

## STAFF

Rev. Mathew Berger, Pastor mathew.berger@stjohnsparkville.org	Rev. Amy Berger, Pastor amy.berger@stjohnsparkville.org
Martha Requard, Director of Music	Carol Erpenstein, Office Administrator
Scott Becker, Sexton	

For emergencies call 443-844-9314

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



stjohnsparkville



St. John's Lutheran Church Parkville



# JOY TO THE WORLD

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

stjohnsparkville.org

(410) 665-1234

office@stjohnsparkville.org

Text SJPARKVILLE to 22828 to join our email list.

# Christmas Day Service

December 25, 2025

Welcome to St. John's—we are glad you're here!

*(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

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty Savior,  
Prince of Peace.  
**Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,  
let us confess our sin.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Reconciling God,  
**we yearn for your presence to transform  
our grief, pain, and despair.  
We confess that we have not always prepared  
room in our hearts for your love;  
we have not always recognized  
your presence among us;  
we have not always embraced your message of peace.  
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,  
oppression, and fear.  
We confess our failure to make room  
for those seeking refuge;  
our participation in violent systems  
that harm your innocent ones;  
our reluctance to embody your good news.  
Be born in us today  
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.  
**Amen.****

God's grace upon grace flows over you.

✚ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.  
May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts  
the mystery of your presence.  
Move us to discover the wonders of your love  
in the everyday moments of our lives,  
through Christ born in us.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING

## BLESSING

*The Lord now bless and keep you; God's love in you increase  
By God's own face, with shining grace, grant you eternal peace  
To Father, Son, and Spirit, ✚ eternal One-in-Three  
Be thanks and praise through all our days, into eternity. **Amen.***

## SENDING HYMN

*Joy to the World*

*ELW 267*

*(Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Music: English melody, 18<sup>th</sup> cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872)*

## DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!  
**And peace to God's people on earth!**  
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth. Come, Holy Spirit  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

Let us pray together.

**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

God is now in flesh appearing.  
Come to the feast of joy!

#### COMMUNION

*All are welcome at Christ's table.*

**GATHERING HYMN**                      *O Come All Ye Faithful*                      **ELW 283 (v. 1, 3 & 4)**  
*(Text and music: attr. John Frances Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880)*

#### 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

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of despair, and empower us to proclaim the birth 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.)*

#### CHILDREN'S SERMON

#### WORD

#### PSALM

*(Read responsively; congregation reads bold verses)*

**Psalm 97**

The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice;  
let the multitude of the isles be glad.  
**Clouds and darkness surround the LORD,  
righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne.**

Fire goes before the LORD,  
burning up enemies on every side.

**Lightnings light up the world;  
the earth sees and trembles.**

The mountains melt like wax  
before the Lord of all the earth.

**The heavens declare your righteousness, O LORD,  
and all the peoples see your glory.**

Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods!  
Bow down before the LORD, all you gods.

**Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice,  
because of your judgments, O LORD.**

For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth;  
you are exalted far above all gods.

**You who love the LORD, hate evil!**

**God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.**

Light dawns for the righteous,  
and joy for the honest of heart.  
**Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous,  
and give thanks to God's holy name.**

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. A holy day has dawned upon us.  
**Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.  
For today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia.**

### GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*(The assembly is seated.)*

### SERMON

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

### HYMN OF THE DAY

***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

***ELW 279***

*(Text: Polish carol, tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.; Music: Polish carol)*

**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

*(An offering is gathered for the mission and ministry of God's Church.)  
(Please stand as you are able.)*

### OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory,  
great are your wonders among us  
and many are the blessings you bestow.  
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,  
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,  
through 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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming. Come, Lord Jesus.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**