



# St. John's

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH



God thinks you are fabulous,  
and so do we.

### **The First Sunday after Christmas**

December 31, 2023+Holy Eucharist+ Rite II, Prayer B

*Straight and gay, rich and poor, and every color and age, St John's is a place of Radical Kindness, warm and open Christ-Followers who celebrate God's grace and love and cherish one another. We are proud and grateful to serve as a "neighborhood church" for the tri-cities: College Park, East Point and Hapeville. Everyone needs a place to be cherished. We invite you to make St John's yours!*

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# WELCOME TO ST JOHN'S

**We are honored that you have chosen St. John's as your home for worship today.** We hope you will experience worship with your whole being. You might kneel, stand, pray, sing, listen, read, shake hands (or hug), eat, drink, sing, and even smell incense. Your presence here is all that is required for you to be in prayer and worship with us on this Lord's Day.

**Know that** there are no "mistakes" in worshipping God. Still, our worship here can be confusing. The bulletin was designed with you in mind, and most rubrics (directions) are in italics. If you find you're out of sync with whatever is going on, do not worry. To God, *all of it* is prayer.

**We celebrate the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel- "God With Us" during Christmas season.** We hope praying, singing, sharing the Eucharist, and being with God's Church is a great way to end your 2023. We hope to see you again soon at church or at one of our many community events in 2024. If you are visiting from out of town, we hope that when in Atlanta,, you will make St. John's your spiritual home.

**Please fill out a visitor card so we can get to know you and invite you into life together at St. John's.** St. John's is a small church with a very big heart that loves well and enjoys life together. We want to be known as a place that practices the radical kindness and hospitality of Jesus and where it is apparent that "God thinks you are fabulous - and so do we."

We will pray for you and we hope to get to know you today. Please say hello and after church come have some coffee in the Hospitality Suite with us.

## Peace

Tim+  
The Reverend Tim Black  
Priest-in-Charge  
St John's, College Park

**Processional Hymn- *Joy to the World- Blue Hymnal 100***

**Celebrant:** Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Congregation:** *And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever, AMEN.*

**Celebrant and Congregation** pray, together:

**The Collect for Purity :** 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.*

**Song of Praise- Chorus from Angels We Have Heard on High.**

*Gloria, in excelsis deo*

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**Congregation:** *And also with you.*

**Celebrant:** Let us pray. Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*The congregation is seated.*

**FIRST READING : Isaiah 61:10--62:3:**

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**Reader :** The Word of the Lord.

**Congregation:** *Thanks be to God.*

**Second Reading : Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7.**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer

subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

**Reader** : The Word of the Lord.

**Congregation:** *Thanks be to God.*

*Please stand, as able, for the hymn and Gospel reading.*

**SEQUENCE SONG: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing***      *Blue Hymnal 87*

**Celebrant:** The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to John.

**Congregation:** Glory to you, Lord Christ.

**John 1:1-18:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**Celebrant::** The Gospel of the Lord

**Congregation:** Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**THE HOMILY-** The Rev. Tim Black

*The congregation stands for the Nicene Creed.*

**THE NICENE CREED:** 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.

*Remain standing or kneel for the Prayers of the People.*

#### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

***Celebrant:*** For what and for whom do we give thanks today?

*The congregation is invited to add your prayers, thanksgivings, and blessings either out loud or silently.*

***Intercessor:*** Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

***Congregation:*** *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;

*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;

*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.*

We pray today for Barbarine Thorpe, Claude Lindsey, Frank Harrell, Melissa Brady, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Linda Brown, Vicky Tucker, Mike Spring, Pastor Jeffrey Halenza, Fonda Howland, and Charles Howland. Bring them healing and peace. Have compassion on all who suffer from any grief or trouble;

*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.*

**Celebrant:** Hasten, O God, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Celebrant and People:** *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.*

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

## THE PEACE

**Celebrant:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

We conclude the Passing of the Peace by singing:

*God is so good (3X) God's so good to me.*

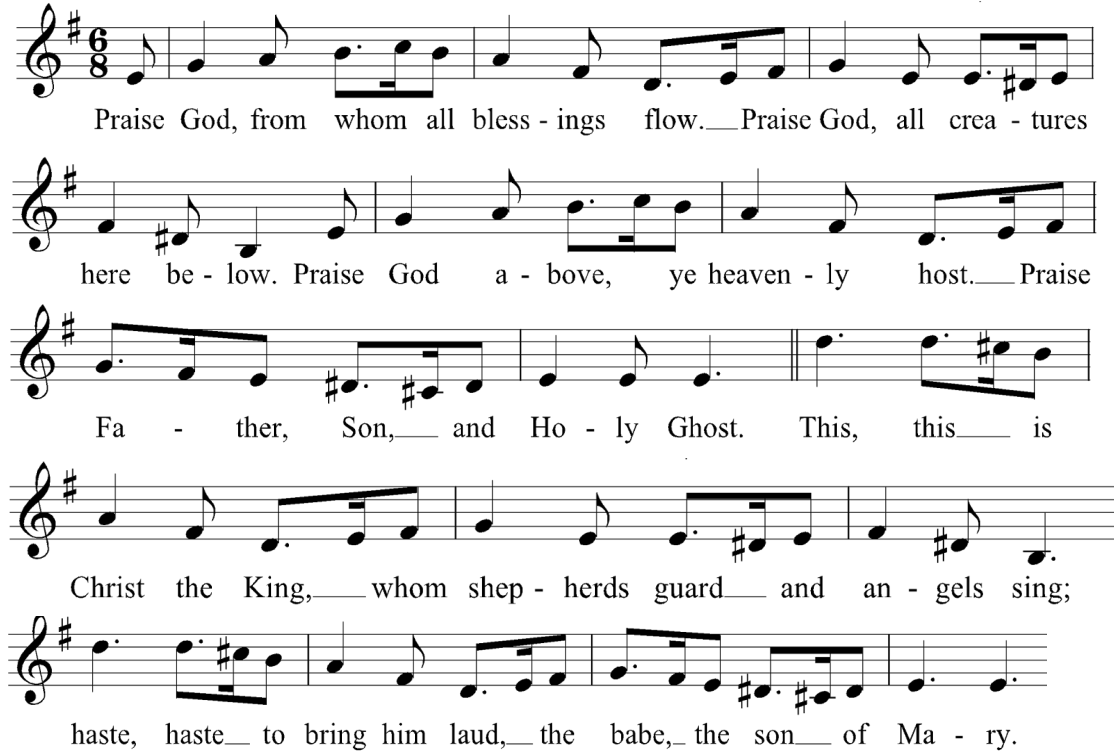
## ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

### The Holy Communion

**OFFERTORY HYMN-** *Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming* - *Blue Hymnal 81*  
*The congregation stands as the offering is brought forward.*

**DOXOLOGY-** *Tune, Greensleeves, trad.*



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures  
here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. This, this is  
Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

### The Great Thanksgiving

*The People remain standing.*

*Celebrant* *People*  
 The Lord be with you And al- so with you

*Celebrant* *People*  
 Lift up your hearts We lift them to the Lord

*Celebrant*  
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

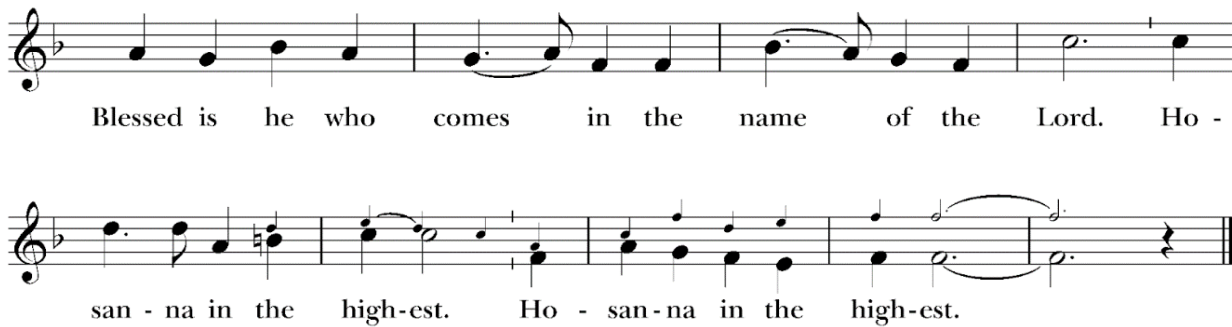
*People*  
 It is right to give God thanks and praise

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God,, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*The cantor will sing the starting pitch, and the congregation sings, accompanied by the shruti box.*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.





**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 God--

**Celebrant and People:** We remember Christ's death, We proclaim Christ's resurrection, We await Christ's 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 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 Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. *AMEN.*

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

*People and Celebrant*



Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed  
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our  
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,  
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead  
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us  
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,  
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

**Celebrant:** Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People:** Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

**Celebrant:** 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. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome at God's table.

**DISTRIBUTION INSTRUCTIONS:** *We share communion in both kinds available by either intinction (dipping the host in wine) or drinking from the common cup. Hold out one hand for bread only, two hands for bread and wine, or put your hands in a prayer position for a blessing. For healing prayers, simply remain at the rail after receiving and we will pray for you. If you cannot come to the rail, a Eucharistic Minister will bring communion to you.*

**COMMUNION HYMN**      ***The King of Love My Shepherd Is***    *Blue Hymnal -645*

*The people stand or kneel, as able.*

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

**Celebrant and People:** *Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, God, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior. To Christ, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.*

*The Celebrant blesses the people.*

**POST-COMMUNION HYMN:** *Arise and Shine - Voices Found- 156*



1 A - rise and shine, the pro - phet sang;  
2 God's ris - ing sun will light the way,  
3 You will not need the sun by day



your light has come, the mes - sage rang.  
as peo - ple stream to dawn - ing's ray.  
nor moon by night, to light - your way;



The shroud of dark - ness stripped a - way,  
Your o - pen gates will nev - er close,  
God's glo - ry and e - ter - nal might



God's glo - ry brings a bright new day.  
in bus' - ling day or night's re - pose.  
will be your ev - er - last - ing light.

**Celebrant:** Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord, alleluia, alleluia

**People:** *Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.*

**Join us for coffee hour after the service in the Hospitality Suite. Go through the doors on the left at the front of the church and across the hall.**



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Wednesday Night Supper & Bible Study** are taking a break until January 10, 2024.

**Thanks to everyone who brought gifts for Emmaus House.**

**Subscribe to Eagle Notes:** at [www.stjohnscollegepark.org](http://www.stjohnscollegepark.org), scroll to the bottom of the homepage, and click the link to sign up. [nscollegepark.org](http://nscollegepark.org)

**Online Prayer and Fellowship Groups:** "Second Cup" – fellowship time- Mondays 11:00 AM – Noon – 869 7767 5734 Password: 752305 / Morning Prayer on Zoom Tuesday and Thursday- 10 AM - Meeting ID: Meeting ID: 869 7767 5734 Password: 752305 / Compline Night Prayer Thursday – 7:00 pm Meeting ID: 843 7684 4017 Password: 848486

**Make Prayer Requests Online:** <https://forms.gle/UTa6iMfrukh furgD8>

**Please send in your pledges for 2024.** It is never too late to pledge.. Fill out a pledge card at church or download one on our homepage at [www.stjohnscollegepark.org](http://www.stjohnscollegepark.org). Everyone on the mailing list got a pledge card in the mail, but if you need another, please email [info@stjohnscollegepark.org](mailto:info@stjohnscollegepark.org) and we will send you one. **Give by Texting-** Just text 73256 and enter our code 3480. You will be taken to the giving page where you can make your selections.

### Vestry

Daniel Hudson, Hospitality  
Archie Polk, Evangelism  
Michael Proscia, Jr. Warden  
Pat Roberts, Sr. Warden  
Val Valverde, Worship & Music  
Sherran Davis, Clerk  
Richard Pflieger, Treasurer