

STAFF

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For emergencies call 443-844-9314
*****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.

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2023
10 am & 8:30 pm



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

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole 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.)

TOLLING THE BELL AND WELCOME

PRELUDE (10 am) *Still, Still, Still* *arr. James Mansfield*
(© 2018 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

(8:30 pm) *Once in Royal David's City* *Handbell Choir*
(Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876; arr. Dan R. Edwards; © 1998 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

(Please stand as you are able.)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

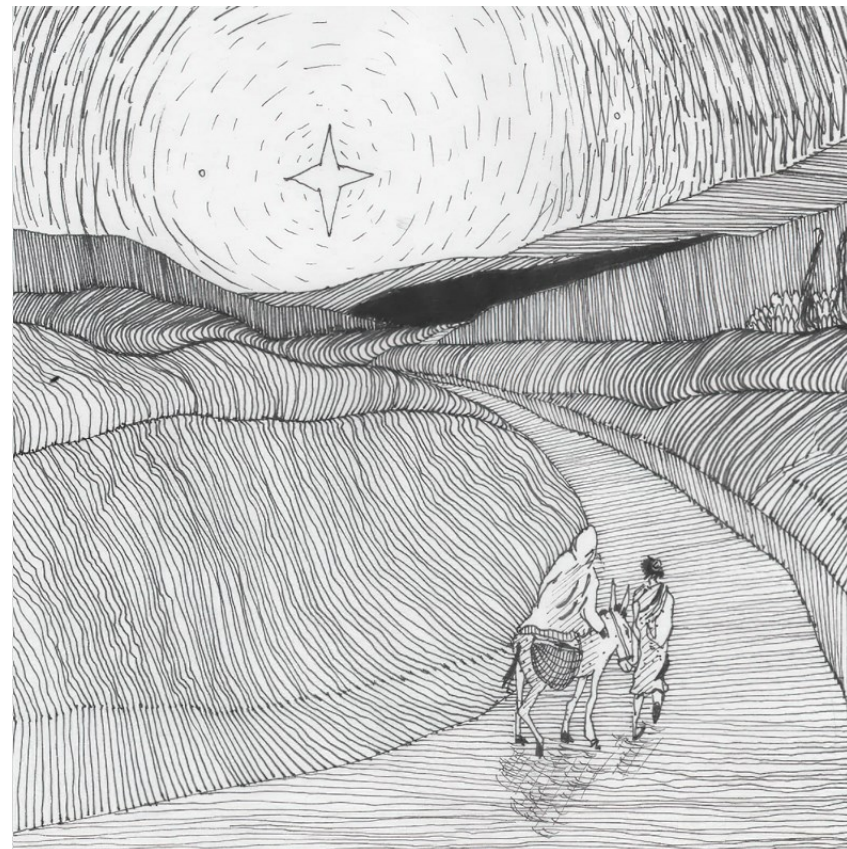
Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

God of life,
**you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**
**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.**
We nurture conflict and build barriers.
**We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.**
Have mercy on us.
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.
**Renew us with your grace
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**
Amen.

Merry Christmas from the Pastors and Staff!



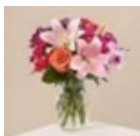
Did you know that you can give your offering using Venmo?
Enter @stjohnsparkville in the Venmo App or scan the QR code.



Announcements

Join us tomorrow at 10 am for our Christmas Day Service.

- † Thank you Altar Guild & Friends for all the time and work you put into the “greening” of our Sanctuary and for all the additional preparations you do for our Christmas Eve Services – you give us a special gift of Christmas beauty!
- † Please leave your poinsettias until after the 8:30 pm service tonight. If you are unable to pick them up at that time, you may pick them up after the 10 am Christmas Day service or please call the church office at 410-665-1234 to make arrangements to pick them up.
- † The church office will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th.
- † Join us on Sunday, December 31st at 10 am for our Lessons and Carols Service. There will be no Sunday School or Faith & Fellowship this day.
- † The pastors will be away from December 27th—January 2nd. In case of an emergency during this time, please call the emergency number at 443-844-9314.



The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given in memory of my father, Charles L. Blackburn, Sr. by his daughter, Anne Blackburn-Suznick.

We are taking flower dedications for 2024. The dates available are: January 14th, February 4th, 12th, 18th and 25th, March 10th, April 7th, 21st, May 5th, 12th, and 19th, June 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd. Contact Rachel Hills at rm_hills@yahoo.com if you would like to sponsor the flowers.

The Food for Thought Program is packing 50 weekend bags for 25 students. It costs \$16.94 to provide food for each child, each weekend. **We have an immediate need for tuna/chicken salad kits and Chef Boyardee single serving meals.** Offering money helps support this effort too! Thanks for your support!



Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God’s promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

(Text; attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4;

Music: attr. John Francis Wade)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(The assembly is seated.)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Love Has Come

ELW 292 (v. 1)

Love has come- a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

(Text: Ken Bible; Music: F. Seguin, Recueil de noels composes en langue provencale, 1856; Text © 1996 Integrity’s Hosanna Music)

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah’s king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God’s passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,

you have increased its joy;
 they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as people exult when dividing plunder.
 For the yoke of their burden,
 and the bar across their shoulders,
 the rod of their oppressor,
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.
 For all the boots of the tramping warriors
 and all the garments rolled in blood
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
 For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
 authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.
 He will establish and uphold it
 with justice and with righteousness
 from this time onward and forevermore.
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM *(Read responsively: congregation reads bold verses)*

Psalm 96

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
- ³ Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
- ⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- ⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

Those Serving Today	10 am	8:30 pm
Assisting Minister Crucifer Acolyte (s) Lector Communion Assistant Dismissal Assistants	Robin Dibley Devon W. Milt Dutcher Milt Dutcher Jack & Maddie W.	Tony Jasinski Olivia S. Emily R., Karli C. Megan Czarski Megan Czarski

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HYMN (8:30 pm only)

Silent Night, Holy Night!

ELW 281

*Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.*

*Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar.
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior is born!*

*Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.*

(Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885; Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863)

After the hymn is sung, please extinguish candle.

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. Amen.*

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW 267

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

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

The Gallery Carol

Edward Broughton

(© 2015 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the
peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity.
Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of
our Savior's final appearance.*

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety
and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright,
and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our
great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem
us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good
deeds.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW 270 (v. 1)

(Text; attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; Music:
attr. John Francis Wade)

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of
great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* **ELW 270 (v. 3)**

(Text; attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; Music: attr. John Francis Wade)

*Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.*

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

(The assembly is seated.)

SERMON

(Please stand as you are able.)

HYMN OF THE DAY *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* **ELW 288**

(Text. Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866; Music: German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795-1856)

COMMUNION ANTHEM (8:30 pm only) *Christ is Come (All Is Well)* *Adult Choir*
(Words: Tom Fettke; Music: George R. Poulton (1861); Arr.: Tom Fettke; Words and arrangements © 2010 Hal Leonard Corporation)

COMMUNION HYMN *Away in a Manger* **ELW 277**
(Text: North American, 19th cent.; Music: James R. Murray, 1841-1905)

(10 am only) *Silent Night, Holy Night!* **ELW 281**
(Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885; Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863)

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve **ELW 271**
(Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832-1911; tr. Peter A. Sveegen, 1881-1859; Music: Peder Knudsen, 1819-1863; Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.

As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace.

Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE CANDLE LIGHTING (8:30 pm only)

INTRODUCTION *Candle light is passed by tilting unlit candle over lighted one*

SCRIPTURE **JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD** **John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Power of the Most High,
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

Glory to God in the highest!
Come to the table of peace.

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.

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 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 God's peace. Afterwards, the assembly is seated.)

MEAL

OFFERTORY MUSIC (10 am) *The First Noel* David Cherwien
(© 2001 The Lorenz Corporation)

(8:30 pm) *Would I Miss the Miracle?* Adult Choir
(Text: Pamela Stewart; Music: Douglas Nolan; © 2011 Hal Leonard)

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

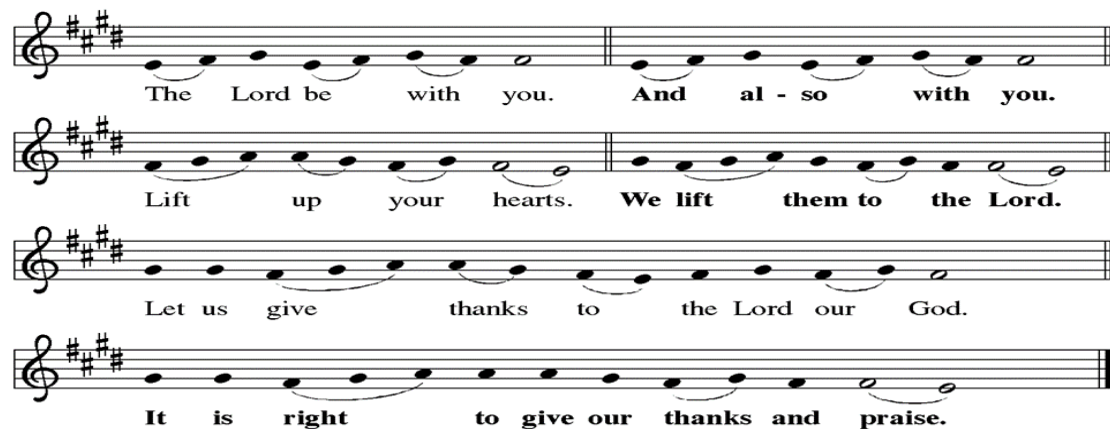
OFFERING HYMN *What Child is This* ELW 296 (vv. 1, 3)
(Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898; Music: English ballad, 16th cent.)

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,
receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angels,
and gather us at your table of celebration.
Strengthen us to share with all the world
the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

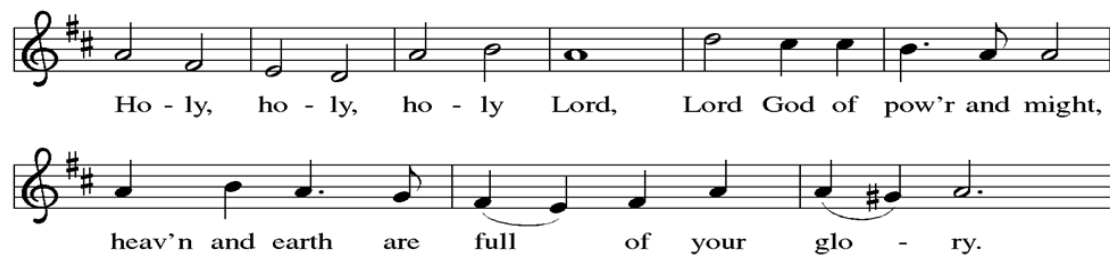


The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

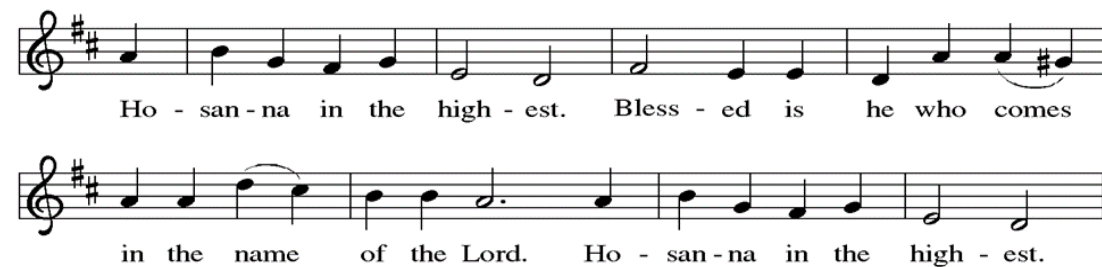
PREFACE

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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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 One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming. Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth. Come, Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Glory and praise to you, O God,

Author of life,

Word made flesh,