



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 9, 2025

8:00am In Person Worship

10:15am Online/In Person Worship

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ROYAL OAK MI

St. John's Welcome Statement



Welcome! We are St. John's, a parish that invites you to be a part of our community and warmly embraces you when you do.

At St. John's, our history has taught us that accepting and embracing true diversity is challenging. As a result, we have come to claim a firm, undying commitment to inclusion. So here is our invitation to you: regardless of your cultural background, ethnicity, gender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or heterosexual identity, economic status, physical or cognitive ability – you will not be labeled, singled out or excluded here. You will be welcomed, affirmed, embraced and celebrated! We will be better because you are here.

Adopted by unanimous vote at St. John's Annual Meeting, January 31, 2016

EMBRACING THE WILDERNESS: A JOURNEY OF LENT

This year, as we navigate a series of transitions in our lives, our parish, and our nation, we invite you to reflect on the journey of the people of God through the wilderness. After being delivered from enslavement in Egypt, the Israelites wandered through the desert for 40 years. The wilderness tested their resolve, their patience, their sense of identity, and their trust in their destination. And yet, God showed up there, constantly and miraculously providing bread, water, protection, and presence.

This Lent, as we lament what has gone wrong and what is missing, let us also search the ways God shows up in the wilderness of our lives. We invite you to visit and meditate at the Intercessory in the West Transept before or after the services. We invite you to join us on Wednesdays for dinner, fellowship and meditation/contemplation in our program called "Soup and Stillness: A Lenten Journey Through the Wilderness." Finally, we invite you to come on Sundays in Lent, hear the stories of the wilderness, and be strengthened by being in communion with God and this community. May we allow ourselves this Lent to go into the unknown of the wilderness and trust to find God's presence there.

Everyone is Welcome! Everyone Belongs!

Young Children – *with all their sounds and wiggles* – are very welcome in this church! If you are here for the first time, please help us to get to know you by signing our Guest Book (clipboard in the entry of the church) and/or filling out a yellow card found in each pew. Place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher. We are so pleased that you are here and want to do everything we can to help you make the most of St. John's Episcopal Church and its resources for your spiritual journey.

All are welcome to communion, where we share one bread, one body. To facilitate this, our communion bread is all Gluten Free. All are welcome to St. John's programs and events.

All hymns © All rights reserved # A-709760

PRELUDE

THE WORD OF GOD

At the ringing of the bell, the people stand, and the presider says, from the back of the church:

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Almighty God, we pray you graciously to look upon us, and behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was tested, betrayed, suffered, and died; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People **We are all your children. You have called us by name, and we wait anxiously for renewal with faith in your eternal presence. Accomplish in us the work of your salvation. Amen.**

GREAT LITANY

Cantor

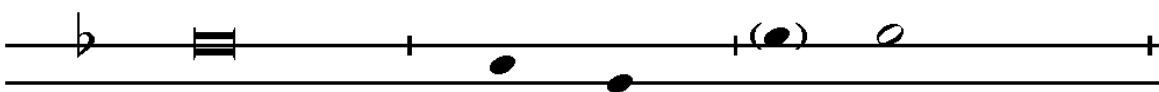
Response


I
Holy God, Creator of heaven and | earth,
Have | mer-cy on | us.

Holy and Mighty, Redeemer of the | world,
Have | mer-cy on | us.

Holy Immortal One, Sanctifier of the | faithful,
Have | mer-cy on | us.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, One | God,
Have | mer-cy on | us.

Cantor 

Response 

II
 From all evil; from arrogance, vanity and hypocrisy; from envy, and malice; and
 from all e- | vil in- | tent,

Sav-ior de- | liver us.

From worldliness and love of money; from making idols of wealth and success,
 from hardness of heart and contempt | for your | word,

Sav-ior de- | liver us.

From violence, bigotry, cruelty, and hatred; and from all things that separate us
 | from our | neighbors,

Sav-ior de- | liver us.

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy; in the hour of our death and at the
 | day of | judgment,

Sav-ior de- | liver us.

III

Govern and direct your holy Church; fill it with love and truth; and grant it that
 unity which | is your | will,

Hear us, O | Christ.

Be present with the whole human family, and especially with the people | of St. |
 John's,

Hear us O | Christ.

Give grace to bishops, priests, and deacons, and all lay people in their ministries to
 witness to your word, and bring forth the fruit | of your | Spirit.

Hear us, O | Christ.

Bring into the way of truth, all who have erred or who have | been de- | ceived.

Hear us, O | Christ.

Cantor 

Response 

IV

Guide and inspire the leaders of all nations and all in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the | ways of | truth.

Hear us, O | Christ

That it may please you to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom up- | on all | peoples.

Hear us, O | Christ

Awaken our wonder for the earth, and give us the will to care for its resources to your glory and for the | good of | all.

Hear us O | Christ.

Bless and | keep your | people.

Hear us O | Christ.

V

Comfort and liberate the lonely, the bereaved and | the op- | pressed.

Hear us, O | Christ.

Heal the sick in body, mind or spirit and provide for the homeless, the hungry | and the | destitute.

Hear us, O | Christ.

Guard and protect all children who | are in | danger.

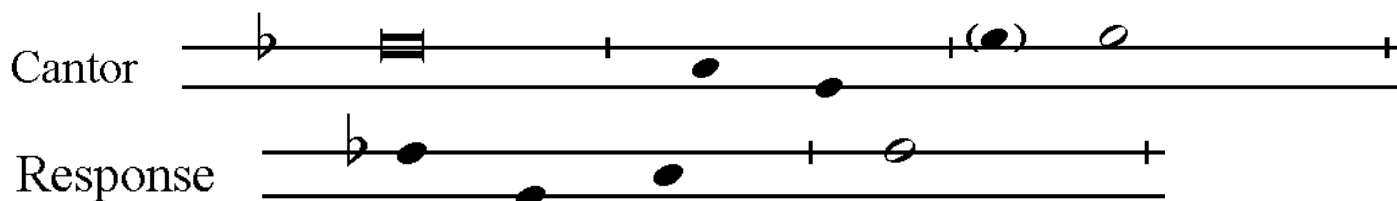
Hear us, O | Christ.

Show your compassion on prisoners, hostages and refugees and all who | are in | trouble.

Hear us, O | Christ.

Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers, and | turn their | hearts.

Hear us, O | Christ.



Hear us as we remember those who have †died and grant us with them a share in your e- | ter-nal | glory.

Hear us, O | Christ.

Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your holy spirit to amend our lives according | to your | Word.

Hear us, O | Christ.

THE SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Presider †Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord.



A - men.

The people remain standing.

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are seated

THE FIRST LESSON

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Lector A Reading from Deuteronomy

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16

- 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, *
abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 You shall say to the LORD,
"You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
my God in whom I put my trust."

- 9 Because you have made the LORD your refuge, *
and the Most High your habitation,
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.
- 11 For God shall give the holy angels charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; *
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.
- 14 Because they are bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver them; *
I will protect them, because they know my name.
- 15 They shall call upon me, and I will answer them; *
I am with them in trouble;
I will rescue them and bring them to honor.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy them, *
and show them my salvation.

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 10:8b-13

Lector A reading from Romans

"The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL HYMN**Oh Lord, hear my prayer****Taizé**

1. O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer. When I
 2. The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: All my

1. call an - swer me. O Lord hear my prayer, O the
 2. hope comes from God. The Lord is my song, the

1. Lord hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O
 2. Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life. The

Fino

THE HOLY GOSPEL**Luke 4:1-13***Gospeller*
*People***The Holy Gospel of †Jesus Christ according to Luke.
 Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After his baptism, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
 and serve only him.'"

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,'

and

'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Gospeller The Gospel of Christ.
People **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

SERMON

The Rev. Gerardo Aponte-Safe

A period of silence is kept

Note: *The Great Litany includes the invocation of the Trinity, a Confession, and prayers. Therefore, the Creed, the Prayers of the People and Confession are omitted from this liturgy.*

THE PEACE

The people stand as they are able

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The peace is exchanged among the people

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Your pledges and financial gifts support the mission, the many ministries, the outreach, and the fellowship offered through St. John's.



Give online: stjohnsroyaloak.org and click on GIVE

Text: Text "StJohnsRoyalOak" to 73256

Mail: St. John's, 26998 Woodward Ave, Royal Oak, MI 48067

OR scan this code to be directed to the giving page.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *(at 10:15)*

I ain't got weary yet, *traditional Spiritual*

arr. Courtney Carey

Oblation bearers bring forward the gifts of bread and wine on behalf of the congregation.

8:00am - Gifts of pledges and other offerings may be placed in collection baskets at the steps of the altar.

10:15am - The ushers pass collection baskets to gather our gifts of pledges and other offerings. At the Presentation Hymn, all stand. The ushers present our gifts at the altar. The Eucharistic ministers join the clergy to prepare for Eucharist.

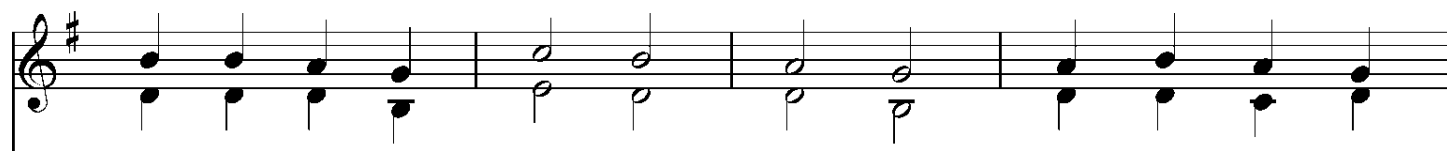
PRESENTATION HYMN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

The Hymnal 1982, 380, v. 3



*3 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise



him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye



heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Presider God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us lift up our hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

We give thanks for your Son, Jesus, who in life was willing to enter the wilderness, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

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

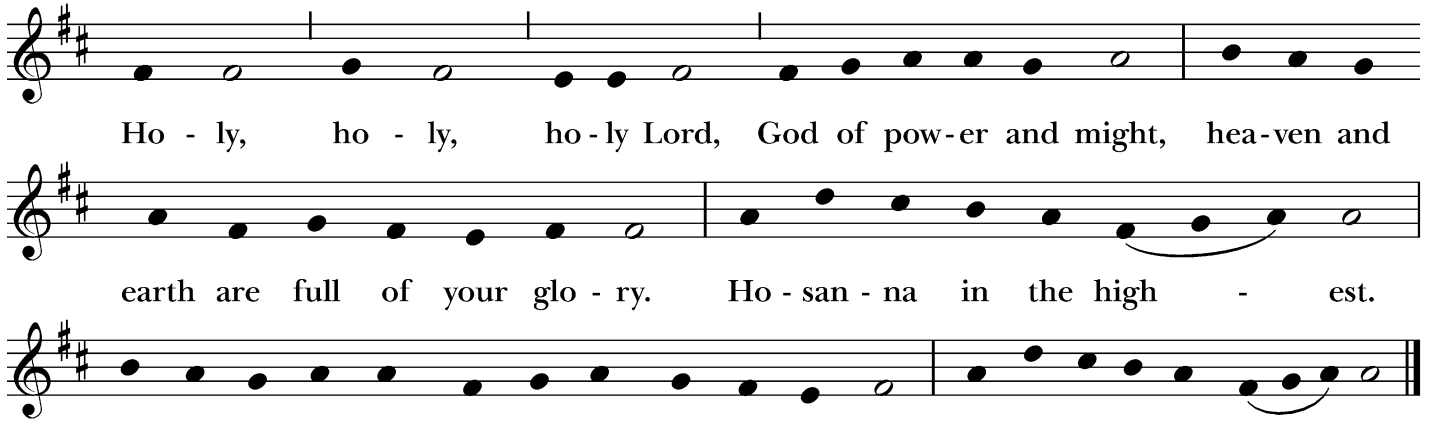
Presider and People (spoken at 8:00am)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The people stand or kneel as able

Holy Holy Holy *(at 10:15 am)*

The Hymnal 1982, S124



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950). Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Creator of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died.**
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

†Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 for ever. **AMEN!**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now 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 (*spoken at 8:00am*)

Presider O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Presider O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world

People **Have mercy upon us.**

Presider O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world.
People Grant us your peace.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Gather, 231

Cantor: *All:*



*Lamb of God,
Bread of Life, you take a - way the sins of the world:
Son of God,



have mer - cy on us.

Last time
Cantor: *All:*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the



world grant us your peace.

This is Christ's table, and Christ is our host at this feast. Everyone who comes to the altar seeking Christ will be welcomed. The bread used for Holy Eucharist at St. John's is gluten free. If you are unable to come to the altar, but desire Communion, please notify an usher.

Presider These are the gifts of God.

People **And we are the people of God.**

Presider Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

St. John's youth (6th-12th grade) are the first to receive communion, and then leave immediately following Eucharist to meet with their leaders. All youth are invited to participate in the youth programs— you are very welcome here!

Healing - Those who would like prayers for healing may go to the healing station in the west transept for prayers during communion.

COMMUNION HYMNS (at 10:15am)

Forty days and forty nights

The Hymnal 1982, 150



1 For - ty days and for - ty nights thou wast fast - ing in the wild;
2 Should not we thy sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, Je - sus, Sa - vior, hear our call!
4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
5 Keep, O keep us, Sa - vior dear, ev - er con - stant by thy side;



1 for - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
2 fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with thee to suf - fer pain?
3 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant we may not faint nor fall!
4 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as min - is - tered to thee.
5 that with thee we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

Words: George Hunt Smyttan (1822-1870), alt. Music: *Aus der Tiefe rufe ich*, melody att. Martin Herbst (1654-1681), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889).



1 Spi - rit of God, you moved o - ver the wa - ters
 2 Spi - rit of God, by the pro - phets you sought us,
 3 Spi - rit of God, like a dove you once rest - ed,
 4 Spi - rit of God, like a might - y wind blow - ing:
 5 Help us to see you, still call - ing and car - ing,



whisp - 'ring God's love to the whole of cre - a - tion.
 cal - ling us back from our pride - filled be - ha - vior.
 show - ing God's joy on the day Christ was bap - tized.
 sud - den - ly Chris - tians stopped hid - ing and fear - ing.
 help us to know you a - mong us, cre - at - ing.



You breathe your life in - to God's sons and daugh - ters,
 Through cho - sen lead - ers you reached us and taught us;
 You sent Christ out to the hills to be test - ed,
 You gave them cour - age and love o - ver - flow - ing,
 Spi - rit of God, give us cour - age and dar - ing—



giv - ing us tal - ents and your in - spi - ra - tion.
 by your own gift we were giv - en our Sav - ior.
 through you, he called us to see God with new eyes.
 so they pro - claimed you to all in their hear - ing.
 to share God's love with a world that is wait - ing.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The people stand as they are able and pray together.

**Eternal God, 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.*

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN (*at the 10:15*)

Now let us all with one accord The Hymnal 1982 147, vv. 1, 2, 4, 5



1 Now let us all with one ac - cord, in
 2 The cov - e - nant, so long re - vealed to
 4 Re - mem - ber, Lord, though frail we be, in
 5 There - fore, we pray you, Lord, for - give; so



1 com - pa - ny with a - ges past, keep vi - gil with our
 2 those of faith in for - mer time, Christ by his own ex -
 4 your own i - mage were we made; help us, lest in anx -
 5 when our wan - derings here shall cease, we may with you for



1 heaven - ly Lord in his temp - ta - tion and his fast.
 2 am - ple sealed, the Lord of love, in love sub - lime.
 4 i - e - ty, we cause your Name to be be - trayed.
 5 ev - er live, in love and u - ni - ty and peace.

Words: Att. Gregory the Great (540-604); tr. *Praise the Lord*, 1972, alt. James Quinn, SJ. Printed by permission of Geoffrey Chapman, a division of Cassell Ltd. Music: *Bourbon*, melody att. Freeman Lewis (1780-1859); harm. Thomas Foster (b. 1938).

DISMISSAL

The people turn to face the Clergy

Clergy Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Altar Memorials and Thanksgivings

In thanksgiving for
the health of family and friends
by Mary and Steve Faiman

In thanksgiving for
the children and older people of St. John's
and everyone in between

Altar Flower Memorials and Thanksgivings

We welcome your participation and contributions to this ministry. If you would like to have a flower thanksgiving or memorial placed in the bulletin, please contact Jennifer Perkins at 248-546-1255 or office@stjohnro.org or you can give online by going to the St. John's website at stjohnsroyaloak.org - click on GIVE and then from the "Fund" dropdown options, select "Flower Fund." The suggested minimum donation is \$25.00; however, all donations will be accepted and recognized. Thank you!

Ministers of Today's Service: The People of St. John's

8:00am Lectors	Cathy Holcomb – First Lesson and Psalm; Geoff Benes – Second Lesson
8:00am Acolyte	Joey Spano
8:00am Greeter/Usher	Jackie Speer
8:00am Greeter during service	Paulynn Auger
8:00am Eucharistic Ministers	Bob Lazich, Chuck Tucker
8:00am Healing Minister	Janet Craft
8:00am Altar Guild	Ray Kwiatkowski
10:15am Lectors	Aubrey Muth – First Lesson; Dustin Walker – Psalm; Eliza Stewart – Second Lesson
10:15am Acolytes	Ian Babcock, Jennifer Bartleman, Julia Bartleman
10:15am Greeter	Marie Donigan, Lisa Philips
10:15am Greeter during service	Woodie Adams
10:15am Ushers	Chris Davis, Bruce Donigan, Marie Donigan, Lisa Philips, Greg Taub
10:15am Eucharistic Ministers	Sandy Curtis, Bruce Donigan, Cindy Fellner
10:15am Healing Minister	Mary Adams
10:15am Altar Guild	Martie Falconer, Bette Ann Wright
Bread Baker	Linda Watkins
Lay Eucharistic Visitor	
Tech Team	Chris Bosley, Barbara Jones, Laurie McLaughlin
Acolyte Verger	Kevin McLogan
Opener/Closer	Ray Kwiatkowski, Pete Kelly
Parking Lot Attendants	Gregg Barnett, Richard Le Jeune
Musicians	Steven McGhee, <i>Music Director</i> ; Brynn Ward; Bex Conway, Brooklyn Pfeffer, <i>Choral Scholars</i> ; St. John's Chancel Choir
Priest in Charge	The Rev. Gerardo Aponte-Safe