

St John's Episcopal Church

Ross, CA



Agape Meal Ordinary Time, Proper 24 October 18, 2020 10AM

Come hydrate your soul at St John's:

A community of connections across generations.

Connect to God through worship, service,
real life and tradition.

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During this season of pandemic, we have not been able to gather to share the Holy Eucharist, Christ's sacrificial love made present and real in the bread and wine.

We invite you today to share an "Agape Meal," which is not the Holy Eucharist that we long for so much, but an alternative way to recall and share Jesus' life and love. Again and again during his ministry, Jesus gathered an unlikely crowd around the table: prostitutes, tax collectors, the poor and sick, his friends, and those who would betray him. These meals were a foreshadowing of God's kingdom, where each person is nourished, loved, and included.

Today, we remember Jesus' ministry as we gather around his table spiritually. We call this an "agape" meal, as "agape" is the Greek word for the kind of love that God has for us - love that is unconditional and always seeks the growth and joy of the beloved.

To share in this meal, you are invited to prepare two things before the service:

- something to eat: bread, crackers, cheese, fruit
- something to drink: water, lemonade, wine

Whatever you prepare should be simple and easy, but also something you love, food and drink that bring you comfort.

As we worship today, you are invited to pray aloud with us, or join silently; to sing along or enjoy listening. Welcome - we are thankful for your presence!

Have a prayer request that you'd like to be shared (anonymously or with your name) on Sunday during the prayers? Would you like a blessing for a birthday, anniversary, or other occasion of thanksgiving? **During the service, please text your prayer request to (415) 275-0115 and it will be shared at the Prayers of the People.**

Please join in praying for the needs and concerns of our congregation by viewing our online [Prayer List and Prayer Wall](#).

Altar Flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God by:

Stewart and Melinda Barbee in celebration of Kristina Ellen Sarno and Gregory Stewart Beery on their birthdays

To remember or celebrate a loved one with a donation for our altar flowers, please contact Nancy Strauch via [email](#) or at 510-237-5021.

Prelude

Ave Maria
(1507-1568)

Jacques Arcadelt

arr. Franz Liszt

(1811-1886)

Welcome

After the welcome announcement a bell will sound, signaling a few moments of prayer and silence.

Liturgy of the Word

Processional Hymn

Holy, holy, holy

Hymnal 362 (*Nicaea*)



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord — God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord — God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee:
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the sin - ful hu - man eye thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy Name, in earth, and sky, and sea;



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,



God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,
which wert, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be,
per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty,
God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

All standing, the Presider says

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People

Glory to God for ever and ever.

Presider and People

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.*

Opening Anthem

All things bright and beautiful

Hymnal 405 (*Royal Oak*)

refrain, verse 2, refrain

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the lyrics: 'All things bright and beau-ti-ful, all crea-tures great and small, all things wise and'. The second staff is labeled 'Verse 2' and contains the lyrics: 'won-der-ful, the Lord God made them all. The pur-ple-head-ed moun-tain, the'. The third staff is labeled 'Repeat refrain' and contains the lyrics: 'riv-er run-ning by, the sun-set, and the morn-ing that bright-ens up the sky.' The music features a simple melody with some grace notes and rests.

Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Moses said to the Lord, “See, you have said to me, ‘Bring up this people’; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” He said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” And he said to him, “If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.”

The Lord said to Moses, “I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” Moses said, “Show me your glory, I pray.” And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, ‘The Lord’; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.” And the Lord continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

<i>Reader</i>	Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Psalm 99

Please join in praying the Psalm together.

1 The Lord is Ruler;
let the people tremble; *
God is enthroned upon the cherubim;
let the earth shake.

2 The Lord is great in Zion; *
God is high above all peoples.

3 Let them confess God's Name, which is great and awesome; *
God is the Holy One.

4 "O mighty Ruler, lover of justice,
you have established equity; *
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."

5 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God
and fall down before God's footstool; *
God is the Holy One.

6 Moses and Aaron among God's priests,
and Samuel among those who call upon the Lord's Name, *
they called upon the Lord, and God answered them.

7 The Lord spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; *
they kept God's testimonies and the decree that God gave them.

8 O Lord our God, you answered them indeed; *
you were a God who forgave them,
yet punished them for their evil deeds.

9 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God
and worship him upon the holy hill; *
for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

Gospel Acclamation

Hymnal 627, vv4-5 (*Nun danket all*)



4 word of the ev - er - liv - ing God, will of his glo - rious Son;
5 Lord, grant us all a - right to learn the wis - dom it im - parts;



4 with - out thee how could earth be trod, or heaven it - self be won?
5 and to its heav - en - ly teach - ing turn, with sim - ple, child - like hearts.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:15-22

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

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Bill

Rankin

One minute of silence follows the sermon.

The Nicene Creed

Please stand if you wish and join in saying the creed.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Adapted from *Planning for Rites and Rituals*

As the Church, separated and yet still one, let us offer our prayers, responding, “God, hear our prayer.”

For the desire to reflect God’s generosity, freely giving of our time, talent, and treasure for the mission of the Church in the world and for service alongside the poor; let us pray.

God, hear our prayer.

For the grace to move from grumbling to shared responsibility, from accusation to a search for truth, from shame to compassion and mercy; let us pray.

God, hear our prayer.

That we may tell others of the wonderful works of God, so that our children and the generations to come may know God’s goodness and love; let us pray.

God, hear our prayer.

For those who do difficult and thankless work, staying awake while others sleep; growing, harvesting, and preparing our food; and caring for the sick and aged; let us pray.

God, hear our prayer.

For our President, his advisors, members of congress and the Supreme Court, that they may be honest and compassionate in their duties, knowing that their decisions affect the people of our country and of the world; let us pray.

God, hear our prayer.

Priest

In thanksgiving for the blessings we have received, let us continue our prayers. We pray for those in our community who are in need of your care and healing, especially...And for all who have died, including...

God, hear our prayer.

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for the work of the Holy Spirit within and among us, work that began long ago and continues today. Grant that we may always be open to your transformation. *Amen.*

Peace

The Ministers and the People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

Agape Meal

Offertory Anthem

During this time of uncertainty, St. John's particularly needs your help to continue to offer care and support to our community. You can give online [here](#).

During the anthem, you are invited to place your food and drink on a table in front of you.

"I will sing new songs of gladness", Op. 99#5 Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)
Betsy Bennett-Smith, soprano

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your 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.

Presider Jesus, we give you thanks that during your ministry on earth you invited all people to join you at your table, taking care that none were excluded. We give you thanks that you welcomed all: prostitutes, tax collectors, the poor and sick, your friends, and those who would betray you. You spoke of the Kingdom of God as a great feast to which all are invited. And so today we seek to join you at your table. We desire to hear your voice, to share your love, and to be joined in deep communion with those from whom we differ.

We pray that as we share this food and drink, you would unite us spiritually with you and one another though we are physically apart. We pray that in this meal, you would feed our bodies and our spirits with your presence, so that we might bring your presence and comfort to others. Bless this food, and break open our hearts; bless this drink and pour out your love.

You are invited to hold up your food.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; and you have fed us on our way with the bread of life in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. Let us be fed again soon with that bread of life. And as grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather our separated community together that we may be the Body of Christ, given for the world you have made. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

You are invited to hold up your drink.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May the time come quickly when we can share that cup again, even as you are with us now in our very thirst for you. We thank you for your continued presence in our lives. Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Please join hands with those worshipping next to you as we pray the Lord's Prayer.

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.

Sharing of the Agape Meal

Presider

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the Eucharistic fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. Amen.

All partake of the food and drink.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Please stand or kneel.

Let us pray.

Presider We have gathered this day, both mourning and rejoicing. .
People We have gathered this day in faith that Jesus is with us.
Presider Surrounded by illness, we mourn with those who suffer.
People Yet still we say, Alleluia!
Presider We know loneliness and discomfort;
People Yet still we say, Alleluia!
Presider In the midst of this pandemic
People We trust your presence and love.
Alleluia! AMEN.

Blessing

The presider asks God's blessing on the congregation

Birthdays, Anniversaries and Occasions of Thanksgiving

All those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and occasions of thanksgiving are invited to share them using the phone number at the beginning of the bulletin.

Today, tomorrow and always we rejoice in the hands of God.

May God's powerful hands support you.

May God's guiding hands lead you.

May God's loving hands enfold you.

We rejoice in the hands of God. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn

Praise to the living God!

Hymnal 372 (Leoni)

1 Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be his Name
2 Form - less, all love - ly forms de - clare his love - li - ness;
3 His Spi - rit flow - eth free, high surg - ing where it will;
4 E - ter - nal life hath he im - plant - ed in the soul;

who was, and is, and is to be for ay the same,
ho - ly, no ho - li - ness of earth can his ex - press.
in pro - phet's word he spoke of old; he speak - eth still.
his love shall be our strength and stay while a - ges roll.

The one e - ter - nal God ere aught that now ap - pears:
Lo, he is Lord of all. Cre - a - tion speaks his praise,
Es - tab - lished is his law, and change - less it shall stand,
Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be his Name

the first, the last, be - yond all thought his time - less years!
and ev - ery - where a - bove, be - low, his will o - beys,
deep writ up - on the lu - man heart, on sea, on land,
who was, and is, and is to be, for ay the same.

Dismissal

Our worship has ended and now our service begins.
Let us go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People

Postlude

Improvisation on *Leoni*

During this time of uncertainty, St. John's particularly needs your help to continue to offer care and support to our community. You can give online [here](#).

Today after the 10am service, please join us [here](#) for coffee hour on zoom. If you would like help in connecting through zoom, please reach out by [email](#).

St John's Episcopal Church

Bishop of California:	The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus
Rector:	The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams <i>crw@stjohnsross.org</i>
Associate Priest:	The Rev. Ginger Strickland <i>ginger@stjohnsross.org</i>
Assisting:	The Revs. Skip Fotch, Jan Hickman West, and Bill Rankin
Director of Music:	Dr. David Montgomery
Choir section leader:	Betsy Bennett-Smith <i>david@stjohnsross.org</i>
Church Administrator:	Virginia Kosydar <i>virginia@stjohnsross.org</i>
Youth Minister:	Tom Fregoso <i>tom@stjohnsross.org</i>
Director of Children's Ministry:	Sandra Pathik <i>sandra@stjohnsross.org</i>
Treasurer:	Susan Aley
Director of Stewardship	Emily McFarland <i>emily@stjohnsross.org</i>
Bookkeeper:	Henry Auriti <i>bookkeeper@stjohnsross.org</i>
Vestry:	<i>President:</i> The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams <i>Senior Warden:</i> Robb Baer <i>Junior Warden:</i> June Sullivan Mary Beth Baker, Genny Biggs, Joannie Ericson, Maya Farhoud, Jennifer Jones, Paul Kaplan, Mike O'Brien, Chris Russell, Jaco Sadie, Kathryn Supinski, Amy Taylor.