

STAFF




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For emergencies call 443-844-9314
***The Pastors are off on Fridays**



Notice of live streaming:
Today's worship service is being live streamed to YouTube with video coverage of leaders and worshippers.

 stjohnsparkville
  St. John's Lutheran Church Parkville
  stjohnsparkvill1

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024



St. John's Lutheran Church of Parkville
www.stjohnsparkville.org
 (410) 665-1234
office@stjohnsparkville.org
 Text SJPAKVILLE 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

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

(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 *Amazing Grace! (How Sweet the Sound)* *Matthew McConnell*
(© 2017 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

(Please stand as you are able.)

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.

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,

This week's schedule

Today	9 am Handbell Choir (Music Room) 9 am Sunday School & Faith & Fellowship 10 am Live & Online Worship DE-MD Synod—Seekers (Mar-Lu-Ridge)
Mon.	
Tues.	7 pm Men-in-Mission (Youth Room) 7 pm Trinity Circle (Smith Building)
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.	9 am Men-in-Mission Breakfast (Jerry D's)

Counting our Blessings

		2023	
Wed.	Attendance: 40	December Offering Income	\$31,972
2/28	Offering: \$ 413	December Other Income	\$ 2,421
		December Total Income	\$34,393
Sun.	Attendance: 125	December Expenses	\$34,660
3/3	Offering: \$7,927	YTD Offering Income	\$283,985
	Homebound: 16	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: Vernon Reid, Dennis Buckless, Lisa Muhlbach, Doris Rye, Richard Souders, 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: Bill Beck, Chris Newman, Pierce Newman, Coralee Myrtle, 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, 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:

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

and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Give to Our God Immortal Praise!

ELW 848

(Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Music: attr. John Hatton, d. 1793)

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

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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.)

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

CHILDREN'S SERMON

WORD

FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God’s mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death’s door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God’s grace at work in our lives.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able.)

Wednesday Worship during Lent

**** March 13th, and 20th ****

6 pm – Soup & Salad (Fellowship Hall)

7 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service w/ Reflections

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

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship, March 24th

10 am Live & Online Worship

Maundy Thursday, March 28th

12 noon & 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion

The Stripping of the Altar will follow the 7 pm service only.

Good Friday, March 29th

12 noon Procession & Ecumenical Stations of the Cross

(Please note: The Ecumenical Procession begins at St. Ursula Catholic Church.)

7 pm Good Friday Service with Cantata

Easter Sunday, March 31st

10 am Service of Holy Communion

Live & Online Worship

Those Serving Today	
Assisting Minister	Linda Wiley
Crucifer	James W.
Acolyte (s)	Alec B.
Lector	Megan Czarski
Communion Assistant	Megan Czarski
Dismissal Assistant	Devon W.



Join us for our next **Community Meal on Wednesday, April 3rd beginning at 5:30 pm.** Please come and invite your friends, family and neighbors! A special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with the March meal.

Our next Wednesday Night Worship will take place on April 3rd after the Community Meal at 6:45 pm. 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!



Save the Date for our Prayer Partner Luncheon on April 28th at 11:45 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 14th.** Any questions, contact Vickie Jasinski at 410-529-7536.

Help Needed for Music Camp... If you know any high school or college student who enjoys and has experience with theater, music, art, arts and crafts, and love working with children, PLEASE contact Martha at mreuard1@gmail.com. Our assistants will be working with the campers to help them create their program. Dates & times are as follows:



Music Campette-July 29-31; 9 am-noon; for students who have completed K-grade 2
Musical Camp-August 12-16; 9 am-2 pm; for students who have completed grades 3-8

Save the Date for Vacation Bible School! This years program will be held July 8-12 from 9 am—12:30 pm. Mark your calendar. More information will be available soon.

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. For more information visit mar-lu-ridge.org/summer-camp/ or call 800.238.9974.



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 3:14-21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

What Wondrous Love Is This

ELW 666

(Text: North American folk hymn, 19 th cent., alt.; Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914-1997, alt.; Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House)

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 *Lenten Prayer* *Brian Glyncannon*
(© 2004 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. 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.

Announcements & Upcoming Event

Next Week— Sunday, March 17th—Fifth 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
† 11:30 am—Altar Guild
Visit stjohnsparkville.org



The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given to the Glory of God.

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 March 10th, April 7th, June 2nd, 23rd, and 30th, July 14th, 21st, and 28th, August 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th, September 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th, October 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th.

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 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.



St. John's Annual Easter Egg Hunt is coming up on Saturday, March 23rd from 10 am-12 pm. Join us for an event full of fun activities and Easter celebrations! The egg hunt begins at 11 am and is for ages 2-5th grade. Bring your own basket or bag. We need volunteers! If you can help, please sign up on the bulletin board outside of the Sanctuary. There is a donation board outside of Sanctuary with items needed for this event. Please help if you can.

We will be sending Care Packages to our youth who away at college. If you know of a college student who would like to receive a package, please see Chris Hills or contact the church office. If you would like to help fill the boxes, please take a sticky note from the board outside of the Sanctuary. **Please return your donation by Sunday, March 24th.** Thanks for your support!



COMMUNION HYMN *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* **ELW 779**

(Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5; Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt.)

Just As I Am, without One Plea **ELW 592**

(Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871; Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868)

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 *Lift High the Cross* **ELW 660**

(Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956; Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947; Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company)

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Forth in Your Name* *Lani Smith*

(© 2015 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

*Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.*

(Text and music: Eddie Espinosa; Test 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.
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.