



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

316 N EL DORADO STREET

STOCKTON, CA 95202

MARCH 30, 2025 – 10:30 AM

MORNING PRAYER

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT – LAETARE SUNDAY

ORGAN PRELUDE Prelude on the Welsh hymn tune *Rhosymedre* Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)

OPENING HYMN **O bless the Lord, my soul!** *St. Thomas (Williams)*
 Hymn 411

OPENING SENTENCE PAGE 76, BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

CONFESSION OF SIN PAGE 79, BCP

INVITATORY AND PSALTER PAGE 80-83, BCP

PSALM 32 *Beati quorum*

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.

10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; *
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen

THE LESSONS _____

THE OLD TESTAMENT, JOSHUA 5:9-12

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

THE FIRST CANTICLE

FROM PAGE 85-95, BCP

The Canticle will be announced, please stand as you are able, then be seated for the reading.

THE NEW TESTAMENT, 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

The Canticle will be announced, please stand as you are able until after the Gospel.

GRADUAL HYMN **Guide me, O thou great Jehovah**
 Hymn 690

Cwm Rhondda

THE GOSPEL, LUKE 15:1-3, 11B-32

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

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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

HOMILY Rev. Stephen Bentley, Deacon

THE APOSTLES' CREED

PAGE 96, BCP

THE PRAYERS

PAGE 97, BCP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Today in our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St Francis Episcopal Church in Turlock, their priest, the Rev. Toni Alvarez and their deacon, the Rev. Marilee Muncey.

Deacon Be glad and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all you who are true of heart. Having been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, let us pray, "Lord, let your mercy embrace us; accept our prayer."

Gracious God, you have entrusted to your Church the ministry of reconciliation. Reconcile our members to you and to each other, and then work through us to embrace the world.

Silence

Lord, let your mercy embrace us;
Accept our prayer.

Open our hearts to welcome sinners as you welcome us. Give us eyes to see others, not only from a human point of view, but as you see them.

Silence

Lord, let your mercy embrace us;
Accept our prayer.

Jesus, you are the true bread which gives life to the world: evermore give us this bread that our souls may be satisfied. And satisfy our bodies with abundant produce from the land.

The congregation is invited to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence.

Lord, let your mercy embrace us;
Accept our prayer.

We pray, O God, for families. Restore broken relationships. Heal those who have suffered betrayal and alienation. Comfort those for whom reconciliation in this life is not possible. Shield those with reason to celebrate.

Silence

Lord, let your mercy embrace us;
Accept our prayer.

You, O God, are a hiding place for those in trouble: you deliver the oppressed; you forgive the guilty; you roll away the disgrace of your people. We make our prayers to you for those in trouble.

The congregation is invited to add their petitions, followed by silence.

Lord, let your mercy embrace us;
Accept our prayer.

Holy Jesus, it is our prayer that you may live in us, and we in you, both in this mortal life and for all eternity.

Silence

Lord, let your mercy embrace us;
Accept our prayer.

O God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, fill our world, and fill the universe. We ask this for your own Name's sake. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

On the last Sunday of the month, we take up a special offering for Oaxaca. Please place this offering in the basket. Thank you!

OFFERTORY HYMN **Come, thou fount of every blessing** *Nettleton*
 Hymn 686
 At the beginning of verse 2, replace words in The Hymnal with:
 Here I raise my Ebenezer;
 hither by thy help I'm come;

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

THE COLLECTS PAGE 98-100, BCP

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING PAGE 101, BCP

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM PAGE 102, BCP

THE DISMISSAL PAGE 102, BCP

ORGAN POSTLUDE Improvisation on the Welsh hymn tune *Cwm Rhondda*
Paul Manz
(1919-2009)

All are welcome at the Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall after the service.

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church is a community church in an urban setting. Some of our neighbors are unhoused individuals, and those experiencing mental health or addiction issues. On occasion, someone may enter the church during a service and cause a distraction. We consider this an opportunity to share God's love for all people. Everyone is welcome at St. John's, and we offer whatever assistance we can provide.

TODAY'S GOSPEL IN OUR NORTH TRANSEPT WINDOW



LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK'S GOSPEL READING

The story involves two sisters and their brother, and they are represented in art in our church. Do you know who they might be?

DUNSTAN'S WORD OF THE DAY - EBENEZER אֲבֵנֶזֶר

Biblical Context:

In the Old Testament, specifically in 1 Samuel 7:12, Samuel erected a stone between Mizpah and Shen, naming it "Ebenezer," meaning "stone of help," to commemorate God's victory over the Philistines.

Symbolism:

The stone served as a tangible reminder of God's power and protection, marking the spot where the enemy had been defeated and God's promises were fulfilled.

Meaning and Usage:

The word "Ebenezer" has come to symbolize a monument or memorial to God's help, and it's also used as a male given name.

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE

- **Palm Sunday**, April 13, 10:30 AM – Holy Eucharist with Rev. Kathie Galicia
- **Bishop's Committee Meeting**, April 13
- **Maundy Thursday**, Service at 5:30 PM – Including the Washing of Feet, and the Stripping of the Altar.
- **Good Friday**, Service at 12:10 PM – The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday, which includes reading the Passion story from the Gospel of John, and ends with Stations of the Cross.
- **Easter Sunday**, April 20, 10:30 AM



Visit our Tithe.ly site to make online donations to St. John's. Scan this code with your phone or tablet, or enter the following in your browser. <https://bit.ly/3mswoLS>

COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

MONDAY, MARCH 31: **John Donne**, Priest and Poet, 1631.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1: **Frederick Denison Maurice**, Priest, 1872.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2: **James Lloyd Breck**, Priest, 1876.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3: **Richard of Chichester**, Bishop, 1253; and
Mary of Egypt, Monastic, c. 421.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4: **Martin Luther King, Jr.**, Pastor and Martyr, 1968.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5: **Harriet Starr Cannon**, Monastic, 1896.

ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

Praying for the 855 dioceses and 42 provinces of the Anglican Communion September 1, 2023 to December 31, 2026.

Sunday 30 March 2025 – 4th Sunday in Lent

Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

Monday 31 March 2025

The Diocese of Maryland – The Episcopal Church

Tuesday 1 April 2025

The Diocese of Masasi – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Wednesday 2 April 2025

The Diocese of Maseno East – The Anglican Church of Kenya

Thursday 3 April 2025

The Diocese of Maseno North – The Anglican Church of Kenya

Friday 4 April 2025

The Diocese of Maseno South – The Anglican Church of Kenya

Saturday 5 April 2025

The Diocese of Maseno West – The Anglican Church of Kenya

ST. JOHN'S SERVICES ARE ON YOUTUBE!

<https://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsEpiscopalChurchStockton>

Take a look, and Subscribe!

WEEKLY MINISTRIES OF ST. JOHN'S

The HUB, (Helping Urban Bicyclists) Tuesday to Thursday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

The HUB sponsors the **Mercy Pedalers**. A ministry of presence based on the Works of Mercy and powered by people who pedal three-wheel bicycles through the streets of Stockton connecting with people who are experiencing homelessness, sharing with them hot coffee, socks, hats, gloves, and toiletries. See Deacon Steve for additional information on this ministry.

UPLIFT ALL FOUNDATION: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

In the parking lot from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Mon-Fri, first come, first served, no charge.

- Loads of Hope Laundry Service
 - Splash of Hope Showers & Restrooms
 - Hope Connection Mobile Office
 - Haircuts on Tuesday
 - Hope Medical on Wednesday, ECM Provider HPSJ
 - Prescription Pick-up, 2:30-5:00 on Wednesday
 - San Joaquin County Services, Every 2nd Wednesday and 3rd Friday
 - Food and Clothing
 - Classes, Events and Festivals as announced
-

Charities where donations may be made for world relief:

Episcopal Relief and Development
The United Nations Refugee Agency
The United Nations Children's Fund
World Central Kitchen

<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/>
<https://www.unhcr.org/>
<https://www.unicef.org/>
<https://wck.org/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Stockton's historic Episcopal Church, founded in 1850 on land donated by Captain Weber, the founder of Stockton.

Part of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin
The Rt. Rev. David C. Rice, Bishop
The Rev. Canon Anna Carmichael, PhD
The Rev. Stephen Bentley, Deacon
Brother Dunstan Townsend, OSB, Organist
Skylar Carlson, PhD, Senior Warden

Church Message Phone: (209) 466-6916 or call the HUB when it's open. See below.

The HUB

(Helping Urban Bicyclists) on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/STOCKTONHUB
HUB Phone: (209) 663-9955
Tues Wed Thurs 10:00-4:00

www.stjohnsstockton.org
diosanjoaquin.org
www.anglicancommunion.org
St. John the Evangelist is on Facebook and YouTube.