

## 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.

# Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2023



## St. John's Lutheran Church of Parkville

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

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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

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

*(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

*Lord of All Hopefulness*

*Dale Wood*

*(© 1985 The Sacred Music Press)*

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

## GATHERING

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God,  
the one who forms us,  
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,  
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.  
**Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility,  
confessing our sin.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Steadfast and faithful God,  
**you have revealed the ways of justice,  
yet we fail to follow you.  
We are overwhelmed  
by the world's violence and suffering.  
We are afraid to risk what we have  
for the sake of others.  
For the harm we have caused,  
known and unknown, forgive us.  
For the unjust demands we place on others  
and your creation, forgive us.  
For the ways we turn away  
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**

## This week's schedule

Today	9 am Sunday School & Faith and Fellowship 9 am Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Music Room) 10 am Live & Online Worship
Mon.	
Tues.	
Wed.	9:30 am Busy Bees (Smith Building) 7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
Thurs.	
Fri.	11 am Bible Study (Smith Building) 6 pm Family Campfire Event (Labyrinth)
Sat.	

## Counting our Blessings

		2023	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Attendance:</b> 120	June Offering Income	\$18,282
9/17	<b>Offering:</b> \$7,712	June Other Income	\$ 1,293
	<b>Homebound:</b> 18	June Total Income	\$19,575
		June Expenses	\$34,851
		YTD Offering Income	\$134,709
		YTD Other Income	\$ 29,430
		YTD Total Income	\$164,139
		YTD Expenses	\$195,898

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## Prayer List



Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

**For health & healing:** Barbara Mueller, Patricia Denk, Robert Suznick, Cass Tracey, Lou Gerber, Lisa Duerling, Len Steg, Mary Gude, Joan Kraft, Mike McDonough, Bonnie Spellman, Ardi Scarborough, Mardi Nickel, Joan Swank, Andy Rother, Rosalie Coffman, Pat Hurley, Bett Murphy, Debbie Miller, Sandy Scott, and Vickie Jasinski

**For family & friends:** Bonnie Franklin, Jamie Kirschner, Lily Newman, Rob Graff, Alice Evans, Trish Pizza, Robert Hunter, Jr., Betsy Shock, Joann Bayer, Norman Bayer, Sue Eid, Genevieve Byrnes, Julie Bramble, Ruth Reimschissel aka Mrs. Claus, Darlene & Odin Saby, Holly Hartman, Colette, Larry Harmel, Michael Ellisson, Lonnie Rash, Gary Jones, Karen Alban, Bruce Cohen, Kathy Barnes, Vic Giordani, Helen Bender, Anna Meyers, Deemer Morrow, Lee Hall, Robin, Alice Ensor, Jeanne Edmunds, Mike Haven, Gail Gangi, Kristin Weger, 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:** Mary-Anne Reek

**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

**Lead us back to you  
and set us on the right path;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.  
God's compassion is beyond compare.  
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.  
In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.  
**Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN

*Lord of Light*

*ELW 688 (vv. 1-2)*

*(Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860-1953, alt.; Music: Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991; Text © Union of Welsh Independents; Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company)*

### 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.  
Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

*(The assembly is seated.)*

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

#### FIRST READING

**Jonah 3:10--4:11**

*After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?*

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup> But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

Psalm 145:1-8

<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my God and king,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup>**Every day will I bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.**

<sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!  
There is no end to your greatness.

<sup>4</sup>**One generation shall praise your works to another  
and shall declare your power.**

<sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty  
and all your marvelous works.

<sup>6</sup>**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,  
and I will recount your greatness.**

<sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Join us for our next Community Meal on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 pm—7 pm. Thank you to everyone who helped make the September Community Meal a success! We need volunteers for our next meal. If you can help, there is a sign up sheet on the third floor bulletin board or you can call the church office. Please come and invite your friends, family and neighbors!



**Wednesday Night Worship! The first Wednesday of the month, 7 pm in the Smith Building.** A new worship opportunity will follow the monthly Community Meal beginning October 4<sup>th</sup>. This will be a brief communion service 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!

Join us for our Annual Blessing of the Animals on Friday, October, 6<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm—6:30 pm in St. John’s Park. Bring your pet or a photo of your pet for a blessing and treat.



**Our next Restaurant Night is at Texas Roadhouse in White Marsh on Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 3 pm—10 pm.** Come out and support St. John’s and enjoy a meal with friends. You must show a flyer or a copy of the flyer on your phone for the church to receive credit.

**Our Trunk or Treat will take place on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.** This event is a safe and fun way of trick-or-treating! Car decorating set up begins at 5 pm with the event starting at 6 pm. Contact the church office to sign up for car decorating contest.



The Busy Bees need flannel sheets as a component for the quilts they make for the homeless. If you have any used but clean flannel sheets that you would like to donate we would really appreciate it.

### Food for Thought Sunday is October 8<sup>th</sup>

We will be doing a special collection based on the first letter of your last name.

**A-F—Chef Boyardee single serving meals**

**G-I—Tuna/Chicken salad kit**

**J-L—Pudding Cups**

**M-O—Apple Sauce pouches**

**P-R—Pop Tarts/Cereal Bars**

**S-V—Juice Pouches**

**W-Z—Small bags of chips/snack items or individual packs of snack crackers**



This program supports 25 children experiencing food insecurity at Carney Elementary. There are collection bins outside of the Sanctuary and in the second floor stairwell. We appreciate your continued support.



## Announcements & Upcoming Events

### Next Week— Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>— Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- † 9 am—**Sunday School & Faith and Fellowship**
- † 9 am—**Handbell Choir**
- † 10 am—**Worship in-person**  
**and livestreamed on our YouTube Channel**
- † 11:30 am—**Youth Group**  
Visit [stjohnsparkville.org](http://stjohnsparkville.org)



The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given to the glory of God—thank you for birthdays and countless blessings by JoAnn Weiland.

There is only one date left in 2023 to sponsor altar flowers: October 8<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.



**St. John's Youth Group** meets in the Youth Room on the second floor from about 11:30 am-12:30 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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** COME JOIN OUR **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! Please note that there will be no bible study on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> and October 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Attention all Ministry Teams...2024 Budget requests are due today.** Forms can be found on the third floor bulletin board, in the weekly email or in the church office. Return your completed budget request to Lee Smith by email at [wleesmith3@verizon.net](mailto:wleesmith3@verizon.net) or bring it to the church office.



**"S'mores and More" Family Campfire** will be held on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm-8 pm at the Labyrinth. Everyone is welcome for a fun night of yard games, s'mores, songs, prayer and fellowship by the fireside! Invite your friends and neighbors!

## SECOND READING

## Philippians 1:21-30

*Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.*

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

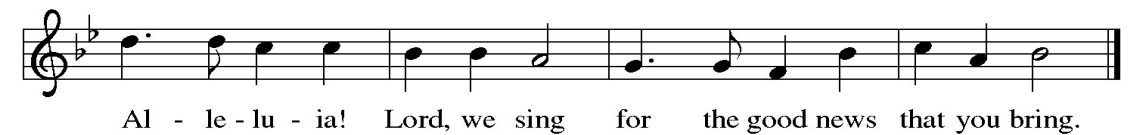
<sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



**GOSPEL**

**Matthew 20:1-16**

*Jesus tells a parable about God’s generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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**

***Faith Begins by Letting Go***

***ACS 1004***

*(See Insert)*

*(Text: Carl P. Daws Jr., b. 1944; Music: J. G. Werner, Choralbuch, 1815; Text © Hope Publishing Company)*

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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,**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

The God of glory,

✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,  
and the Spirit who lives in you,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

***Rise Up, O Saints of God!***

***ELW 669***

*(Text: Norman O. Forness, 1936-2009; Music: William H. Walker, 1825-1893; Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress)*

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*A Celebration of Praise*

*James Denton*

*(© 1982 Lorenz Publishing Co.)*

<b>Those Serving Today</b>	
Assisting Minister	Tony Jasinski
Crucifer	James W.
Acolyte (s)	Devon W., Jack W.
Lector	Amanda Hartman
Communion Assistant	Amanda Hartman
Dismissal Assistant	Madilyn A.

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## LAMB OF GOD



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



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

## COMMUNION HYMNS

*Lord of All Hopefulness*

*ELW 765*

*(Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953; music: Irish traditional; Text © Oxford University Press)*

*Great God, Your Love Has Called Us*

*ELW 358*

*(Brian A. Wren, b. 1936; Music: Norman Cocker, 1889-1953; Text © 1977, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company; Music © Oxford University Press)*

*(The assembly remains seated.)*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.  
 Blessed be your name, O God,  
 for we have feasted on your Word,  
 Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.  
 Strengthened by this food,  
 send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
 where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
 In Jesus' name we pray.  
**Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.**

## 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

*Reflection on "Love Unknown"*

*David Lasky*

*(© 2019 Lorenz Publishing Co.)*

*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*



*(Please stand as you are able.)*

### OFFERING HYMN

*God of the Fertile Fields*

*ACS 1063 (vv. 1-2)  
(See Insert)*

*(Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891-1974; Music: Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796; Text © 1955 ren. 1983 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company)*

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.  
 God of power, God of plenty,  
 all things belong to you.  
 We bring your gifts to the table,  
 that all might be fed.

Form us into the body of your Beloved,  
Jesus Christ, 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.**

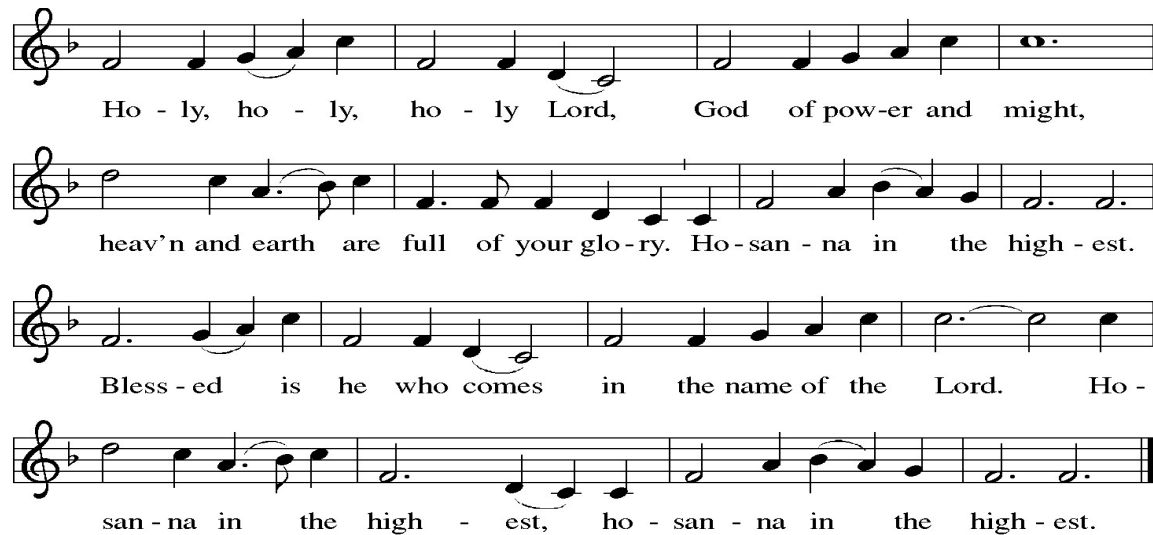
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
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 O God,  
for you made the earth and all that is, and declared it good.  
Blessed are you,  
for in Christ you entered into creation,  
into our humanity, into our vulnerability, into our mortality.  
You stayed with us through conflict, through suffering, through death.  
Blessed are you for raising Jesus from the dead.  
in him promising new life to us all.  
In the night in which he was betrayed...

Come, Lord, Jesus, in this meal,  
and make us alive again.

By your Spirit,  
bind us to that holy communion of saints in every time and place,  
and make us your body in the world,  
bringing light and healing to all.

**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

Jesus invites you to this table.  
Come, eat and live.

### 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.*