

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.

 [stjohnsparkville](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsparkville)
 [St. John's Lutheran Church Parkville](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsLutheranChurchParkville)
 [stjohnsparkvil1](https://twitter.com/stjohnsparkvil1)

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
 January 29, 2023



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

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

(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

Hello My Name Is

Matthew West

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(Please stand as you are able.)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

(Water may be poured into the font.)

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you drown out our sin and shame and claim us as your children.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
Fill us with your love.
Clothe us and all your people with grace.
Embolden us to do justice.

This week's schedule

Today	9 am	Sunday School & Faith & Fellowship
	9 am	Handbell Choir (Music Room)
	10 am	Live & Online Worship
Mon.	7:30 pm	Community Meal Planning Meeting (Smith Building)
Tues.		
Wed.	9:30 am	Busy Bees (Smith Building)
	7:30 pm	Adult Choir (Music Room)
Thurs.		
Fri.		
Sat.		

Counting our Blessings

Sun.	Attendance: 111	2022	
1/22	Offering: \$4,343	December Offering Income	\$45,429
	Homebound: 17	December Other Income	\$53,615
		December Total Income	\$99,044
		December Expenses	\$35,860
		YTD Offering Income	\$273,792
		YTD Other Income	\$ 79,711
		YTD Total Income	\$353,503
		YTD Expenses	\$362,836



Prayer List

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

For health & healing: John McLaughlin, Claire Miller, Alec Brock, Ruth Skarda, Janet Roth, Bill Spink, Bonnie Rogers, Jim Morrow, Mardi Nickel, Kim Townsley, Thomas McDonough, Bett Murphy, Debbie Miller, Sandy Scott, Tony Jasinski, and Vickie Jasinski

For family & friends: Mike Haven, Gail Gangi, Jen Schoenfliess, Doug Adams, Kristin Weger, Mary Margaret Wroten, Joan Murphy, Tim Dunn, Donna Bobloch, Yung-Mee Rhee, Audrey Vargo, Jeanne Hartman, Rebecca Hornbarger, Livie Bach, Bob Murphy, Mary Jo Rother, Bonnie Kellner, Linda Fliegel and Helen Bender

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: Fred Turkin, Matt Herzberg

For St. John's Caring Friends: 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, Kim Townsley, Cass Tracey and Emma Volz

Bless us to love mercy.
Guide us to walk humbly with you,
To whom we give our thanks and praise,
through Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!* **ELW 873 (vv. 1-4)**

(Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821-1891, alt.; Music: Arthur H. Messiter, 1834-1916)

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

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

YOUTH REFLECTIONS ON ROAD TRIP

(The assembly is seated.)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

WORD

FIRST READING

Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?
 In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
 and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
 and I sent before you Moses,
 Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
 what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
 and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
 that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”
 “With what shall I come before the LORD,
 and bow myself before God on high?
 Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
 with calves a year old?
 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
 with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
 Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
 the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
 He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
 and what does the LORD require of you
 but to do justice, and to love kindness,
 and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Psalm 15

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
 Who may abide upon your holy hill?
**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
 who speak the truth from their heart;**
 they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
 they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.
**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.
 They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**
 They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the
 innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world’s standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

2023 Offering Envelopes are here. Please pick them up from the tables outside of the Sanctuary. If you don’t have envelopes and would like a box, please contact the church office. If you see envelopes for a friend or neighbor who is not able to get to church, please deliver them. The cost of mailing the envelopes is very expensive, so we would like to deliver as many as possible. Thanks for your help!



Thanks to everyone who emailed your Ministry Report for the 2023 Annual Report. If you have not submitted your report, please do so as soon as possible. The Annual Report should be completed and ready to distribute by the middle of February.

Tickets are on sale for St. John’s 4th Annual Bull and Shrimp Roast on Friday, February 17, 2023 from 6:30 pm—10:30 pm at Columbus Gardens. Ticket prices are Adults \$55 and Children ages 13-20 \$50. Flyers with details are located on the counter outside of the Sanctuary, on the website and in the weekly emails. We need a final headcount by Friday, February 10th.



Mark your calendars for our Youth Sponsored, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 21st from 6-8 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you can come!

Save the Date for our 2023 Vacation Bible School on July 10-14th from 9 am-12:30 pm. We will starting our planning soon. As always, we will need many volunteers. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Haacke at haackefamily@comcast.net.



Venmo is Here! We are happy to announce that you can give your offering using Venmo. Enter [@stjohnsparkville](https://www.venmo.com/@stjohnsparkville) in the Venmo App or scan the QR code.

Announcements & Upcoming Event

Next Week— Sunday, January 5th—5th Sunday after Epiphany

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

† 10 am— **Worship in-person**

**with Guest Speaker Sarah Lefler, Mar-Lu-Ridge Exec. Director
and livestreamed on our YouTube Channel at stjohns lutheran church parkville md.**



The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given in honor of Gina McCall's birthday by Sharon Carletti. Additional flowers are given in honor of Linda Wiley's birthday by Laurie Krieger.

We are taking altar flower dedications for 2023. Dates available are: February 5th, 12th and 26th, March 12th and 26th, April 16th and 23rd, June 4th, 18th and 25th, July 2nd, 9th, 16th and 30th, August 6th, 20th and 27th, September 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th. 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: **Chef Boyardee single serving meals, chicken & tuna salad kits, snack crackers and cookies.** We are now packing two bags of food for the weekend for 25 children each week, therefore our supply is depleted quickly. Please help if you can!



Bible Study: The Gospel of Matthew for Everyone. Mark your calendars for a new bible study! This group will meet weekly on **Fridays at 11 am in the Smith Building** beginning **Friday, February 10th**. This bible study is great for anyone who is looking for a deeper dive into the Gospel readings we hear during worship. The resource we will use, written by N.T. Wright, is both thorough and approachable. If you have questions or would like to learn more contact our bible study leader, Ardi Scarborough or speak with one of the Pastors. You're invited!



2022 Contribution Statements have been mailed. If you have any questions about your statement or you don't receive it over the next week, please contact Debbie Haacke at 410-661-8970 or haackefamily@comcast.net.



The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord.

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

Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

Blessed are those who beg, who have no wealth. The kingdom of God is theirs.

Blessed are those who mourn, cry and lament, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are those who have power but do not use it harshly for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who long for righteousness, who thirst and hunger for God’s ways. They shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.

Blessed are those with clean hearts, for they shall see God.

Blessed are those who make peace for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are faithful to God’s ways and are chased down, harassed and mistreated because of it. The kingdom of God is theirs.

Blessed are you when people harass you, mistreat you and utter all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad! Your reward in heaven is great. That’s how they treated the prophets who came before you.

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

Let Streams of Living Justice

ELW 710

(Text: William Whitla, b. 1934; Music: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934; Text © 1989 William Whitla)

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Hello My Name Is

(See insert)

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Praise Him with the Sound of Trumpets

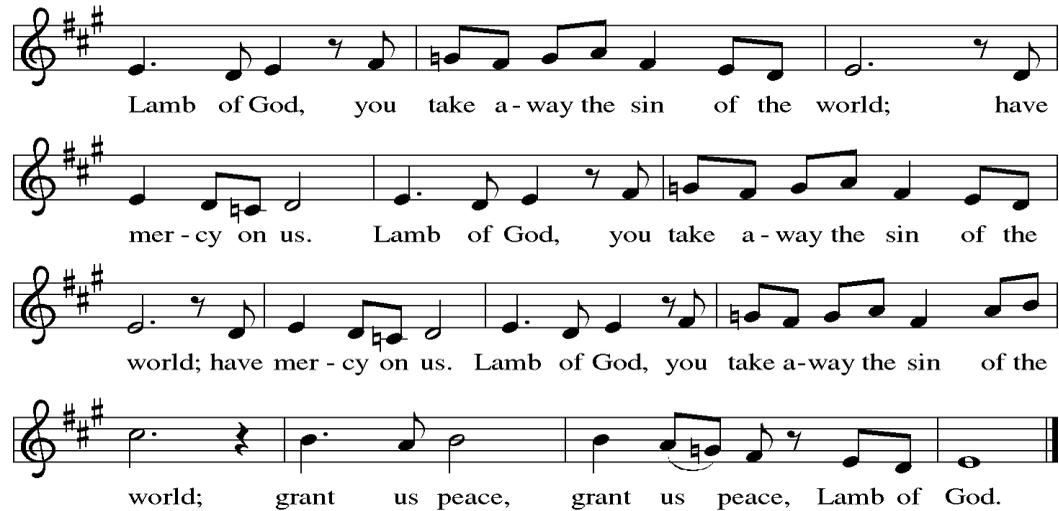
Robert Lau

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Those Serving Today	
Assisting Minister	Bob Berner
Crucifer	Brody E.
Acolyte (s)	Landry E., James W.
Lector	Bonnie Spellman
Communion Assistant	Bonnie Spellman

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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 *O Master, let Me Walk with You* **ELW 818**
(Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.; Music: H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898)

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One,
we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table.
Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod + bless,
strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition Merciful God,
Receive 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 *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* Paul Karvonen
(© 1973 Sacred Music Press)

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

OFFERING HYMN

We Are So Blessed

*We are so blessed by the gifts from your hand.
I just can't understand why you've loved us so much!
We are so blessed we just can't find a way, or the words that can say,
"Thank you, Lord, for your touch."*

Refrain: *When we're empty you fill us 'til we overflow;
when we're hungry you feed us and cause us to know
we are so blessed, take what we have to bring,
take it all, everything. Lord, we thank you so much!*

(Text: Gloria Gaither; Music: William J. Gaither, Greg Nelson; Text and music © 1982 River Oaks Music Company; CCLI Song #15991; permission for use granted under CCLI License #11527942)

OFFERING PRAYER

Liberating God,
you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,
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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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, 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 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

Come and taste the joy of God!

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.*