zuke

DELEGATES REPRESENTING ST. JOHN'S AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION

John Gouveia, Wade Hinkle, Kim Bomberger, Michelle Engle

STAFF

Mark Herr, Minister of Music (music@stjohns-lancaster.org)
Dana Sanborn, Bookkeeper (finance@stjohns-lancaster.org)
John Knouse, Property Manager (property@stjohns-lancaster.org)
Jessica Morales, Communications Director (Jessica@stjohns-lancaster.org)
Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian
Danielle Hill, Nursery Attendant

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE
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