



St. John's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 8, 2026



*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God with much love to Kern on his 90th birthday
from Becky, Stephanie, Erick, and Henry Court.
The flowers are arranged by Allison Ludington and the St. John's Flower Guild.*

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.
Acolytes	Peter & Jane Jewell, Elijah Jackson
Altar Guild	Karen Shumway, Andrea Brotze
Greeters	Cherie & John Kittle
Lay Readers	Tracey Koast, Becky Huff
Ushers	Sandy Payson, Alice Jewell
Children's Chapel	Marjorie Nolan, Volunteer Crucifer

	11 a.m.
	Ainsley Englefield, Olivia Carlson, Curtis Parchman
	Janie Stewart, Marjaana Cich
	Dave & Ginga Golson
	Larry Shumway, Paul Drake
	Jeffrey Bloss, Ram Meredith
	Marjorie Nolan, Winnie Nolan

PRELUDE | Prelude on *Rhosymedre* (“Lovely”) – Ralph Vaughan Williams
Though I May Speak (*O Waly, Waly*) – Dale Wood

OPENING HYMN | Thy Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness

Hymn 381

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.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING | Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let “the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

1 Hallelujah!
Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!

**2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.

**4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.

**6 For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the Lord.

**8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

9 They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

**10 The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

SECOND READING | 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

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

GOSPEL HYMN | Where Charity and Love Prevail (v 1-3)

Hymn 581

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:13-20

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven

and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

GOSPEL HYMN | Where Charity and Love Prevail (v 4-6)

Hymn 581

SERMON

The Rev. Ripp Hardaway

NICENE CREED

BCP p. 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.

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 | Come to the Table – Allen Pote

Worship Choir

Come, come, come to the table and bring your joy, bring all your gladness and come, come, come to the table. Eat the bread, drink the wine, come rejoice in the Lord.

Bring all your sorrow, bring all your pain, bring all the heartaches you bear. Bring who you are and hope to become, come to the table to share.

Come, come, come to the table, remember Christ, remember his love when you come, come, come to the table. Come in faith, come to serve, come rejoice in the Lord.

Share in the bread, share in the wine, share in the risen Lord. Share as a family, one in community, one in the name of the Lord.

Come, come, come to the table to follow Christ forgiven and free, you must come, come, come to the table. Come in faith, come in love, come, rejoice in the Lord.

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.*

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:

SANCTUS | Holy, Holy, Holy Lord – David Hurd

Hymn S 124

**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

God of Mercy, God of Grace

Hymn 538

When We Are Living/Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love – 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 | Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord

Hymn 438

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 | Prelude in Classic Style – Gordon Young

Valerie Thompson, Organist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Share Your Musical Gifts in Our Upcoming Worship Services

Fr. Matthew and the Third Service Committee are gathering a list of musicians willing to share their time and talent as we explore ways to offer different worship opportunities. Use the survey at the QR code to indicate your interest in learning more.

Teen Boys' Fellowship Parent Meeting | TODAY at 10 a.m.

Parents of boys in grades 6–12 are invited to meet with Fr. Matthew and Cade in the Middle School classroom to help shape a new Teen Boys' Fellowship.

Lunch Bunch | Wednesday, February 11 at 11 a.m. at McAdoo's

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. | \$15 per person

Sip N Putt (7420 N. IH-35 Frontage Rd., Exit 195) *RSVP in Church Center app*
Join the Men of St. John's for an afternoon of miniature golf and good fellowship.

The Church Office will be closed Monday, 2/16 in observance of Presidents' Day

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

Join us in the Parish Hall for a catered pancake dinner, Children's Mardi Gras March, Pancake Flipping Contest, and more! No RSVP needed. \$5/person donation.
Contact Marjorie Nolan (marjorie@stjohnsnb.com) for volunteer opportunities.

Ash Wednesday Services | Wednesday, February 18 | 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.

Holy Land Trip Q&A with Fr. Ripp | Sunday, February 22 at 5 p.m. on Zoom

Join to learn more about attending the trip on December 27 - January 7. Find Zoom call details in the eNews!

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.

Diocesan Council | February 26 - 28, 2026 in Corpus Christi *Learn more at dwtx.org/council*

Children & Youth Community Yard Sale | Saturday, March 21 | 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. *Volunteers needed!*

Families of children and youth are invited to clean out children's toys, books, and closets for the sale. Proceeds support the Capital Campaign on behalf of our youngest members. Donations are accepted Sunday, March 15, and Friday, March 20, 3:30–6:30 p.m. at the nursery entrance. Contact Marjorie or Emily for more details.

Upcoming Baptism Dates: Easter Sunday (April 5) and Pentecost Sunday (May 24)

Contact Jenny (jenny@stjohnsnb.com) if you are interested in baptism for yourself or your child.



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

SUNDAY SCHOOL and CHRISTIAN EDUCATION *Sundays at 10 a.m.*

Sunday School: Pre-K - 12th
Education Wing

**Welcome to the Episcopal
Church/Newcomer's Class**
Multipurpose Room

May Your Lent Be Merry
Parish Hall

Parenting Perspectives
Conference Room

WE ARE HIRING!
Communications Assistant
stjohnsnb.com/hiring