

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24, 2025

10:00 am & 8:30 pm



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

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with 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.)

TOLLING THE BELL AND WELCOME

PRELUDE (10:00 am) *Voluntary on Two Carols* *David Kidwell*
(© 2017 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

(8:30 pm) *Fantasy on French Carols* *Handbell Choir*
(Arr. Michael Helman; © 2025 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.)

(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 going along with violent systems and ways**

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****



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

Announcements

Join us tomorrow at 10:00 am for our Christmas Day Service.

- † The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given in honor of His love and light as we gather to celebrate and remember the birth of Our Savior Jesus Christ. May these blooms symbolize the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christmas brings to our hearts and homes. We dedicate these flowers in loving memory of those we hold dear, and in gratitude for the blessings we have received, sharing the love of God with one another, today and always by the Evans family.
- † Thank you Altar Guild & Friends for all the time and work you put into the greening of our Sanctuary and for all the additional preparations you do for our Christmas Eve Services – you give us a special gift of Christmas beauty!
- † Please leave your poinsettias until after the 8:30 pm service tonight. If you are unable to pick them up at that time, you may pick them up after the 10:00 am Christmas Day service or please call the church office at 410-665-1234 to make arrangements to pick them up.
- † The church office will be closed on Thursday, December 25th and Friday, December 26th.
- † Join us on Sunday, December 28th at 10:00 am for our Lessons and Carols Service. There will be no Sunday School or Faith & Fellowship this day.

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**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.

GATHERING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW 283

(Text; attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; Music: attr. John Francis Wade)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(The assembly is seated.)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Love Has Come

ELW 292 (v. 1)

*Love has come- a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*

(Text: Ken Bible; Music: F. Seguin, Recueil de noels composes en langue provencale, 1856; Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna Music)

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation;
 you have increased its joy;
 they rejoice before you
 as with joy at the harvest,
 as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴ For the yoke of their burden
 and the bar across their shoulders,
 the rod of their oppressor,
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
 and all the garments rolled in blood
 shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶ For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
 authority rests upon his shoulders,
 and he is named
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ Great will be his authority,
 and there shall be endless peace
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.
 He will establish and uphold it
 with justice and with righteousness
 from this time onward and forevermore.
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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

Psalm 96

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;
 sing to the LORD, all the earth.
² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
 proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
³ Declare God's glory among the nations
 and God's wonders among all peoples.
⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
 more to be feared than all gods.**
⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
 but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
 power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
 ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

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, 18th 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.

POSTLUDE *Toccatina on "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" Douglas E. Wagner
 (© 2018 Lorenz Publishing Co.)*

Those Serving Today	10:00 am	8:30 pm
Assisting Minister	JoAnn Weiland	Tony Jasinski
Crucifer		Olivia S.
Acolyte (s)		Maddie W., Jack W.
Lector	Milt Dutcher	Megan Czarski
Communion Assistant	Milt Dutcher	Megan Czarski

THE CANDLE LIGHTING (8:30 pm only)

INTRODUCTION *Candle light is passed by tilting the unlit candle over the lighted one.*

SCRIPTURE **JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD** **John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

HYMN (8:30 pm only) *Silent Night, Holy Night!* **ELW 281**

*Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.*

*Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar.
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!*

*Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior is born!*

*Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.*

(Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885; Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863)

After the hymn is sung, please extinguish your candle.

⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the
peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity.
Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our
Savior's final appearance.*

¹¹ The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety
and worldly passions and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and
godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great
God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us
from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able.)

GOSPEL PROCESSION *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* **ELW 270 (v. 1)**

*(Text; attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; Music:
attr. John Francis Wade)*

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great
joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.
² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL RECESSION *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* **ELW 270 (v. 3)**
(Text; attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; Music: attr. John Francis Wade)

*Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

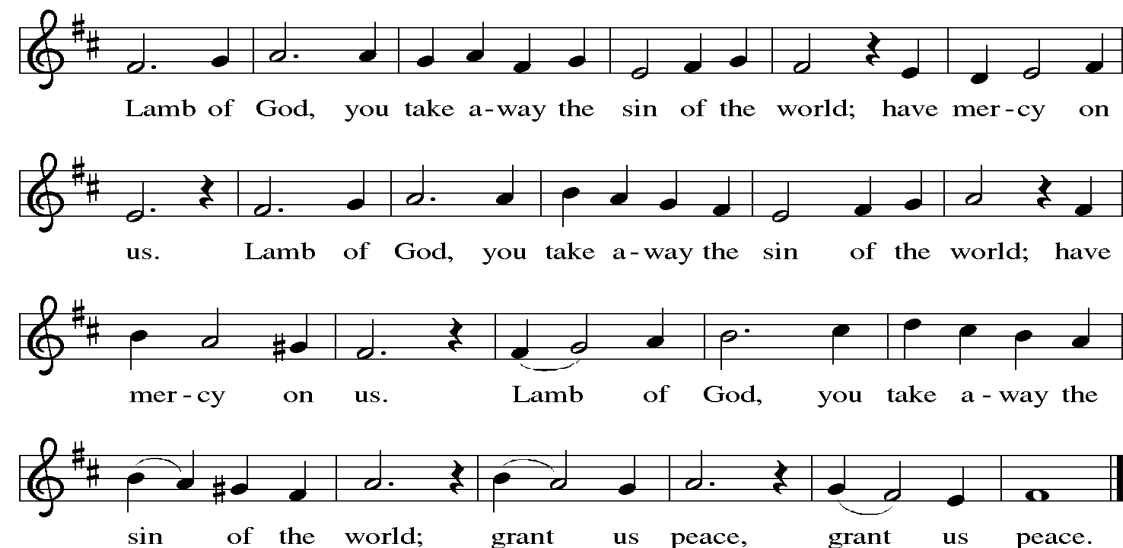
(The assembly is seated.)

SERMON

(Please stand as you are able.)

HYMN OF THE DAY *O Little Town of Bethlehem* **ELW 279**
(Text: Phillip Brooks, 1835-1893; Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908)

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION ANTHEM (8:30 pm only) *Would I Miss the Miracle?* *Adult Choir*
(Words: Pamela Stewart; Music: Douglas Nolan; © 2011 Hal Leonard)

COMMUNION HYMNS *Away in a Manger* **ELW 277**
(Text: North American, 19th cent.; Music: James R. Murray, 1841-1905)

(10:00 am only) *Silent Night, Holy Night* **ELW 281**
(Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885; Music: Franz Gruber, 1787-1863)

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear **ELW 282**
(Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876; Music: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900)

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.

OFFERING HYMN

What Child is This

ELW 296 (vv. 1, 3)

(Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898; Music: English ballad, 16th cent.)

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 al - so 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

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.