

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024



St. John's Lutheran Church of Parkville

www.stjohnsparkville.org

(410) 665-1234

office@stjohnsparkville.org

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

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

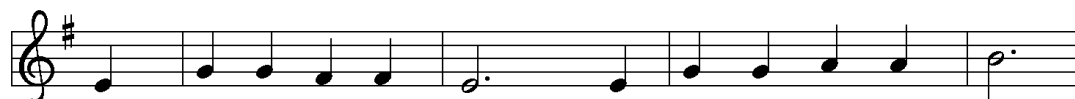
(Please take a moment to silence all electronics. Thank you!)

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

GATHERING

(The assembly gathers in silence.)

KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who turn to you. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Those Serving Today	12 noon	7 pm
Assisting Minister	Bob Berner	Megan Czariski
Crucifer		Landry E.
Acolyte (s)		Brody E.
Lector	Milt Dutcher	Tony Jasinski
Communion Assistant	Milt Dutcher	Tony Jasinski

STAFF

Rev. Mathew Berger, Pastor mathew.berger@stjohnsparkville.org 913-634-7131	Rev. Amy Berger, Pastor amy.berger@stjohnsparkville.org 443-286-5511
M. Claire Miller, OSSD Deacon	Carol Erpenstein, Office Administrator
Martha Requard, Director of Music	Scott Becker, Sexton

For emergencies call 443-844-9314

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



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St. John's Lutheran Church Parkville



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St. Johns' Lent & Holy Week Schedule



Wednesday Lenten Worship

February 21st, 28th, *March 6th, 13th and 20th

6 pm—Soup & Salad (Fellowship Hall)

***March 6th—Community Meal begins at 5:30 pm**

7 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship, March 24th

10 am Live & Online Worship

Maundy Thursday, March 28th

12 noon & 7 pm—Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion

Stripping of the Altar will follow the 7 pm service only.

Good Friday, March 29th

12 noon— Procession & Ecumenical Stations of the Cross

(Please note: The Ecumenical Procession begins at St. Ursula Catholic Church.)

7 pm—Good Friday Service with Cantata

Easter Sunday, March 31st

10 am—Service of Holy Communion

Live & Online Worship



(The assembly is seated.)

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked. Sincere repentance will lead to a dramatic improvement of their condition.

¹Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM *(Read responsively; congregation reads bold verses)* **Psalm 51:1-17**

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**
³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**
⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

SENDING HYMN

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

ELW 599

(Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375-432; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808-1896, alt.; Music: W. Daman, The Psalms of David, 1579, alt.)

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

(The assembly departs in silence.)

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN *Just As I Am, without One Plea* **ELW 592**
(Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871; music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868)

Restore in Us, O God **ELW 328**
(Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944; Music: Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933; Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company; Music © 1985 Hope Publishing Company)

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**
¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
¹²**Restore to me the joy of¹ your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**
¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.
¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**
¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**
¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

(Please stand as you are able.)

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

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 *Be Thou My Vision* **ELW 793**
(Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931; Music: Irish traditional)

(The assembly is seated.)

INVITATION TO LENT

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. We are invited, therefore, into the holy practices of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

As we share this bread and cup, O God, fill us up.
Pour your Spirit on us so that we may be the body of Christ,
food for your hungry world and signs of your love.
With the earth and all its creatures,
with all who have gone before us,
we give you praise, feeding God, 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

Bread for the journey.
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

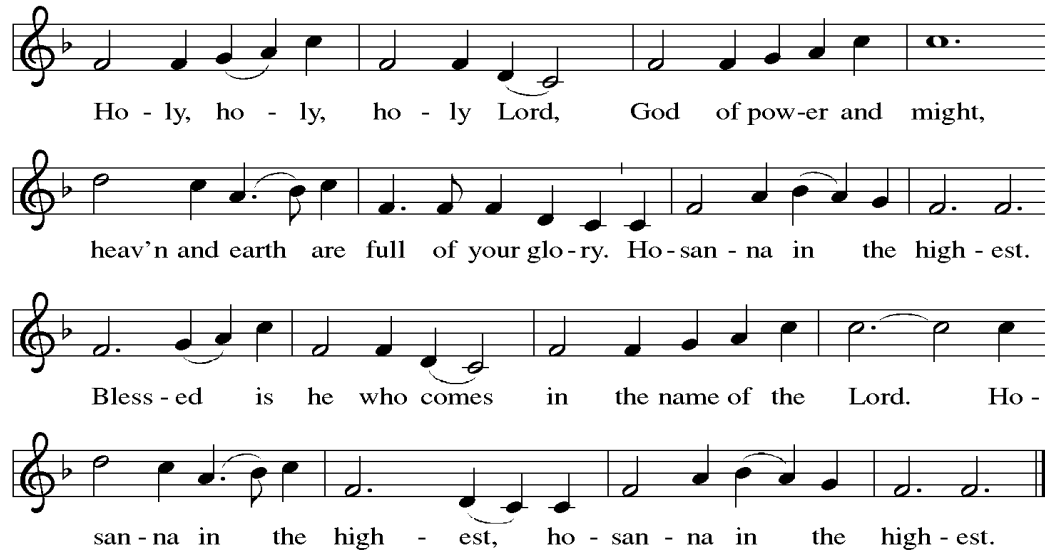
COMMUNION

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.

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, God of pow - er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, God of the universe.
You made everything that is, and you sustain every living thing.

You taught us to tend and care for your earth.
When we turned away from our task of sharing,
you made for yourself a people, rescued them from slavery,
nourished them with manna in the wilderness,
and taught them to rely daily on your mercy.

You entered human life in Jesus,
who ate with sinners,
who fed the thousands with a few loaves,
and who called us back to the way of sharing our bread and your mercy.

In the night in which he was betrayed...

With this meal we remember Jesus giving himself to us.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Most holy and merciful God,

(The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.)

**we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and repentance, reminding us
that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

*(People may come forward to receive the ashes.)
(After receiving ashes, the assembly is seated.)*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.
By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

(Please stand as you are able.)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

(The assembly is seated.)

MEAL

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Savior, When in Dust to You* *J. William Greene*
(© 2018 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

(7:00 pm) *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God* *Adult Choir*
(Text: Psalm 51:10-13; music: Carl F. Mueller; © 1948, ren. G. Schirmer, Inc.)

*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. 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

Change My Heart, O God

ELW 801

*Change my heart O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart O God; may I be like you.*

You are the potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

*Change my heart O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart O God; may I be like you.*

*(Text and music: Eddie Espinosa; Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, admin.
Music Services)*

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.
Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.
Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name.
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,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the Easter feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,