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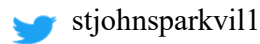
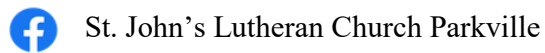
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Martha Requard, Director of Music	Carol Erpenstein, Office Administrator

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.



# First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2024



**St. John's Lutheran Church of Parkville**  
[www.stjohnsparkville.org](http://www.stjohnsparkville.org)  
 (410) 665-1234  
[office@stjohnsparkville.org](mailto: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

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah’s family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

*(Please take a moment to silence all electronics. Thank you!)*

*(Hymns are taken from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the red book in the pew rack.)*

### WELCOME

**PRELUDE**                      *Prelude on “Lonesome Valley”*                      *Matthew McConnell*  
 (© 2016 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

### INVITATION TO LENT

Friends in Christ, in this season of Lent we enter the time of remembering Jesus’ passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy time by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God’s mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. We are invited, therefore, into the holy practices of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
 who writes the law on our hearts,  
 who draws all people together through Jesus.

**Amen.**

Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin  
 in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

This week's schedule	
Today	9 am Sunday School & Faith & Fellowship 9 am Handbell Choir (Music Room) 10 am Live & Online Worship 11:30 am Altar Guild Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Mon.	<b>Presidents Day (office closed)</b> 7 pm Council Meeting (Smith Building)
Tues.	
Wed.	9:30 am Busy Bees (Smith Building) 6 pm Soup & Salad (Fellowship Hall) 7 pm Holden Prayer Service 7:30 pm Adult Choir (Music Room)
Thurs.	
Fri.	11 am Bible Study (Smith Building)
Sat.	

Counting our Blessings			
Sun. 2/11	Attendance: 120 Offering: \$3,858 Homebound: 16	<b>2023</b>	
		December Offering Income	\$31,972
		December Other Income	\$ 2,421
		December Total Income	\$34,393
		December Expenses	\$34,660
		YTD Offering Income	\$283,985
		YTD Other Income	\$ 40,567
		YTD Total Income	\$324,552
		YTD Expenses	\$386,155



### Prayer List

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

**For health & healing:** Doris Rye, Richard Souders, Karen Ermer, Bob Murphy, Oluseye Fowode, Robert Suznick, Barbara Mueller, Lisa Duerling, Joan Kraft, Mike McDonough, Joan Swank, Rosalie Coffman, Pat Hurley, Debbie Miller, Sandy Scott, and Vickie Jasinski

**For family & friends:** William Bold, Sr., Fran Eliopoulos, Eleni Bowden, Laney Stowell, Mary Margaret Wroten, Butch Kahl, Pearl Johnson, Nancy, Donna Joseph, Harriet Miller, Maeve Webster, Shannon McLaughlin, John Bryan, Joe Federline, Pastor John Burk, Tiffany Webb, Mary & Barry McCain, Russell Fitch, Bonnie Franklin, Jamie Kirschner, Lily Newman, Rob Graff, Alice Evans, Trish Pizza, Betsy Shock, Sue Eid, Julie Bramble, Ruth Reimschissel aka Mrs. Claus, 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:** Bett Murphy, Leonard Steg

**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, and Emma Volz

Those Serving Today	
Assisting Minister	Lee Smith
Crucifer	Gabby G.
Acolyte (s)	Simon B.
Lector	Michelle Alkire
Communion Assistant	Michelle Alkire
Dismissal Assistant	Alec B.

Holy God,  
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.**  
**We hoard resources while our neighbors  
are hungry and cold.**  
**We speak in ways that silence others.**  
**We are silent when we should speak up.**  
**We keep score in our hearts.**  
**We let hurts grow into hatred.**  
**For all these things and for sins only you know,  
forgive us, Lord.**  
**Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:  
Out of love for the whole world,  
God draws near to us,  
breaks every snare of sin,  
washes away our wrongs,  
and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**     *Bless Now, O God, the Journey*     **ELW 326**  
*(Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993; Music: Welsh tune, 19<sup>th</sup> cent.; Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.)*

### 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, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved your people, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*(The assembly is seated.)*

### CHILDREN’S SERMON

## WORD

### FIRST READING

Genesis 9:8-17

*Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.*

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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

Psalms 25:1-10

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**



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

**Join us for our next Community Meal on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30 pm.** We will need volunteers for our meal. The sign up sheet will be available soon on the third floor bulletin board. Please come and invite your friends, family and neighbors! A special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with the February meal.



**Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp** in Jefferson, MD invites you to join us this summer! Family Campers and youth ages 6-17 are welcome. We never turn anyone away for financial reasons, so please ask about our Campership fund if needed. Come experience small-group camping, swimming, hiking, sleep-outs, new friends, and exciting activities that challenge you to grow in confidence and in faith - all in a safe and inclusive community. Our 2024 Theme is "Created To Be!" Registration is open; Early Bird discount through February 18. For more information visit [mar-lu-ridge.org/summer-camp/](http://mar-lu-ridge.org/summer-camp/) or call 800.238.9974.

### **Wednesday Worship during Lent**

\*\*February 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, \*March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> \*\*

6 pm – Soup & Salad (Fellowship Hall)

**\*March 6<sup>th</sup> – Community Meal begins at 5:30 pm**

7 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service w/Reflections

*(Please note: Adult Choir practice will begin after the prayer service.)*

### **Sunday Worship during Lent**

\*\*February 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> \*\*

10 am Live & Online Worship

## Announcements & Upcoming Event

### Next Week— Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>—Second Sunday in Lent

† 9 am— Sunday School and Faith & Fellowship

† 9 am—Handbell Choir

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

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



The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given in memory of a dear friend, Jack O'Laughlin by Mardi Nickel.

We are taking altar flower dedications for 2024. 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. Available dates are February 25<sup>th</sup>, March 10<sup>th</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>.

**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 first Sunday of the month, from about 11:15 am—12:30 pm. This group is for middle and high school students. Join us as we have fun, get to know one another and grow in faith. See you there!

**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!

**Easter Plant orders are due today.** If you would like to purchase flowers, put your form and check/cash in an envelope and mark it "Altar Guild". Forms are located on the third floor bulletin board outside of the Sanctuary.



**ANNUAL REPORT** The 2023 Annual Report is complete. It was sent by email and is also available in hard copy. Copies are located on the counter outside of the Sanctuary.

**2023 Contribution Statements have been mailed.** If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Debbie at 410-661-8970 or by email at [haackefamily@comcast.net](mailto:haackefamily@comcast.net).



<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

### SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:18-22

*As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.*

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

### 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

Mark 1:9-15

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."



<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

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

*When We Are Tested*

ACS 922



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,  
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,  
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,  
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,  
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.  
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.  
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.  
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

*(Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947; Music: Irish traditional; Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company)*

## COMMUNION HYMN

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

ELW 325

*(Text and music: African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version; Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress)*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,  
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.  
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,  
now make us one loaf to feed the world;  
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.  
**Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SENDING

## BLESSING

Beloved,  
we are God's own people,  
holy, washed, renewed.  
God bless you and keep you,  
shower you with mercy,  
fill you with courage,  
and ✠ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*O Lord, throughout These Forty Days*

ELW 319

*(Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930; Music: A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003; Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House)*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Arise, My Soul, Arise*

*arr. Lani Smith*

*(© 2013 Lorenz Publishing Co.)*

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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

Bread for the journey.  
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

### 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



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.

### 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, 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* Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

**PEACE** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*(We offer each other a sign of God's peace. Afterwards, the assembly is seated.)*

### MEAL

**OFFERTORY MUSIC** *Father, Lead Me Day by Day* Adult Choir  
(Text: John P. Hopps, 1834-1912; Music: Hal H. Hopson; © 1978 Agape)

*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

**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

Jesus, you are the bread of life  
and the host of this meal.  
Bless these gifts that we have gathered  
that all people may know your goodness.  
Feed us not only with this holy food  
but with hunger for justice and peace.  
We pray this in your name.  
**Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

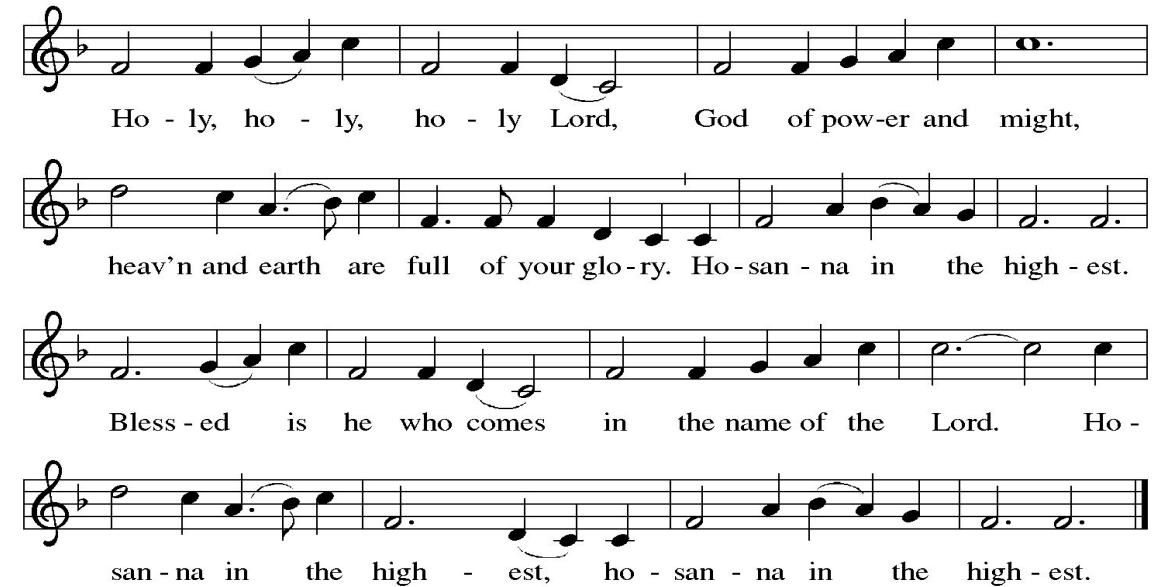
#### DIALOGUE

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.