

**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](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsparkville)  [St. John's Lutheran Church Parkville](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsparkville)  [stjohnsparkvill1](https://twitter.com/stjohnsparkvill1)

**Ascension of Our Lord**  
May 21, 2023



**St. John's Lutheran Church of Parkville**  
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Text SJPARKVILLE 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

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

*(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

*Beautiful Savior*

*Dale Wood*

(© 1991 The Sacred Music Press)

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

### GATHERING

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
by whose hand we are given new birth,  
by whose speaking we are given new life.  
**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are welcomed, restored, and supported  
as citizens of the new creation.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,  
holy and merciful,  
holy and mighty,  
you are the river of life,  
you are the everlasting wellspring.  
In mercy and might you have freed us from death  
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.  
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,  
and in them we are born anew.

*(Water may be poured into the font)*

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,  
for rivers and streams.  
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,  
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.

### This week's schedule

Today	9 am Handbell Choir (Music Room) 9 am Sunday School & Faith & Fellowship 10 am Live & Online Worship followed by Congregational Mtg. 11:30 am Altar Guild Mtg. (Smith Building)
Mon.	
Tues.	
Wed.	9:30 am Busy Bees (Smith Building) 7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	
Fri.	11 am Bible Study (Smith Building)
Sat.	

### Counting our Blessings

Sunday	Attendance: 110	2023	
5/14	Offering: \$3,660	March Offering Income	\$24,401
	Homebound: 19	March Other Income	\$ 2,521
		March Total Income	\$26,922
		March Expenses	\$34,539
		YTD Offering Income	\$64,156
		YTD Other Income	\$16,730
		YTD Total Income	\$80,886
		YTD Expenses	\$97,243



Join us for our next Restaurant Night at Wayback Burgers on Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> from 4-8 pm. Flyers can be found on the bulletin board, in the weekly email and on our website.

John's night at the Aberdeen Ironbirds game is Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Tickets are \$12 and there will be fireworks after the game. For tickets contact David Evans at 410-802-2268 or ravenfan79@yahoo.com or see him before or after worship.



Registration is open for our 2023 Vacation Bible School on July 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> from 9 am-12:30 pm. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board, in the weekly email and on the website. **As always, we will need many volunteers.** If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Haacke at haackefamily@comcast.net.

### Prayer List



Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

**For health & healing:** Betty Creutzer, Diane Carroll, Joan Swank, Andy Rother, Rosalie Coffman, Pat Hurley, Phil Ermer, Bett Murphy, Debbie Miller, Sandy Scott, Tony Jasinski, and Vickie Jasinski

**For family & friends:** Gary Jones, Karen Alban, Bruce Cohen, Kathy Barnes, Vic Giordani, Helen Bender, Anna Meyers, Rae Eberwine, Deemer Morrow, Lee Hall, Robin, Alice Ensor, Jeanne Edmunds, Mike Haven, Gail Gangi, Jen Schoenfliess, Doug Adams, Kristin Weger, Joan Murphy, Tim Dunn, Donna Bobloch and Yung-Mee Rhee

**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:** Ruth Skarda, Thomas McDonough and Bill Spink

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

Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,  
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.  
**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.**  
**Empower our witness to your resurrection.**  
**Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.  
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.  
Where despair prevails, grant hope.  
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.  
We ask this through Christ,  
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**      *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*      **ELW 634 (vv. 1-4)**  
*(Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-1792, sts. 1-4; Music: Oliver Holden, 1765-1844)*

### 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.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.  
Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign 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

### WORD

### FIRST READING

**Acts 1:1-11**

*Before he is lifted into heaven, Jesus promises that the missionary work of the disciples will spread out from Jerusalem to all the world. His words provide an outline of the book of Acts.*

[Luke writes:] <sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

<sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

**PSALM** *(Read responsively; congregation reads bold verses.)*

**Psalms 47**

<sup>1</sup>Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with a joyful sound.

<sup>2</sup>**For the LORD Most High is to be feared:  
a great king over all the earth,**

<sup>3</sup>who subdues the peoples under us,  
and the nations under our feet;

<sup>4</sup>**who chooses our inheritance for us,  
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**

<sup>5</sup>God has gone up with a shout,  
the LORD with the sound of the ram’s horn.

<sup>6</sup>**Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

<sup>7</sup>For God is king of all the earth;  
sing praises with a song.

<sup>8</sup>**God reigns over the nations;  
God is enthroned on high.**

<sup>9</sup>The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.  
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.



**Food for Thought Program is in great need of: Chef Boyardee single serving meals, tuna & chicken salad kits, applesauce pouches, cookies, snack crackers, pudding cups and cereal bars.** We are packing two bags of food for the weekend for 25 children each week, therefore our supply is depleted quickly. Please help if you can!

**Victor’s Vittles, the food pantry at Christus Victor Lutheran Church is in need of items for their food pantry.** Items needed are: canned fruit, cereal & oatmeal, jelly, peanut butter, pasta sauce, spaghetti noodles, Raman noodles, mac & cheese, beef stew, pancake mix, syrup, instant potatoes, and canned spaghetti.



**Bible Study....**A Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew meets weekly on Fridays at 11 am in the Smith Building. If you have questions or would like to learn more, contact Ardi Scarborough or speak with one of the Pastors.

**Searching for Multilingual Readers for Pentecost!** On Pentecost Sunday (May 28<sup>th</sup>), we will break up the Acts 2 reading about the coming of the Holy Spirit and invite people to read it in various languages. Do you speak a language other than English? Would you like to take part in this special Pentecost reading? If so, please reach out to the Pastors!



**It is that time of year. The Busy Bees are collecting sugar for making the jelly and jams.** You can drop off your donation in the office of give it to one of the Busy Bees.

**Mark your calendars for St. John’s Spirit Fest! Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> after worship.** This is a fundraiser for the new Fire Alarm System. We will have hot dogs, games, a fire truck offering rides, snow cones, prizes and more. Flyers are on the bulletin board.



**Let us know if someone in your family is graduating...** We will recognize them and offer a blessing on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Join us for our upcoming Community Meals.** The dates are: June 7<sup>th</sup>, July 5<sup>th</sup>, & August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The meal runs from 5:30 pm - 7 pm. Please come and invite your friends, family and neighbors!



**Faith + Fellowship Sunday Mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 9 am-9:45 am.** The new topic is **Bible Study of Upcoming Scripture Readings.** We will read and share about one of the upcoming readings which will be used in worship. In May this will include 1st Peter and in June we will move into Romans. Join us as we share with one another and deepen our faith together.

**SENDING HYMN**

*Lift High the Cross*

*ELW 660*

*(Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Micharl R. Newbolt, 1874-1956; Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1956; Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company)*

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

*(Following the Congregational Meeting)*

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.  
**Thanks be to God.**



*Thank you to our youth for serving during worship today!*

**Announcements & Upcoming Events**

**Next Week— Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>—Pentecost Sunday**

† 9 am—**Sunday School and Faith & Fellowship**  
10 am—**Worship in-person and livestreamed on our YouTube Channel**  
Visit [stjohnsparkville.org](http://stjohnsparkville.org)  
11 am—**Memorial Meeting**



The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given in honor of Vickie Jasinski's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday by Tony and Judy.

We are taking altar flower dedications for 2023. Dates available are: July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, August 27<sup>th</sup>, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, November 5<sup>th</sup>, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. The cost is \$50. Contact Rachel Hills at [rm\\_hills@yahoo.com](mailto: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.



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**SECOND READING**

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

*The risen and exalted Christ reigns over the entire universe. The author of Ephesians prays that we are given the wisdom to know the power of the risen Christ and the empowering hope that the knowledge of this inheritance provides.*

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

*On the day of his ascension, Jesus leaves his disciples with a commission, a blessing, and a promise of the Holy Spirit.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>44</sup>[Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

<sup>50</sup>Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.

<sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.

<sup>52</sup>And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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

***Thine is the Glory***

***ELW 376***

*(Text: Edmond Budry, 1854-1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939; Music: George Frideric Handel, 1759)*

## 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,**

## 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, Lamb of God.

## COMMUNION HYMN

***Amazing Grace***

***ELW 779***

*(Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5; Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt.)*

***Lead Me, Guide Me***

***ELW 768***

*(Text and music: Doris Akers, 1922-1995; Text and music © 1953 Doris Akers, admin. Unichappell Music, Inc.)*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being.

With your word and this meal of grace,

you have nourished our life together.

Strengthen us to show your love

and serve the world in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SENDING

## BLESSING

The God of all, who raised ✠ Jesus from the dead,

bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit

to live in the new creation.

**Amen.**

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:  
carry us in your arms from death to life,  
that we may live as your chosen ones,  
clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

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.

*(Sung call-and-echo)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come thy will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins  
as we forgive; 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

Come and know Christ,  
broken and poured out for you.

#### 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.*

**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 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* Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

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

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

#### MEAL

**OFFERTORY MUSIC** *In Every Land Begin the Song* *Adult Choir*  
*(Words: J. Paul Williams; Music: Joseph M. Martin; Words and music © 1999, 2000 Harold Flammer Music)*

*Thank you for your generous support of St. John's. During this time an offering is gathered  
for the mission and ministry of the Church as together we experience and share God's  
abundant grace and love.*

*Many in our congregation give online. You can set up one-time or recurring  
donations on our website [stjohnsparkville.org](http://stjohnsparkville.org). Checks and cash may be placed  
in the offering plate or mailed to the church. You may also donate via venmo  
[@stjohnsparkville](https://www.venmo.com/@stjohnsparkville)*

*(Please stand as you are able.)*



## OFFERING HYMN

### *We Are an Offering*

ELW 692

*We lift our voices, we lift our hands,  
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.  
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,  
Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.  
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,  
we give to you, we give to you.*

*We lift our voices, we lift our hands,  
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.*

*(Text and music: Dwight Liles, b. 1957; Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC)*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.  
Generous God,  
in this meal you offer your very self.  
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.  
In the breaking of this bread  
reveal to us the Risen One.  
In the pouring of this wine  
pour us out in service to the world;  
through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

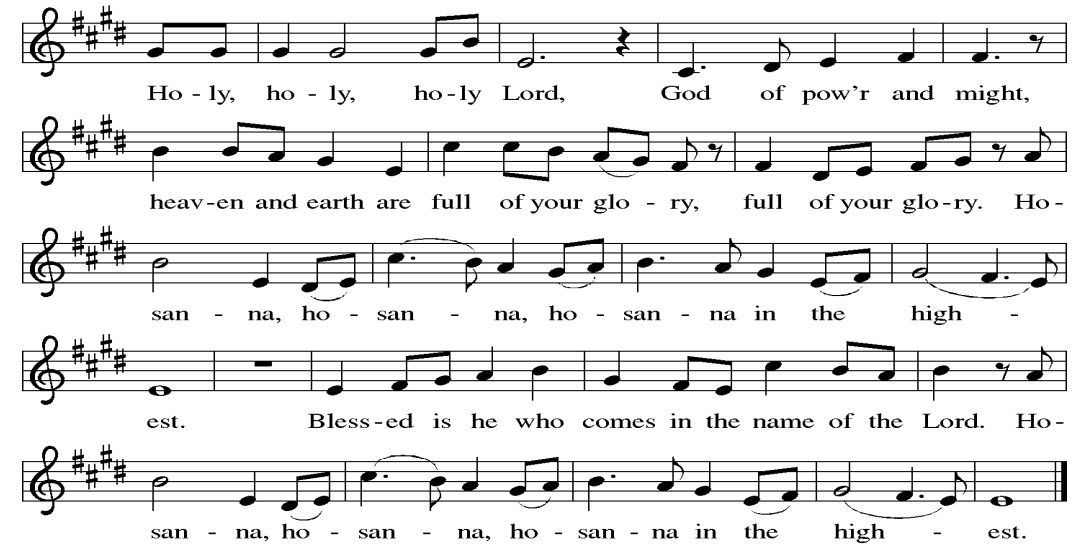
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### 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,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who, enthroned forever at your right hand,  
intercedes for us as our great high priest.  
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, living, and loving God,  
we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood,  
for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery,  
and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus  
who, living among us,  
healed the sick,  
fed the hungry,  
and with a love stronger than death,  
gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed...  
Remembering, therefore,  
his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,  
we await your promised life for all this dying world.