

STAFF

|                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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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.



St. John's Lutheran Church Parkville



stjohnsparkville

# Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025



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

stjohnsparkville.org

(410) 665-1234

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

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

*(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

*Cantique de Noel*

*Yoon-Mee Chong, violinist*

*(Music: Adolphe Adam)*

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

## GATHERING

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Long-expected God,  
we confess that we look to ourselves  
for the peace and security only you can provide.  
We reach for swords and spears,  
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.  
We become impatient while waiting  
and weary of keeping awake.  
Free us from self-reliance,  
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.  
Increase our trust in God's timing,  
and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.  
**Amen.**



## Advent and Christmas 2025

### Advent Services

#### December 7<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Advent Celebration in the Fellowship Hall

for all ages – 9:00 am – 9:45 am (songs, trivia, prayers & food)

Worship with Holy Communion at 10:00 am

#### December 14<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Worship with Holy Communion at 10:00 am

#### December 21<sup>st</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Worship with Holy Communion at 10:00 am with a Cantata from  
St. John's Choir

#### December 21<sup>st</sup> The Longest Night Service

Worship at 6:30 pm - A service of remembering our losses, acknowledging  
the pain and celebrating the hope and light of Jesus

### Celebration of the Birth of Christ – December 24<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am Christmas Eve Worship\*

4:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Worship with Children Participation\*

8:30 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship\*

December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Service at 10:00 am\*

December 28<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

Worship at 10:00 am Service of Lessons & Carols

\*Services include Holy Communion

St. John's Lutheran Church  
8808 Harford Road ~ Parkville, MD 21234  
410-665-1234 ~ [www.stjohnsparkville.org](http://www.stjohnsparkville.org)



Join us as we dwell in the season of Advent and anticipate God's abundant love &  
grace born to us in Jesus Christ.

*Have a Blessed Christmas!*

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***A few notes from your Financial Secretary:***

I hope everyone is doing well!

It's that time of the year already! Just sending along some friendly reminders to you about your 2025 giving:

- Please make sure that any final 2025 contributions you wish to make to St. John's are placed in the offering plate or received by the church office no later than Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. Our final count and deposit, which will include any contributions received through December 28<sup>th</sup>, will be done the morning of Monday, December 29<sup>th</sup>. All contributions received in 2025 will be included on your 2025 Contribution Report. Reports will be generated and mailed to you in mid-January.
- Our Simply Giving program continues to be available to you in making contributions to St. John's. If you are interested in signing up, you may do so at any time. Please feel free to send me an email at [haackefamily@comcast.net](mailto:haackefamily@comcast.net) or give me a call at 410-661-8970 and I will send a form to you for you to complete. If you have any questions about filling out the form or the program, please let me know. I'm happy to help.
- In addition to regular envelope and Simply Giving offerings, you may give by way of credit card or Venmo through our website at [www.stjohnsparkville.org](http://www.stjohnsparkville.org). (For Venmo, you may also just enter @stjohnsparkville if you have the Venmo App.)

***On behalf of our Church, thank you for your continued support and generosity!***

Stay safe and enjoy the upcoming holiday season!

*Debra Haacke*

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God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God's own righteousness.

✝ You are freed and forgiven,  
saved by grace,  
and ready to welcome the Savior.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

***O Day of Peace***

***ELW 711***

*(Text: Darl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944; Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918; Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company)*

**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**

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *He Came Down***

***ELW 253***

*(Text and Music: Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949; Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)*

He came down that we may have hope;  
He came down that we may have hope;  
He came down that we may have hope;  
Hallelujah forevermore.

**WORD**

**FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

*Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.*

<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,  
<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

**Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup> **that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**  
<sup>3</sup> that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup> **Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

| This week's schedule |                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Today                | 9:00 am Handbell Choir<br>9:00 am Advent Celebration<br>10:00 am Live & Online Worship<br>11:30 am Exec. Meeting (Music Room)<br>11:30 am Youth Group (Youth Room) |
| Mon.                 |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Tues.                | 6:00 pm Trinity Circle (Smith Building)<br>7:00 pm Men in Mission (Youth Room)                                                                                     |
| Wed.                 |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Thurs.               |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Fri.                 | 11:00 am Bible Study (Smith Building)                                                                                                                              |
| Sat.                 | 12:30 pm Wreaths Across America Ceremony (Cemetery)                                                                                                                |

| Counting our Blessings |                   |                           |            |
|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Sun.                   | Attendance: 110   | <b>2025</b>               |            |
| 11/30                  | Offering: \$4,272 | September Offering Income | \$ 21,087  |
|                        | Homebound: 15     | September Other Income    | \$ 2,591   |
|                        |                   | September Total Income    | \$ 23,678  |
|                        |                   | September Expenses        | \$ 26,035  |
|                        |                   | YTD Offering Income       | \$235,293  |
|                        |                   | YTD Other Income          | \$ 36,234  |
|                        |                   | YTD Total Income          | \$271,527  |
|                        |                   | YTD Expenses              | \$308,174  |
|                        |                   | YTD Tax Credit            | *\$ 92,089 |



## Prayer List

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

**For health & healing:** Nancy Ford, Gerry Steg, Barbara Conrad, Lou Carletti, Landon Ullmann, John McLaughlin, Barbara Mueller, Tony Jasinski, Danyiel Cleckley, Pat Denk, Joan Kraft, Olusegun Fowode, Marge Jasper, Julie Hastings, Kim Townsley, Mildred Schaffer, Bill Fliegel, Marion McDonough, Diane Carroll, Richard Souders, Oluseye Fowode, Robert Suznick, Lisa Duerling, Debbie Miller, Sandy Scott and Vickie Jasinski

**For family & friends:** Lou Ermer, Roxann Kelly, Joong In Rhee, Phyllis Gray, Bill Denk, Judy Miller, Hubie Tarbo, Abby Chamberlain, Bunny Russell, Jerry Earles, Lynette Earles, Bill Beck, Henry Davis, Donna Parrish, Brenda DeSouze, Carol Paulshock, Elaine Perzan, Debbie McWilliam, George Lotterer, Jenny Cavallero, Barb Distefano, Marilyn Baldwin, Fred Smith, Anna Meyer, Patricia Dunn, Jerre Keller, Scott Hendricks, Chuck Taylor, Jane Esterby, Patsy Smith, Marianne Widderich

**For the military and their families:** Christopher McCann, Mason Arnold, Kalib McCann, 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:** Richard Brooks

**For St. John's Caring Friends:** Patricia Becker, Agatha Biensach-Daniels, Barbara Conrad, Margaret Eubert, June Franz, Betty Glassband, Richard Hoerner, Audrey Lentz, Carl Lotterer, Barbara Mueller, Paul Nolder, Janet Roth, Doris Rye, Kim Townsley, and Emma Volz

### Note regarding the Prayer List

Those on the family & friends prayer list will remain for 6 weeks and then be removed—unless otherwise specified. If at any time you would like to add or remove someone from the list, please contact the church office.

<sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup> **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

<sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish;

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>18</sup> **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;  
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

<sup>19</sup> And blessed be your glorious name forever,

and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

## SECOND READING

**Romans 15:4-13**

*God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.*

<sup>4</sup> Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors <sup>9</sup> and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles  
and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup> and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup> and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;  
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, word of life.

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

*Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.’ ”

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup> and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*(The assembly is seated.)*

## SERMON

*(Please stand as you are able.)*



**Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cookie Exchange will be held on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> after worship in the Fellowship Hall.** Make a batch of your favorite cookies and exchange them with others. Any questions, contact Lynn Gerber.

**Come join us for The Longest Night Service on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm.** We will gather together to acknowledge our pain and to remember that the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, shines into our grief with hope, mercy and love.



**Social Ministry is providing gifts for seniors in need in our community for Christmas.** If you are interested in participating in this program, take a **snowman tag** from the tree in the Narthex and log it on the sheet on the table. We ask that you **wrap your gift and attach the tag to the outside of the gift** and return it under the tree or in the church office. **Please return your gifts by Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.**

We are again doing the **Presents for Parkville Program** in partnership with Carney Elementary. If you are interested in participating in this program, take a **Christmas ball tag** from the tree in the Narthex and log it on the sheet on the table. **Return your unwrapped gifts with the tag attached by Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Please provide wrapping paper so parents can wrap the gifts. If you do not like to shop, we would be happy to take monetary donations and do the shopping for you!** Contact Amanda Wood at 443-928-2859 or amanda.regina.wood@gmail.com with any questions.



**Readers Needed.....**We are in need of readers for the Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Martha at mreuard1@gmail.com if you can help.

**Join us for our next Community Meal on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30 pm.** Please come and invite your friends, family and neighbors! We will need donations and volunteers. Look for the sign up sheet on the third floor bulletin board.



**Our next Wednesday Night Worship will take place on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> 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/or guitar, as well as an interactive reflection. We hope you can join us and invite your friends and neighbors!

**Save the Date for St. John’s 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bull and Shrimp Roast on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm—10:30 pm at Columbus Gardens.** More info. coming soon.



**Our "Caring Friends" ministry is in need of more volunteers to visit with our homebound members.** If you enjoy visiting and talking with fellow siblings in Christ, please prayerfully consider if this opportunity is calling out to you! You will receive training to deliver communion from our worship service to our members who cannot make it to church on Sundays. Please be in touch with Pastor Amy for more information.

## Announcements & Upcoming Events

### Next Week—Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>— Third Sunday of Advent

† 9 am—Sunday School & 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 celebration of Elaine Reid's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.


We are taking altar flower dedications for 2026. 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. Dates available are January 25<sup>th</sup>, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, June 28<sup>th</sup>, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<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. 


 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 Youth Group meets 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. 

 Thank You to everyone who has supported the Food for Thought Program this year. Due to your generosity, our stock is full! We will begin our collection again in the new year. Feel free to support our other giving programs this holiday season.

Join us for our Friday morning Bible Study at 11:00 am in the Smith Building. Our study is on Philippians. All are welcome! 

 Job Opportunity-Child Care...We're looking for a new nursery attendant! Sundays 8:30 am-11:30 am. Pay is \$15/hr. Background check provided. Contact the church office for more information.

Join us for our Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Ceremony on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm in our cemetery. Help us honor the veterans who are laid to rest in our cemetery. 

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

ELW 249

(Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite; Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621)

## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition God of grace.  
Hear our prayer.

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

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

## MEAL

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Shine the Light of Christ* Adult Choir  
(Words and Music: Larry Shackley; © 2019 Lorenz Publishing Company)

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. You may also donate via venmo @stjohnsparkville



(Please stand as you are able.)

OFFERING HYMN

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

ELW 247



O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gŭm  
 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.  
 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.  
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.  
 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.  
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope  
 Music: OSOSO, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947  
 Text and music © Geonyong Lee

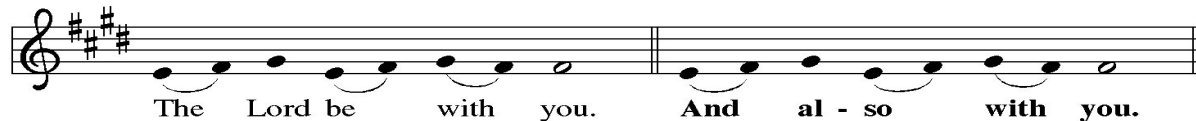
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

OFFERING PRAYER

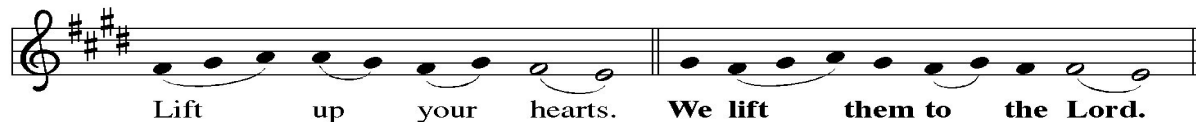
Nourishing God,  
 you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.  
 Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,  
 that we may rejoice and be for the world  
 signs of your kingdom come.  
**Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**



Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Commemorations

*When we are baptized, we are baptized into the body of Christ. We understand this body to be the communion of saints, a diverse witness of people across time and space. Throughout its history, the church has sought to lift up Christians who have been unique, exemplary people of faith. It is not that these people are perfect, as we are all both saint and sinner. Our faith in God working in them can be a reminder of God's grace working in all of our lives. "The saints are to be remembered so that we may strengthen our faith when we see how they experienced grace and how they were helped by faith."*  
 (Augsburg Confession)

**Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397**

**Sunday, December 7, 2025**

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead St. Augustine to faith.

**Lucy, martyr, died 304**

**Saturday, December 13, 2025**

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our host,  
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.  
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,  
welcome the stranger,  
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SENDING

## BLESSING

May God who comes among us,  
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

*ELW 264*

*(Text: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1772-1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship; Music: Swedish folk tune, 17<sup>th</sup> cent.; Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress)*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

*Lani Smith*

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| Those Serving Today |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Assisting Minister  | Lee Smith         |
| Crucifer            | Landry E.         |
| Acolyte (s)         | Alec B., Roman G. |
| Lector              | Ed Ford           |
| Communion Assistant | Ed Ford           |
| Dismissal Assistant | Jack W.           |

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 comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.  
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.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
Come, Lord Jesus. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

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.**

We praise you, O God.  
our hope, our joy, our peace.

Today, tomorrow, and forever. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

*(Sung call-and-echo)*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins  
as we forgive; 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

Here is life. God is with us.  
Come, receive what God has promised.

## 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 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



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 HYMNS

*All Earth is Hopeful*

*ELW 266*

*(Text and music: Alberto Taule, 1932-2007; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946; Spanish text and tune © 1993 and tr. © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Liturgica, admin. OCP Publications)*

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

*ELW 256*

*(Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; Music: Trente quatre psaumes de David, Geneva, 1551)*

*(The assembly remains seated.)*