

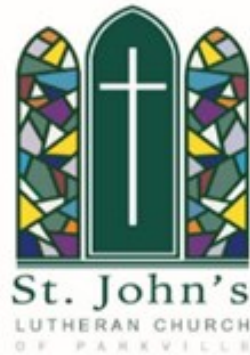
**STAFF**

Rev. Mathew Berger, Pastor <a href="mailto:mathew.berger@stjohnsparkville.org">mathew.berger@stjohnsparkville.org</a> 913-634-7131	Rev. Amy Berger, Pastor <a href="mailto:amy.berger@stjohnsparkville.org">amy.berger@stjohnsparkville.org</a> 443-286-5511
Martha Requard, Director of Music	Carol Erpenstein, Office Administrator

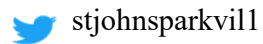
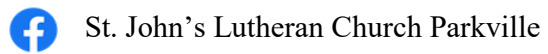
Scott Becker, Sexton

For emergencies call 443-844-9314

*\*\*\*The Pastors are off on Fridays\*\**

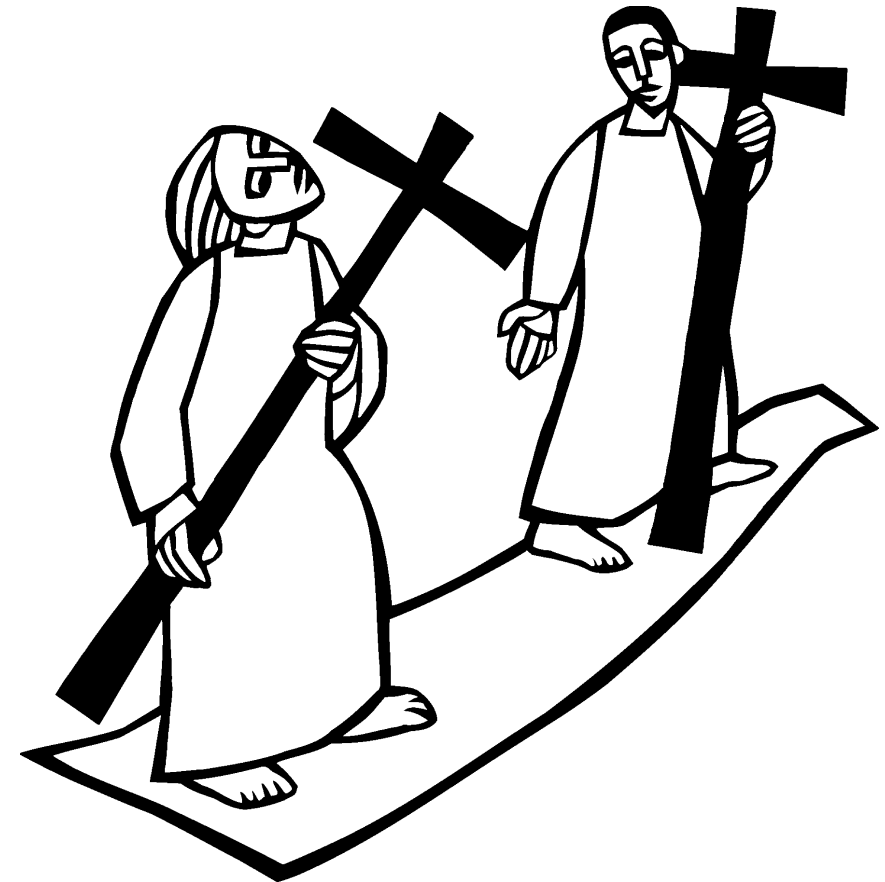


**Notice of live streaming:**  
Today's worship service is being live streamed to YouTube with video coverage of leaders and worshippers.



# Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 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

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

*(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** *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* Paul Karvonen

(© 1972 Sacred Music Press)

*(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,

## This week's schedule

Today	9 am Handbell Choir (Music Room) 9 am Sunday School & Faith & Fellowship 10 am Live & Online Worship
Mon.	
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

Ash	Attendance: 83	<b>2023</b>	
Wed.	Offering: \$1,569	December Offering Income	\$31,972
2/14		December Other Income	\$ 2,421
		December Total Income	\$34,393
Sun.	Attendance: 124	December Expenses	\$34,660
2/18	Offering: \$7,903	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:** Dennis Buckless, Lisa Muhl bach, 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:** 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, 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

washes away our wrongs,  
and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**                      *How Firm a Foundation*                      **ELW 796 (vv. 1, 2, 4)**

*(Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt.; Music: Early American)*

## 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, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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

**Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

*As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.*

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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

**Psalm 22:23-31**

- <sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory.  
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.
- <sup>24</sup>**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD’s face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**
- <sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.
- <sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**
- <sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.
- <sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**
- <sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.
- <sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**
- <sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”

**SECOND READING**

**Romans 4:13-25**

*Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.*

<sup>13</sup>The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**Join us for our next Community Meal on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

**Thank you for your generous support for our "Help the Holy Land" concert on February 4<sup>th</sup> benefitting Lutheran Disaster Response.** And a very special thank you to Keith Derrickson for organizing the concert and sharing his musical gifts with us! Our grand total raised was \$3,129. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of many people suffering in the region.



## **Wednesday Worship during Lent**

\*\*February 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 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, March 3<sup>rd</sup>—Third 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—Youth Group

Visit [stjohnsparkville.org](http://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](mailto:rm_hills@yahoo.com) if you would like to sponsor the flowers. Available dates are 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>, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<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 Study** 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!

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).



**FOOD FOR THOUGHT** 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!

<sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup>Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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 8:31-38

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?



<sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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**      *Will You Come and Follow Me*      **ELW 798**

*(Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949; Music:Scottish traditional; Text © 1987 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)*

**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**      *A Future and a Hope*      *Adult Choir*

*(Words, based on Jeremiah 29:11-13, and music: Cindy Berry; © 2008 GlorySound )*

*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.*

**SENDING HYMN**

*Faith of Our Fathers*

**ELW 812**

*(Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.; Music: Henri F. Hemy, 1818-1888; Kames G. Walton, 1821-1905, refrain)*

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*How Firm a Foundation*

*Dale Wood*

*(© 2001 The Sacred Music Press)*

<b>Those Serving Today</b>	
Assisting Minister	Lee Smith
Crucifer	Olivia S.
Acolyte (s)	Devon W.
Lector	Donna Nicholson
Communion Assistant	Donna Nicholson
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 HYMN *O Word of God Incarnate* *ELW 514*

*Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.; Music: Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693)*

### 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.**

*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; 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

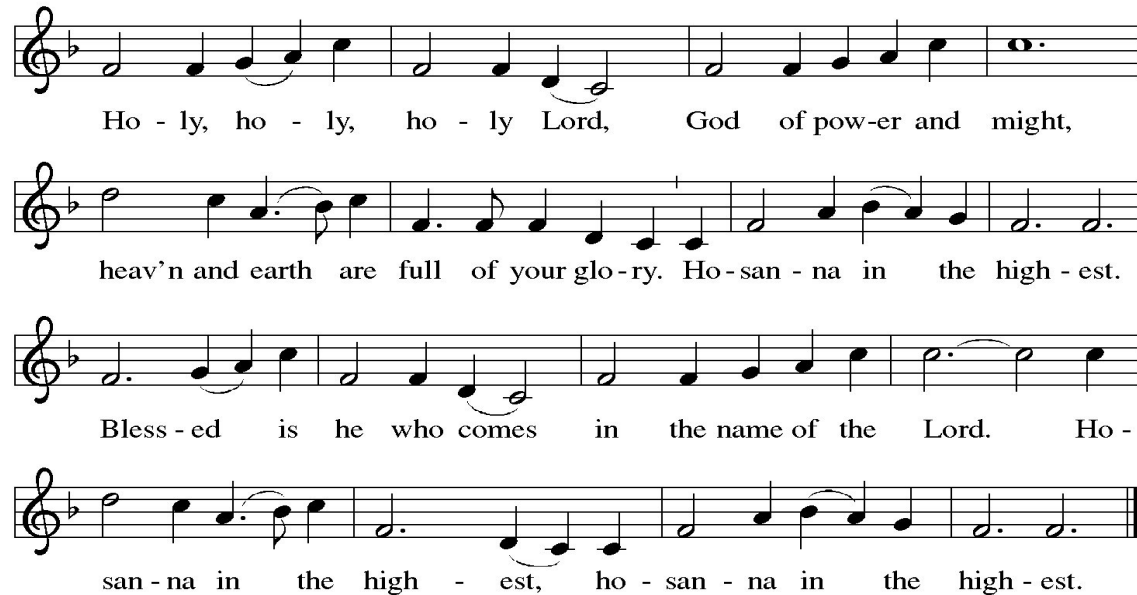
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### 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.*