



**ST. JOHN'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
JACKSON HOLE

DECEMBER 24, 2025  
THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY  
6:00 P.M. HOLY EUCHARIST



W. T. Mars (American, 1912–1985), *Adoration*, 1967, Acrylic on canvas

### **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

Thank you for joining us at Christmas. If you are visiting us today, please know you are warmly welcomed into the life of our loving parish. We're happy you are here, and we are grateful that you've chosen to connect with God in Jackson Hole in our midst. Sometimes visitors can be a bit nervous about receiving communion in a new church.

Let us assure you, whether you are new to receiving communion or just new to receiving it here at St. John's, you can't do it wrong. Just follow the crowd. Ushers are always happy to give you direction. You may receive the bread only or both the bread and the wine. You may dip your bread in the chalice of wine or drink from the chalice.

Again, it's impossible to mess up! You can't do it wrong. If you are looking for a church to call home, you've found one in which you are warmly welcomed, and we look forward to getting to know you!

## PRELUDE

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Wilbur Held

## OPENING HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” vs. 1, 3, 6, The Hymnal 83

*The People stand as able for the Hymn and opening*

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing;

## THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant*

The glory of God has been revealed.

*People*

**And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, you have given us a new revelation of your loving providence in the Coming of your Son Jesus Christ to be born of the Virgin Mary: Grant that as he shared our mortality, so we may share his eternity in the glory of your kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**



## GATHERING HYMN

“Angels We Have Heard on High” vs. 1-3, The Hymnal 96

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## THE CHRISTMAS ACCLAMATION

*Celebrant*

Blessed are you, holy and living God.

*People*

**You come to set your people free.**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light:

Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### THE LESSONS

*The People may be seated*

#### A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

**ISAIAH 9:2-7**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*Lector*

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

## SEQUENCE HYMN

*The People stand as able for the hymn*

“Joy to the world” vs. 1, 4, The Hymnal 100

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the  
ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and  
heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 2:1-20

*Deacon*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Deacon*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## THE SERMON

Jimmy Bartz

*The People may be seated*

*A moment of silence will be observed for reflection after the sermon*



## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The Intercessor and People pray responsively, standing or kneeling*

Beloved friends, in the peace of God, all the gifts we give and receive in these days are but small tokens of the gift that shines forth in God's word made flesh this day. From grateful hearts let us pray for all who find themselves longing for this deepest, truest gift, saying: O God, in your goodness, hear our prayer.

That the peace proclaimed by angels in the shepherd's field might be realized on every field of war and on every street of violence, O God, in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

That the child born to us might find in our hearts warm welcome by our openness and responsiveness to the needs of the unhoused and the hungry, O God, in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

That in this time of giving we might become more loving to the lonely, the despairing, and those who are grieving, O God, in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

That the rejoicing of this day might be a bond leading us to true communion of life and praise, O God, in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

That the joy and consolation of the Wonderful Counselor might enliven all who are suffering from injury, disease or illness, O God, in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially those on our prayer list, and those we now name:

*People may add their petitions silently or aloud at this time.*

O God, in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, especially those we name before you:

*People may add their petitions silently or aloud at this time.*

O God, in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

That the blessed hope we celebrate this day might be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us in faith, O God, in your goodness, **hear our prayer.**

God of light and of love, you have pierced the quiet of this day by the utterance of your word made flesh. May our words of praise and petition be strong echoes of your Christmas Word, so that all might come to the peace you promise in Jesus, who we know to be love, this day and forever. **Amen.**



## THE PEACE

*The People stand as able*

*Celebrant*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The People may be seated. Please see Revelations Newsletter for a more in-depth look at what is happening in and around the parish.*

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## OFFERTORY

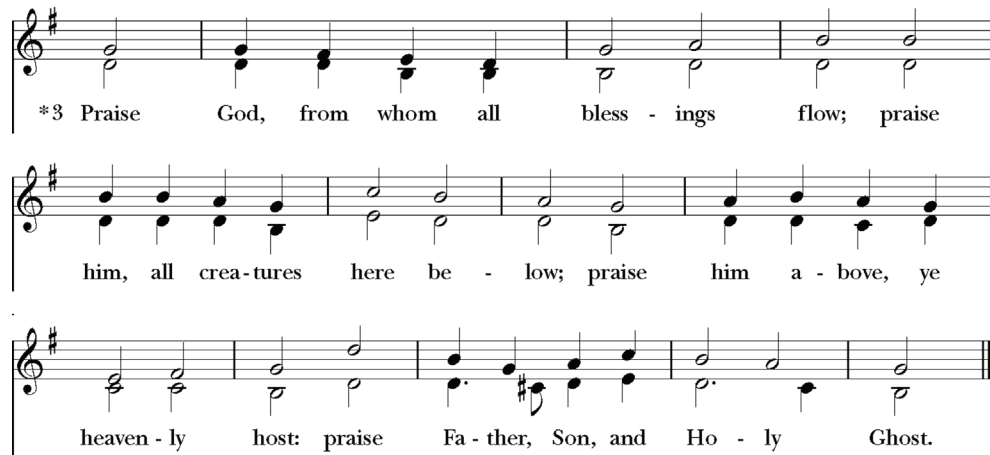
“Where Shepherds Lately Knel’t” Carl Schalk

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel’s word,  
I come in half belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred,  
But there is room and welcome there for me.  
In that unlikely place I find him as they said:  
Sweet newborn babe, how frail, and in a manger bed,  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.  
How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,  
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.  
Can I, will I forget how love was born, and burned  
Its way into my heart: unasked, unforced, unearned,  
To die, to live, and not alone for me.

## PRESENTATION HYMN

“From All that Dwell Below the Skies” v. 3, The Hymnal 380

*The People stand as able*



## GREAT THANKSGIVING

WYOMING EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*The People remain standing*

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	<b>And also with you.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	<b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	<b>It is right to give God thanks and praise.</b>

We thank you, Creator God, that we live in a place where the glorious revelation of you is all around us. The prairie bursts with song from wind and birds and waving grasses. The abundance of animals roaming freely reminds us of our own freedom and the many ways you provide sustenance in your kingdom. From the depths of the ocean floor, you lifted your massive mountains and pointed them toward the heavens.

We, like your Son, our Lord, are called to these high places to get away and rest in communion with you. We marvel as we wander through stately pines and twirling aspens along the creeks, where trout dance on their tails above the rocks, and deer and elk sip from the water’s edge. And we remember that you have given us the Living Water to quench our thirst. Our spirit is refreshed and our strength renewed.

We welcome the passing of seasons in broad circles of time, with anticipation of new things to come, and we recognize that same feeling of hope that encircles our faith. Our lives are lived between sunrises and sunsets and brilliant colors. But at night, the limitless stars have a way of pushing back the boundaries of our lives and we dream of heaven and your wonder.

And with all these blessings of your creation around us, O God, we come together in communities on the prairie, by rivers and streams, on mountain tops, and in their shadows in the valley, to receive your Word, which has been sown in rich soil and grown into a fruitful crop in the Body of Christ.

And so we join with saints and angels in proclaiming your glory, as we sing,

## SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord” The Hymnal S130

*The Celebrant and the People sing together*

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - sann - na in the high - est." The score ends with a double bar line.

*The People kneel or stand as the Celebrant continues*

As we gather to praise your name, we see your greatest glory, your Son our Savior, reflected in each other's faces and we know the magnitude of your love for us and ours for you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends.

He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.

Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time, bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

*Celebrant  
& People*

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*As the Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread, a period of silence is kept*

“Jesus Lamb of God” The Hymnal S164

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

*Celebrant*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All are welcome to receive communion in this parish. If it's your first time to receive communion or the first time in this church, the most important thing to know is it's impossible to do it wrong! We're glad you're joining us. You may kneel or stand as you approach the communion rail. Place your hands together and clergy will place the wafer in your palm. You may eat the bread and receive communion as bread alone. You may dip the bread in the wine chalice (there's a fancy word for this—intinction) or you may drink from the chalice. In that act of receiving communion, we remember the life and teachings of Jesus, along with his death and resurrection, AND it's something we do TOGETHER in order to remember we are all connected—communing with one another through this life and what's to come.*



# COMMUNION HYMNS

*The People are invited to sing*

“I Wonder as I Wander” John Jacob Niles, Eric Woodson, Soloist

“O little town of Bethlehem” vs. 1, 2, 3, 5, The Hymnal 79

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.  
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

“What Child is this, who, laid to rest” vs. 1-3, The Hymnal 115

*Unison or harmony*

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for  
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

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.

## LIGHTING OF THE PEOPLE'S CANDLES

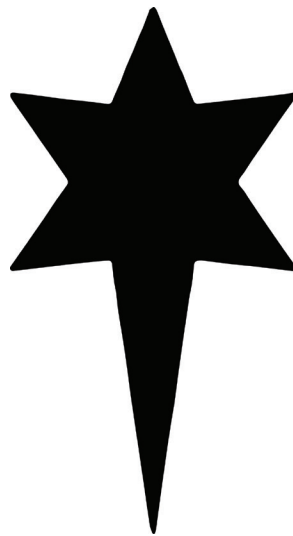
*The altar servers, choir members, and acolytes will pass the light to worshipers in the pews.*

## POST COMMUNION HYMN

*The People are invited to sing*

“Silent Night” vs. 1-3, The Hymnal 111

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,  
all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,  
Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy  
peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.



## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*The People kneel or stand as able*

*Celebrant  
& People*

Let us pray.

**Most loving God, creator and redeemer, we give thanks for this foretaste of your glory. Through Christ and with all your saints, we offer ourselves and our lives to your service. Send us out in the power of your Spirit, to stand with you in your world. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the servant, our friend and brother. Amen.**

## BLESSING

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" vs. 1-3, The Hymnal 87

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!  
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty.  
Risen with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
hail, the Sun of Right-eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*  
Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!

## THE DISMISSAL

*As the procession passes down the aisle, you are invited to face the doors of the church for the Dismissal*

*Deacon*

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

## POSTLUDE

"God Rest You Merry Gentlemen" Wilbur Held

*The altar flowers and many poinsettias are in loving memory of Bob and Dine Dellenback,  
given by Martha Dellenback and Derrie Parker.*



**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!**

**To learn more about St. John's Episcopal Church go to our website, [stjohnsjackson.org](http://stjohnsjackson.org).**

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The Reverend Jimmy Bartz, Rector

The Reverend Mary Erickson

The Reverend Suzanne Harris

The Reverend Dr. Travis Helms

The Reverend Brian Nystrom

The Reverend Dr. Christie Laughery, Deacon

Ron Fabry, Music Director

St. John's Choir

Eric Woodson, Soloist

Robyn Reed, Director of Operations

Haley Ross, Director of Communications & Events

Chandler Billingham, Executive Assistant

Jean Williams, Administrative Assistant to the Associate Clergy and General Office

Dan Potter, Sexton

Lonnie Brown, Browse 'N Buy Manager

Rob Kass, Annie Sampson, JR Dalby, Matthew Lee, John Millar, Greyson Smith, Audiovisual Team

Brad Flynt, Vestry Senior Warden

Carol Owens, Junior Warden

Leo Gutierrez, Treasurer

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Rick Manning, Hadyn Peery, Anne Rutherford, Nancy Vick, M.E. Weber