

STAFF

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******The Pastors are off on Fridays*****



Notice of live streaming:

Today's worship service is being live streamed to YouTube with video coverage of leaders and worshippers.



stjohnsparkville



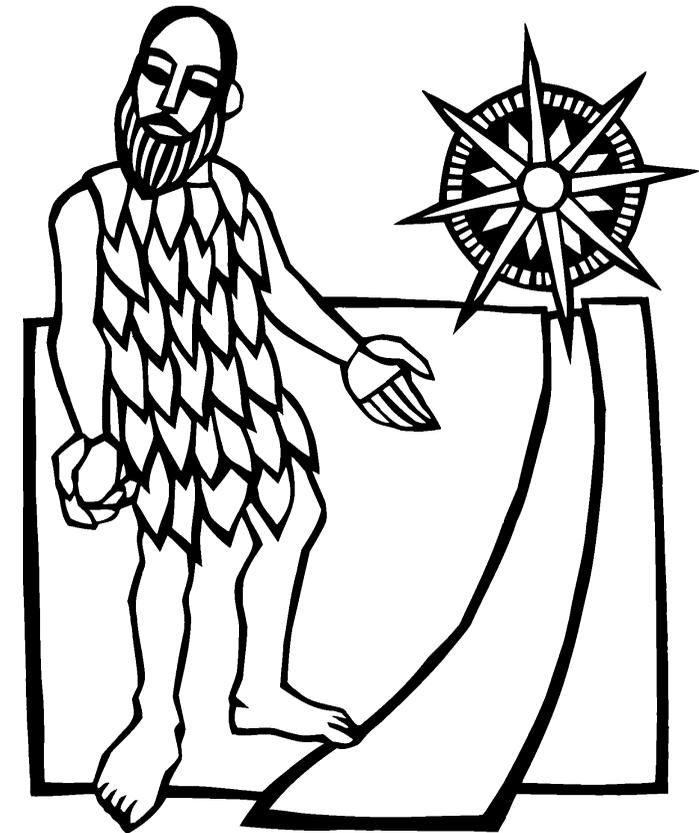
St. John's Lutheran Church Parkville



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Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022



St. John's Lutheran Church of Parkville

www.stjohnsparkville.org

(410) 665-1234

office@stjohnsparkville.org

Text SJPAKVILLE to 22828 to join our email list.

Welcome to St. John's—we are glad you're here! Whether you have worshiped with us many times, or this is your first time, there is a place for you here. Your presence among us is a gift.

Introduction to the Day

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

(Please take a moment to silence all electronics. Thank you!)

(Hymns are taken from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the red book in the pew rack.)

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach

(Please stand as you are able.)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on **+** Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* **ELW 242 (vv. 1-2)**

(Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.)

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

This week's schedule

Today	9 am	Sunday School & Faith & Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
	9 am	Handbell Choir (Music Room)
	10 am	Live & Online Worship
	11:30 am	Executive Council Meeting (Parlor)
Mon.		
Tues.	6 pm	Trinity Circle (Smith Building)
	7 pm	Men in Mission (Youth Room)
Wed.	7:30 pm	Adult Choir (Music Room)
Thurs.		
Fri.		
Sat.	2 pm	Wreaths Across America Event (St. John's Cemetery)

Counting our Blessings

Sun. 12/4	Attendance: 123	2022	
	Offering: \$3,704	September Offering Income	\$18,675
	Homebound: 20	September Other Income	\$ 553
		September Total Income	\$19,228
		September Expenses	\$34,562
		YTD Offering Income	\$183,710
		YTD Other Income	\$ 19,062
		YTD Total Income	\$202,772
		YTD Expenses	\$273,981



Prayer List

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

For health & healing: Bill Spink, Raymond Miller, Matthew Miller, Bill & Bonnie Rogers, Jim Morrow, Mardi Nickel, Kim Townsley, Thomas McDonough, Bett Murphy, Debbie Miller, Sandy Scott, Tony Jasinski, and Vickie Jasinski

For family & friends: Franny Burk, Livie Bach, Bob Murphy, Jen Schoenfliess, Pearl Johnson, Sharon Hunt, Lee Hall, Patricia Kuklinski, Judy Taylor, Sean Pullen, John Bowman, Norma Weber, Rejena Hartlove, Chuck Miller, Jeanne Edmunds, John Miller, Arlo Jones, Denise Ferguson, Mary Jo Rother, Bonnie Kellner, Kristin Weger, Linda Fliegel, Helen Bender and Doug Adams

For the military and their families: Kalib McCann, Mason Ledbetter, Leroy Keller, Seaman E-3 Carson Anthony Bowser, Corporal Justin Ferro, Sgt. Stephen Peck, Staff Sgt. Brandan Hartmann, Michael Anthony Tucker, Chaplain A. J. Striffler and all those in harm's way

For those grieving family & friends of: David Healy, Alberta Nolder

For St. John's Caring Friends: Trudy Anderson, Patricia Becker, Agatha Biensach-Daniels, Gladys Downs, Margaret Eubert, June Franz, Betty Glassband, Richard Hoerner, Audrey Lentz, John Lotterer, Paul Nolder, Patrick O'Connell, Arthur Pulket, Mary Ann Reek, Janet Roth, Patricia Sollanek, Kim Townsley, Cass Tracey and Emma Volz

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(The assembly is seated.)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Light One Candle (verses 1-3)

ELW 240

*Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.*

*Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.*

*Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.*

(Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954; Music: Yiddish folk tune; Text © 1984 Fortress Press)

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,

with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM *(Read responsively; congregation reads bold verses)* **Psalm 146:5-10**

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;
who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.
The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.
The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Celebration of the Birth of Christ – December 24th

11 am Traditional Christmas Eve Worship*
4 pm Family Christmas Eve Worship with
Children Participation*
8:30 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship*

December 25th Christmas Day Service at 10 am*

January 1st 1st Sunday after Christmas
Worship at 10 am Service of Lessons & Carols

*Services include Holy Communion



Announcements & Upcoming Event

Next Week— 4th Sunday of Advent, December 18th

† 9 am— **Sunday School and Faith & Fellowship**

† 10 am— **Worship in-person with Cantata and livestreamed on our YouTube Channel** at stjohns lutheran church parkville md.



The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given in memory of my husband, John, and his brother, Charles, by Ruth Winebrenner.

We are taking altar flower dedications for 2023. Dates available are: January 15th, February 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th, March 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th, April 9th, 16th and 23rd, May 7th, June 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th. The cost is \$50. Contact Rachel Hills at rm_hills@yahoo.com if you would like to sponsor the flowers.

Nursery Care for infants through age 2 is available during the Sunday School hour while parents are attending Faith and Fellowship. During worship, care is available for infants through kindergarten.



Food for Thought Program is in great need of: **chicken & tuna salad kits**.

We pack two bags of food for the weekend for 18 children each week, therefore our supply is depleted quickly. Please help if you can!

Social Ministry is providing gifts for seniors in need in our community for Christmas. If you took a **snowman tag** from the tree, please return your **wrapped gift** with the tag attached. **Gifts are due by next Sunday, December 18th.**



We are excited to bring back our **Presents for Parkville Program** in partnership with Carney Elementary. If you are took a **present tag** from the tree, please return your **unwrapped gift** with the tag attached. **Gifts are due by next Sunday, December 18th.**



We will again be offering **The Longest Night** service on Wednesday, December 21st at 6:30 pm. We will gather to acknowledge our pain and to remember that Jesus Christ shines into our grief with hope, mercy and love.



Save the Date for St. John's 4th Annual Bull and Shrimp Roast. Friday, February 17, 2023 from 6:30 pm—10:30 pm at Columbus Gardens. Flyers are located on the counter outside of the Sanctuary, on the website and in the weekly emails.



Venmo is Here! We are happy to announce that you can give your offering using Venmo. Enter @stjohnsparkville in the Venmo App or scan the QR code.

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Kyrie Eleison*

♩ = 63 **INTRO**
 F B \flat /F F C^{SUS} Gm B \flat ² F/A Dm C^{SUS}

VERSE 1
 5 F B \flat /F F C^{SUS} Gm⁷ B \flat ² F Dm C^{SUS}

1. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Hear our cry and heal ___ our _land. Let

9 F B \flat /F F C^{SUS} Gm⁷ B \flat ² F C^{SUS}

kind - ness lead us to re - pent - ance; bring us back a - gain. ___

(Music and words: Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman, Matt Maher, Jason Ingram; © 2016 S. D. G. Publishing; permission for use granted through CCLI License #11527942)

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God’s judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus’ response indicates that God’s reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(The assembly is seated.)

SERMON

(Please stand as you are able.)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW 726

(Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953; Music: William P. Rowan, b. 1951; Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: 2000 William P. Rowan, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

NICENE 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

BLESSING

*The Lord now bless and keep you; God's love in you increase
By God's own face, with shining grace, grant you eternal peace
To Father, Son, and Spirit, eternal One-in-Three
Be thanks and praise through all our days, into eternity.*

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW 267

(Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

O Thou of God the Father

J.S. Bach

*We welcome Gail Jothen as our organist today,
and thank her for sharing her God-given gifts with us in worship.*

Those Serving Today	
Assisting Minister	Tony Jasinski
Crucifer	James W.
Acolyte (s)	Emily B., Alec B.
Lector	Donna Nicholson
Communion Assistant	Donna Nicholson

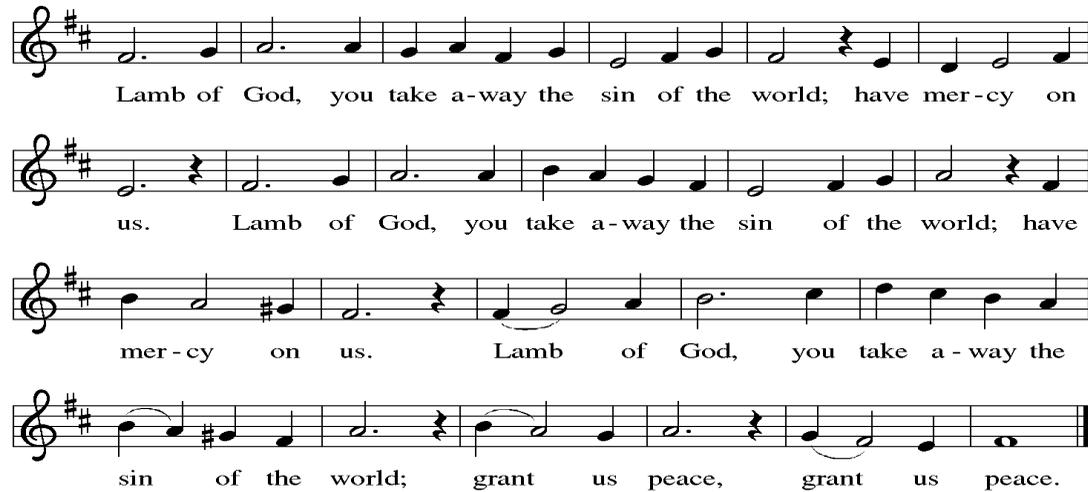
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COMMUNION

All are welcome at Christ's table. Bread is received in the hands. Gluten-free wafers are available-if you need one, please ask the pastor. To receive the wine, take an empty cup and the communion assistant will fill it with a sip of wine. The cups that are already filled contain grape juice. After drinking, place the used cup in the basket on your way back to your seat.

If you are not communing you are welcome to come forward for a blessing, crossing your arms over your chest.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

People, Look East

ELW 248

(Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965; Music: French carol, arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934; Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates; Arr. © 1999 Novello & Co. Ltd, London)

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,
In this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 CHURCH

After each petition God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

PEACE The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

(We offer each other a sign of God's peace. Afterwards, the assembly is seated.)

MEAL

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Once He Came in Blessing

J. S. Bach

*(An offering is gathered for the mission and ministry of God's Church.)
(Please stand as you are able.)*

OFFERING HYMN

We Give Thee but Thine Own

ELW 686 (vv. 1, 2)

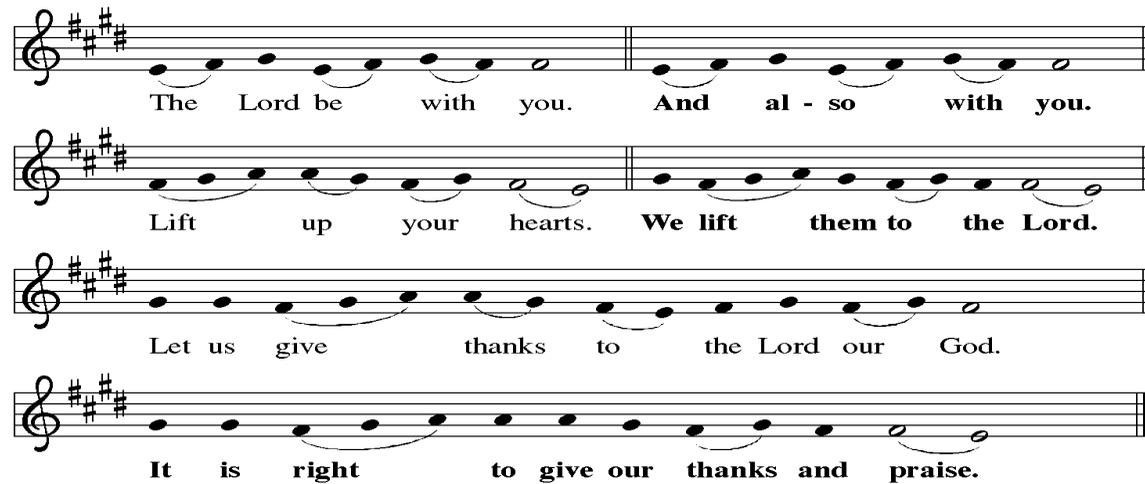
(Text: William W. How, 1832-1897, alt.; Music: L. Mason and G. Webb, Cantica Lauda)

OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

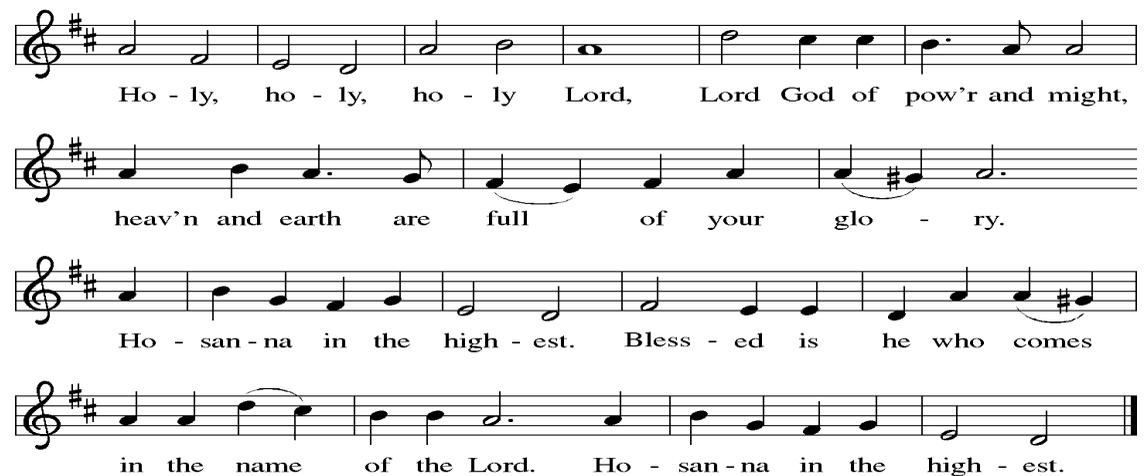
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comfort your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed...

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 assembly is seated.)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God, who has come to save you.