

## 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.

## Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023



### St. John's Lutheran Church of Parkville

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stjohnsparkville



St. John's Lutheran Church Parkville



stjohnsparkvill1

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

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. “I was blind, now I see,” declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God’s beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

*(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** *Nimrod (from Enigma Variations) Sir Edward William Elgar*

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God’s mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
**we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ✚ forgives you in Christ’s name, and revives you in the Spirit’s power.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness ELW 843*

*(Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955; Music: J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813; Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company)*

## This week's schedule

Today	9 am	Sunday School & Faith & Fellowship
	9 am	Handbell Choir (Music Room)
	10 am	Live & Online Worship
	11 am	Altar Guild Meeting (Smith Building)
	11 am	Property Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Mon.	7 pm	Council Meeting (Smith Building)
Tues.	11 am– 10 pm	Restaurant Night @ Silver Spring Mining Company
Wed.	9:30 am	Busy Bees (Smith Building)
	6 pm	Soup & Salad (Fellowship Hall)
	7 pm	Holden Prayer Service
	7:45 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
Thurs.		
Fri.	11 am	Bible Study (Smith Building)
Sat.		

## Counting our Blessings

		2023	
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Attendance:</b> 47	January Offering Income	\$21,245
3/8	<b>Offering:</b> \$645	January Other Income	\$ 6,085
		January Total Income	\$27,330
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>Attendance:</b> 100	January Expenses	\$34,496
3/12	<b>Offering:</b> \$4,899	YTD Offering Income	\$21,245
	<b>Homebound:</b> 17	YTD Other Income	\$ 6,085
		YTD Total Income	\$27,330
		YTD Expenses	\$34,496



## Prayer List

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

**For health & healing:** Frank Curnoles, Phil Ermer, Claire Miller, Alec Brock, Ruth Skarda, Bill Spink, Bonnie Rogers, Mardi Nickel, Thomas McDonough, Bett Murphy, Debbie Miller, Sandy Scott, Tony Jasinski, and Vickie Jasinski

**For family & friends:** Helen Bender, Anna Meyers, Nancy Natkin, Rae Eberwine, Deemer Morrow, John Bowman, 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:** Norma Weber, Erin Scarborough

**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

## 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

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, 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

### WORD

#### FIRST READING

**1 Samuel 16:1-13**

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

<sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is

keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.”<sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.”<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**PSALM** (Read responsively; congregation reads bold verses) **Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**SECOND READING**

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

*Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*(Please stand as you are able.)*



**Join us for our next Restaurant Night at Silver Spring Mining Company** in Perry Hall, on Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, from 11 am to 10 pm. Present a flyer when ordering or let them know that you are supporting St. John’s. Flyers are located on the third floor bulletin board.

**St. John’s Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 10 am -12 noon behind the parsonage.** In case of rain, the event will be held in the Fellowship Hall. RSVP to the church office by Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> with the age and grade of your child. Please see the volunteer signup on the bulletin board and sign up to volunteer!



**Save the Date for our Prayer Partner Luncheon on April 16th at 11:30 am.** If you would like to participate in the Prayer Partner Program, **fill out a form and place it in the box located on the counter outside of the Sanctuary by Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Any questions, contact Vickie Jasinski at 410-529-7536.

**Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry in Baltimore is having their 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Trivia Night fundraiser!** This event will take place Saturday, April 22. Doors open at 5:30, and game play begins at 6:00 pm. We’ll be in 2 sites this year, linked together via livestream: **Churches of the Holy Apostles and St Stephen**, 901 Courtney Rd, Arbutus, MD 21227 & **Ascension Lutheran Church**, 7601 York Road, Towson, MD 21204. See the bulletin board to join a team of up to 8 people for \$20/per person (includes lots of munchies!) Childcare is available for \$10/child or \$20/family.



**Campfire at the Labyrinth sponsored by Family Ministry will take place on Friday, April 28th at 6pm.** This will be a fun evening of games, devotions and marshmallow roasting.

**Save the Date for our 2023 Vacation Bible School on July 10-14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:haackefamily@comcast.net).



**Help Needed for Music Camp...** If you know any young (high school or college) person who enjoys and has experience with theater, music, art, arts and crafts, and a love for working with children, PLEASE contact Martha Requard at [mrequard1@gmail.com](mailto:mrequard1@gmail.com). Our assistants will be working with the campers to help them create their program (July 24-26) or musical (August 7-11). We need to make sure that we have the help before we can advertise our camps.

**We have Venmo!** 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, March 26<sup>th</sup>—5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

† 9 am— Sunday School and Faith & Fellowship

† 10 am—Worship in-person  
and livestreamed on our YouTube Channel

Visit [stjohnsparkville.org](http://stjohnsparkville.org)

### Wednesday Nights in Lent

Soup and Salad—6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Holden Evening Prayer with stories of Daily Bread— 7 pm



The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given in honor of Sue Addison's birthday by her family.

We are taking altar flower dedications for 2023. Dates available are: April 23<sup>rd</sup>, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, August 6<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</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.



**Food for Thought Program** is in great need of: **Snack crackers**. 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 great 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 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 study learn more, contact Ardi Scarborough or speak with one of the Pastors.



**Free Community Meal** at St. John's on Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 pm— 7 pm. Join neighbors and friends for potato soup, salad, bread and dessert. All are welcome!



## 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.

## GOSPEL

**John 9:1-41**

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age.

He will speak for himself.”<sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.<sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.”<sup>25</sup> He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”<sup>26</sup> They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”<sup>27</sup> He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.<sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”<sup>30</sup> The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.<sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.

<sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.<sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”<sup>34</sup> They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”<sup>36</sup> He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”<sup>38</sup> He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.”<sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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

***Lead Me, Guide Me***

***ELW 768***

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

## 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.**

## SENDING HYMN

***Be Thou My Vision***

***ELW 793***

*(Text: Irish, 8<sup>th</sup> cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931; Music: Irish traditional)*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*“Voluntary on Hyfrydol”*

*arr. Dan Miller*

*We welcome Mark Hurley as our guest organist today,  
and thank him for sharing his God-given gifts with us in worship.*

### Those Serving Today

Assisting Minister	Linda Wiley
Crucifer	Emily R.
Acolyte (s)	Jack W.
Lector	Megan Czarski
Communion Assistant	Megan Czarski

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**LAMB OF GOD***Now Behold the Lamb***ELW 341**

1 Now be - hold the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God, who  
 2 Ho - ly is the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God. Why  
 3 Thank you for the Lamb, the pre - cious Lamb of God. Be -



bore all my sin, that I may live a - gain: the pre-cious Lamb of God.  
 you love me so, Lord, I shall nev - er know; the pre-cious Lamb of God.  
 cause of your grace I can fin - ish the race; the pre-cious Lamb of God.

*(Text and music: Kirk Franklin, b. 1970; arr. Keith Hampton, b. 1957; Text and music © 1996 Lilly Mack Music CCLI Song #1892738)*

**COMMUNION HYMN***I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light***ELW 815**

*(Text and music: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934; Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration)*

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Embodied God,  
 at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to  
 your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with  
 your love.

**Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****SENDING****BLESSING**

God, the giver of love, ✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of  
 rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

**Amen.**

**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.**

**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***Meditation on "Picardy"**arr. Mark Hurley*

*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*

**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**

God of good gifts,  
 receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your  
 gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence  
 through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

**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, 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.**

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

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

## 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.*