

STAFF

Rev. Mathew Berger, Pastor mathew.berger@stjohnsparkville.org 913-634-7131	Rev. Amy Berger, Pastor amy.berger@stjohnsparkville.org 443-286-5511
Martha Requard, Director of Music	Carol Erpenstein, Office Administrator




Scott Becker, Sexton

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
  St. John's Lutheran Church Parkville
  stjohnsparkvil1

First Sunday of Advent

November 26, 2023



St. John's Lutheran Church of Parkville
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

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

*(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 *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!* Robert J. Powell
(© 2014 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

(Please stand as you are able.)

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who opens the heavens
and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.

We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness

that make us reluctant to work against oppression.

We are complicit in systems of exploitation.

We choose comfort over courage.

We are careless with creation's bounty.

Look upon us with mercy.

Turn our hearts again to you.

**Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world.**

Amen.

Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.

This week's schedule

Today	9 am Sunday School & Faith and Fellowship 9 am Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Music Room) 10 am Live & Online Worship 11:30 am Worship & Music Meeting (Music Room)
Mon.	
Tues.	7 pm Preschool Board Meeting (Preschool Room)
Wed.	1 pm Audit Committee (Christian Ed Room) 7:30 pm Adult Choir (Music Room)
Thurs.	
Fri.	11 am Bible Study (Smith Building)
Sat.	

Counting our Blessings

Sunday	Attendance: 113	2023	
11/19	Offering: \$ 5,230	October Offering Income	\$27,773
	Homebound: 17	October Other Income	\$ 1,160
		October Total Income	\$28,933
		August Expenses	\$29,790
		YTD Offering Income	\$228,200
		YTD Other Income	\$ 36,543
		YTD Total Income	\$264,734
		YTD Expenses	\$311,855



Prayer List

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

For health & healing: Oluseye Fowode, Robert Suznick, Barbara Mueller, Patricia Denk, Cass Tracey, Lisa Duerling, Len Steg, Joan Kraft, Mike McDonough, Mardi Nickel, Joan Swank, Andy Rother, Rosalie Coffman, Pat Hurley, Debbie Miller, Sandy Scott, and Vickie Jasinski

For family & friends: Barbara Hurn, Maeve Webster, Shannon McLaughlin, John Bryan, Joe Federline, Pastor John Burk, Klaus Thoeicht, Tiffany Webb, Mary & Barry McCain, Russell Fitch, Bonnie Franklin, Jamie Kirschner, Lily Newman, Rob Graff, Alice Evans, Trish Pizza, Betsy Shock, Joann Bayer, Norman Bayer, Sue Eid, Genevieve Byrnes, Julie Bramble, Ruth Reimschissel aka Mrs. Claus, Deemer Morrow, 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, Staff Sgt. Brandan Hartmann, Michael Anthony Tucker, and all those in harm's way

For those grieving family & friends of: Helen Bender

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

Those Serving Today	
Assisting Minister	Michelle Alkire
Crucifer	Emily R.
Acolyte (s)	Gabby G., Jack W.
Lector	Lee Smith
Communion Assistant	Lee Smith
Dismissal Assistant	Alec B.

In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!* ELW 246 (vv. 1, 2, 5)
(Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878; Music: William H. Monk, 1823-1889)

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.
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

(The assembly is seated.)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW 726 (See insert)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40-55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

- ¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
- ²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
- ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
- ⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,
 who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
 those who remember you in your ways.
 But you were angry, and we sinned;
 because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
 and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
 We all fade like a leaf,
 and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
 or attempts to take hold of you;
 for you have hidden your face from us,
 and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
 we are the clay, and you are our potter;
 we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
 and do not remember iniquity forever.
 Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God, word of life.

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

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
 shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
 stir up your strength and come to help us.**
³Restore us, O God;
 let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
⁴**O LORD God of hosts,
 how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
 you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
 let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
 the one you have made so strong for yourself.**
¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
 give us life, that we may call upon your name.
¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
 let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Christmas Plants are for sale. If you would like to sponsor a plant in memory or in honor of your loved one, please fill out a form and place your check (marked Altar Guild) in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. Forms are available in the weekly email and on the third floor bulletin board. **Orders are due today, Sunday, November 26th.**



Social Ministry is participating in the **Shoebboxes for C.A.N. Program.** The shoeboxes will be filled and donated to children in need at the Eastside Shelter. **Items needed are: shoeboxes, individually wrapped tooth brushes, travel size toothpaste, books and toys that will fit in a shoebox for ages 7-14.** Please drop your donations in the bins on the 2nd & 3rd floor or in the church office. **Donations are due today, Sunday, November 26th.** If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Buckless.

St. John's Youth is sponsoring **Breakfast with Santa** on Saturday, December 9th from 9 am—11 am. Flyers are located on the third floor bulletin board. Please fill out a form and drop it in the box or return it to the church office. Reservations are requested. **Please sign up by December 3rd.**



Join us for our next Community Meal, Wednesday, December 6th from 5:30 pm—7 pm. Thank you to everyone who helped make the November meal a success! We still need volunteers for the December meal. The sign up sheet is on the third floor bulletin board. Please come and invite your friends, family and neighbors!

Our next Wednesday Night Worship will take place on December 6th after the Community Meal. This is a brief communion service held in the Smith Building with blended music featuring piano and guitar, as well as an interactive reflection. We hope you can join us and invite your friends and neighbors!



Wreaths across America ceremony will be held in St. John's Cemetery on Friday, December 16th at 2 pm. If you would like to sponsor a wreath for a veteran, please contact Nancy Ford at 443-835-7038. There are flyers with more information on the 3rd floor bulletin board. **Orders must be placed by November 30th.**

Save the date for St. John's 5th Annual Bull and Shrimp Roast on Friday, February 2, 2024 from 6:30 pm—10:30 pm at Columbus Gardens. More information will be coming soon.



St John's Preschool needs glass jars for a project they are working on with the children. They can be spaghetti or pickle jars or something similar. They also need cereal boxes for make Christmas Card boxes.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Next Week— Sunday, December 3rd— Second Sunday of Advent

† 9 am—Advent Celebration

† 9 am—Handbell Choir

† 10 am—Worship in-person/Youth led service
followed by our fall Congregational Meeting
and livestreamed on our YouTube Channel

Visit stjohnsparkville.org



The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given in memory of Bertie Nolder by Paul Nolder and family.

We are taking altar flower dedications for 2024. The cost is \$50. Contact Rachel Hills at rm_hills@yahoo.com if you would like to sponsor the flowers. Available dates are January 14th, February 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th, March 10th and 24th, April 7th, and 21st, May 5th, 12th, and 19th, June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th.

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.



YOUTH GROUP St. John's Youth Group meets in the Youth Room on the second floor from about 11:30 am-12:30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. This group is for middle and high school students. Join us as we have fun, get to know one another, and grow in faith together.

Faith and Fellowship meets in the Fellowship Hall on the first floor from 9 am—9:45 am each Sunday. This is an opportunity for adults to gather for light refreshments and to grow in faith.



BIBLE The Bible Study group meets on Friday's at 11 am in the Smith Building. We are studying the book of Matthew. All are welcome!

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 small packages of cookies.** Offering money helps support this effort too! Any monetary donations are welcomed and certainly appreciated. Thanks for your support!



50th ANNIVERSARY Join in the Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of St. John's building today after worship in the Fellowship Hall. We will celebrate with photos, memories & cake!

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

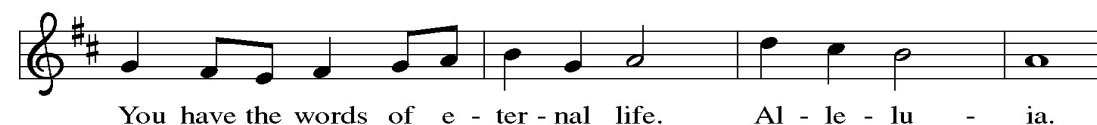
⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. *(Psalm 85:7)*

(The Gospel Acclamation is repeated.)

GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory.

²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* **ELW 244**
(Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907; Music: Swedish folk tune)

NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN *Of the Father's Love Begotten* **ELW 295**
(Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite; Music: Plainsong mode V, 13th cent.)

(The assembly remains seated.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
Generous God,
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory
for all people to see together.
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim
your good news of liberation and release,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN *Soon and Very Soon* **ELW 439**
(Text Music: Andrae Crouch, 1945-2015; Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./ Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing/ CCLI Song # 11249 For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com/ CCLI License # 1152794)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Paeon on "Wachet auf"* *David Lasky*
(© 2017 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

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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

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
Come, take your place at the table.

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.

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

MEAL

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Where is He, Immanuel?* *Adult Choir*
(Words: Trilby Carter Jordan; Music: David Angerman; © 2011 Hal Leonard Corporation)

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



(Please stand as you are able.)

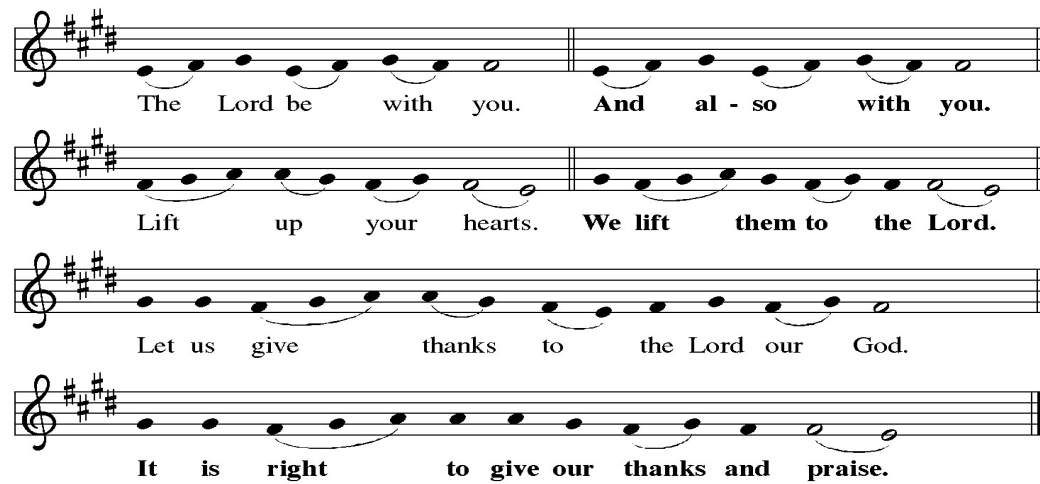
OFFERING HYMN *We Give Thee but Thine Own* *ELW 686 (vv. 1, 2)*
(Text: William W. How, 1832-1897, alt.; Music: L. Mason and G. Webb, Cantica Lauda)

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
God our provider,
by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love
and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

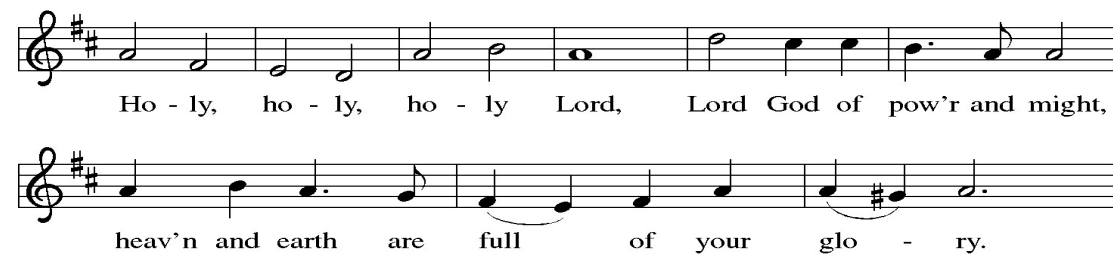


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

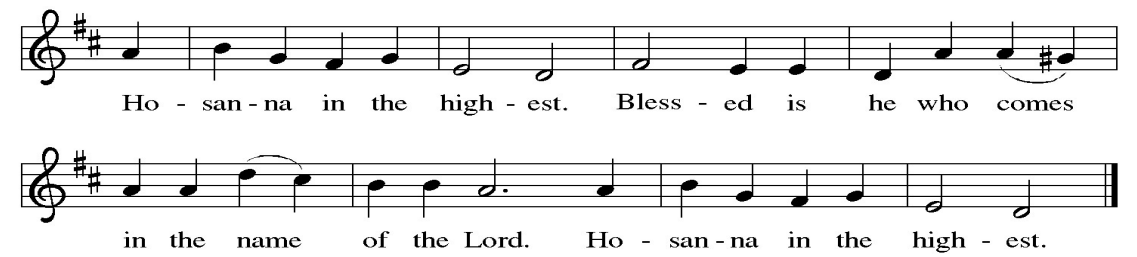
PREFACE

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 comforted 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 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.**

We praise you, O God.
our hope, our joy, our peace.

Today, tomorrow, and forever. **Amen.**