



St. John's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 1, 2026



*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Betsy Payson in honor of her family and friends.
The flowers are arranged by Theresa Butler.*

ST. JOHN'S CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Ripp Hardaway, Rector
The Rev. Matthew Bloss, Associate Priest
Riva Heron, Seminarian
Jenny Montgomery, Executive Assistant to the Rector
Desiree Moultrie, Finance & Operations
Grace Symmons, Communications
Valerie Thompson, Music & Organist
Ben Sykora, AV Tech Lead

Kelly Jackson, Family Ministry & Parish Life
Marjorie Nolan, Children's Ministry & Events
Lauren Koops, Assistant Youth Minister
Cade Norman, Youth Intern
Mishi Turlapati, Youth Intern
Emily Lehmuth, Nursery Care
Art Gonzales, Sexton
James Bangert, Assistant Sexton

WORSHIP MINISTERS

	8:45 a.m.	11 a.m.
Acolytes	John Michael & Mary Elizabeth Douglas, Brandon Hartman	Luke, Ellie, & Tyler Francis
Altar Guild	Alice Jewell, Val Felger	Marie Fedrick, Marjorie Nolan, Veronica Crolley
Greeters	Thomas Metzler, Sarah Reeves	Liz Carlson, Janie Stewart
Lay Readers	Jeff Jewell, Bob Blagg	Adrian Quintanilla & Eduardo Sanchez-Quintanilla
Ushers	Will Brown, Randy Staats	John & Linda Howe
Children's Chapel	Marjorie Nolan, Winnie Nolan	Marjorie Nolan

PRELUDE | O Bread of Life from Heaven – Raymond H. Haan

OPENING HYMN | Christ for the World We Sing!

Hymn 537

THE ACCLAMATION

BCP p. 355

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

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP p. 355

Together 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.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Children, preschool through 3rd grade, are invited to follow the Child Crucifer to Children's Chapel during the Song of Praise.

SONG OF PRAISE | Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord (*Venite*)

Hymn S 35

**Hymn numbers beginning with an S indicate Service Music, found at the front of The Hymnal 1982.*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP p. 215

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING | Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord." "With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 15 | *Read responsively by whole verse.*

BCP p. 599

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?

2 **Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.**

3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

4 **In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the Lord.**

5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.

6 **He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.**

7 **Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.**

SECOND READING | 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL HYMN | Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace (v 1-3)

Hymn 593

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

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

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

GOSPEL HYMN | Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace (v 4-5)

Hymn 593

SERMON

The Rev. Ripp Hardaway

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

written by Stacey Griffin and Fr. Matthew Bloss

Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

For the Universal Church, for the gift of spiritual growth and the real moments of transformation that come through the disciplines of prayer, reflection and worship, equipping us to do the work you have given us to do.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the people of this land, and of all the nations, that we would pursue the ways of justice and peace; that we all might honor one another and serve the common good.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the whole earth, that the worship, teaching and community that comes with growing up in the church would inspire all peoples to continually strive to make room at your table for all generations to come.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the friends, companions, and neighbors who walk beside us in this life, offering us encouragement, wisdom and care and enabling us to become people committed to growing your Table by sharing that same compassion and comfort with others.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For those in trouble and great need, that you would bless the hearts and hands at work in our community. Keep us mindful that the impact of service is never one-way, but provides us an opportunity to deepen our faith, broaden our understanding and strengthen the pillars of your Table.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Silence.

Celebrant Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP p. 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY DUET | For the Beauty of the Earth – John Rutter

Becky Luft & Denise Marshall, sopranos

*For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

DOXOLOGY | Praise to God, Immortal Praise

Hymn 288, v 1

*Praise to God, immortal praise, for the love that crowns our days;
Bounteous source of every joy, let thy praise our tongues employ:
All to thee, our God, we owe, source whence all our blessings flow. Amen.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B; BCP p. 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.**

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.

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:

**Hymn numbers beginning with an S indicate Service Music, found at the front of The Hymnal 1982.*

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow-er and might,
Hea-ven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

(The people stand or kneel.)

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 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 pray:

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

FRACTION ANTHEM | Lamb of God – David Hurd

Hymn S 161

**Hymn numbers beginning with an S indicate Service Music, found at the front of The Hymnal 1982.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant... us peace.*

THE INVITATION

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.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

BCP p. 365

During communion, prayer teams are available to pray with you in the alcoves on either side of the altar.

COMMUNION MUSIC | Now the Silence / One Bread, One Body – arr. John Carter

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BCP p. 365

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.

SENDING FORTH EUCHARISTIC VISITOR(S)

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that [*N.* and] all those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

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

THE BLESSING

May Christ, the Son of God, who calls us to make room at the Table, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN | O Zion, Haste, Thy Mission High Fulfilling

Hymn 539

THE DISMISSAL

BCP p. 366

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

POSTLUDE | Praise to the Lord, the Almighty – Johann Gottfried Walther

Valerie Thompson, Organist

ANNOUNCEMENTS



- visitor connection card
- event info and sign ups
- latest eNews
- worship bulletin PDF
- ...and more!

Day-by-Day devotional books for February - April are available in the Narthex.

Sunday School and Christian Education Classes for all ages | TODAY at 10 a.m.

- Sunday School for Pre-K through 12th Grade - Education Wing
- May Your Lent Be Merry - Parish Hall
- Welcome to the Episcopal Church/Newcomer's Class - Multipurpose Room
- Parenting Perspectives - Conference Room

Newcomers' Dinner | TODAY at 4:30 p.m. at the Lowe's home *Learn more and RSVP in the Church Center app*

SOS Food Bank Workday | Wednesday, February 4 from 1 - 4 p.m. at 256 W. Merriweather

Join us as we serve our neighbors and support the work of the SOS Food Bank. Contact Bob Wells at 713-822-6151 or blabwells@gmail.com for more information.

MAKING MORE
ROOM
at the
TABLE

Capital Campaign Commitment Sunday | February 8 at both services

We will bring our commitment cards forward and place them on God's altar. If you are unable to attend church that day, commitments may be made at stjohnsnb.com/capitalcampaign, by mailing a card to the church office, or by emailing Desiree Moultrie, Director of Finance and Operations.

Teen Boys' Fellowship Parent Meeting | February 8 at 10 a.m. | Middle School Sunday School Room

Parents of boys in grades 6-12 are invited to meet with Fr. Matthew and Cade to help shape a new Teen Boys' Fellowship. After the strong response to 2nd Sunday for girls, we're building the same kind of community for our boys.

Beauty from Ashes Widow's Valentine Tea Party | Sunday, February 8 from 2 - 4 p.m. | NB Civic Center

This is a free community event for widows. Learn more and RSVP by TODAY at beautyfromashesministry.com.

Lunch Bunch | Wednesday, February 11 at 11 a.m. | McAdoo's (196 N. Castell Ave., New Braunfels)

Join us for good food and great fellowship with friends from St. John's. Contact Pete Meaden at 832-689-8957 or pete.meaden@outlook.com with any questions. Upcoming Lunch Bunch dates: March 11, April 8, and May 13.

Men of St. John's | Sunday, February 15 from 2 - 4 p.m. at Sip N Putt (7420 N. IH-35 Frontage Rd., Exit 195)

Join the Men of St. John's for an afternoon of miniature golf and good fellowship as we spend time together ahead of the season of Lent. Cost is \$15 per person. Please RSVP in the Church Center app.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner | Tuesday, February 17 from 5:30-7 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Enjoy a catered pancake dinner, Children's Mardi Gras March, Pancake Flipping Contest, and fellowship for all! No RSVP needed. \$5/person optional donation. Contact Marjorie Nolan (marjorie@stjohnsnb.com) for volunteer opportunities.

Ash Wednesday Services | Wednesday, February 18 at 12 p.m. (spoken) and 6:30 p.m. (sung, with Worship Choir)

The first of the forty days of Lent, Ash Wednesday is named for the custom of placing blessed ashes on foreheads of attendees as a sign of penitence and a reminder of mortality.

Women's Fellowship Gathering | Thursday, Feb. 19 at 6 p.m. | Sidecar at Prince Solms Inn *Happy Hour until 7 p.m.*

Women of St. John's are invited to come out for fun, music, small bites, and your favorite cocktail or mocktail.

St. John's Annual Day of Spiritual Retreat | Saturday, February 21 | Comal County Senior Center (710 Landa)

May Your Lent Be Merry!, led by the Rev. Mary Earle. The day will include a continental breakfast, teaching, and a simple Lenten lunch. Childcare will be available at St. John's. Visit the Church Center app to learn more and register.

Confirmation Gathering | Sunday, February 22 at 10 a.m. in the Middle School Classroom

Youth who have completed confirmation preparation but have not yet been confirmed, as well as those interested in confirmation, are invited. This time together will prepare us for the Bishop's visit, and confirmation, on March 8.

Healing Service & Holy Eucharist | February 24 at 6:30 p.m. *Submit prayer requests at stjohnsnb.com/healingservice*

Family Faith Night | Wednesdays from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., February 25 - March 25 in the Parish Hall

Spend Lent with your church family as we explore seven types of prayer from the Book of Common Prayer. All are welcome. Children's programming and nursery care will be available. Please RSVP in the Church Center app.