

## 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.



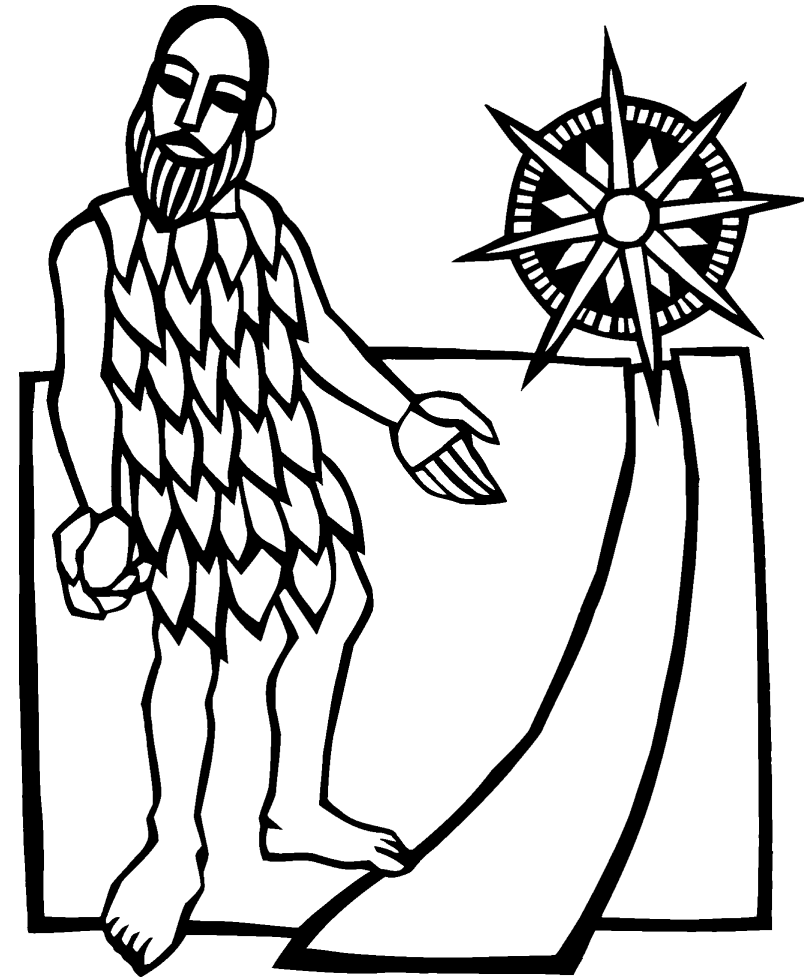
St. John's Lutheran Church Parkville



stjohnsparkville

# Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025



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

[stjohnsparkville.org](http://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

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

*(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

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent*

*Handbell Choir*

*(Arr. Kevin McChesney; © 2000 Jeffers Handbell Supply, Inc. Permission for use granted by Jeffers Handbell Supply, Inc.)*

*(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 Services

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:***

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**      *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*      **ELW 242**

*Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1952; Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.)*

**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 the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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 35:1-10**

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God’s people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, word of life.

**PSALM**

<sup>68</sup> Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.

<sup>69</sup> **You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Luke 1:68-79**

<b>This week's schedule</b>	
Today	9:00 am Handbell Choir 9:00 am Sunday School & Faith +Fellowship 10:00 am Live & Online Worship 11:30 am Memorial Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Mon.	7:00 pm Council Meeting (Smith Building) <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>
Tues.	
Wed.	10:30 am Brightview Visit 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thurs.	
Fri.	11:00 am Bible Study (Smith Building)
Sat.	

<b>Counting our Blessings</b>			
Sun. 12/7	Attendance: 118 Offering: \$ 7,859 Homebound: 16	<b>2025</b>	
		September Offering Income	\$ 21,087
		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:** Bender Family, 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, Bill Fliegel, Marion McDonough, Diane Carroll, Richard Souders, Oluseye Fowode, Robert Suznick, Lisa Duerling, Debbie Miller, Sandy Scott and Vickie Jasinski

**For family & friends:** Owen Hastings, Peggy Van Houten, 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. Brandon Hartmann, Michael Anthony Tucker, and all those in harm's way

**For those grieving family & friends of:** Charles Bender, 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, Mildred Schaffer, 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>70</sup> Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,  
<sup>71</sup> from the hands of all who hate us,  
<sup>72</sup> **to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.**  
<sup>73</sup> This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:  
<sup>74</sup> to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
**free to worship you without fear,  
<sup>75</sup> holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**  
<sup>76</sup> And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,  
<sup>77</sup> **to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**  
<sup>78</sup> In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
<sup>79</sup> **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

## SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

*In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.*

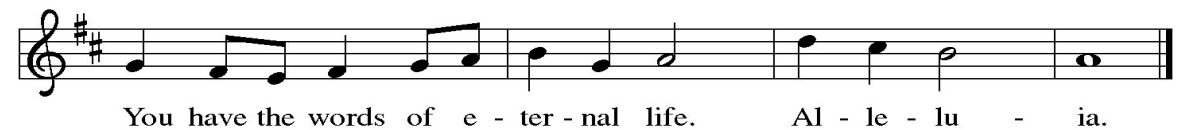
<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

*John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup> "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

*Christ, Be Our Light*

*ELW 715*

*(Text and music: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957; Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications)*

### 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.**



**If you are participating in the Presents for Parkville Program and took a Christmas ball tag from the tree, make sure you log in your tag on the sheet in the narthex.** Return your unwrapped gifts with the tag attached by today, 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.



**If you are participating in the Snowman for Seniors Program and took a Snowman tag from the tree, make sure you log in your tag on the sheet in the narthex.** Return your wrapped gift and attach the tag to the outside of the gift. **Please return your gifts by next Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**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.** See Tony Jasinski for tickets.

**St. John's Preschool is in need of cereal boxes.** The Preschool would like to thank the congregation for all of their support throughout the year.



### For your information...

- † There will be No Sunday School or Faith + Fellowship on December 28<sup>th</sup> and January 4<sup>th</sup>.
- † There will be No Friday Bible Study on December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- † The church office will be closed on December 25<sup>th</sup> and December 26<sup>th</sup> in observance of Christmas.
- † The church office will also be closed on January 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of New Years Day.

## Announcements & Upcoming Events

### Next Week—Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>— Fourth Sunday of Advent

† 9 am—Sunday School & Faith + Fellowship

† 9 am—Handbell Choir

† 10 am—Worship in-person with/Choir Cantata  
and livestreamed on our YouTube Channel

† 11:30 am—Altar Guild Meeting

† 6:30 pm—Longest Night Service

Visit [stjohnsparkville.org](http://stjohnsparkville.org)



The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today were given in honor of Martha Requard's birthday by Charles and Sheila Bender.

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 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>, 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 & 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.

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.



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 *Where is He, Immanuel?* Adult Choir  
(Words: Trilby Carter Jordan; Music: David Angerman; © 2011 Hal Leonard Corporation)

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 - sǒ o - so - sǒ, 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 - sǒ.  
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: OSOSŌ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947  
Text and music © Geonyong Lee

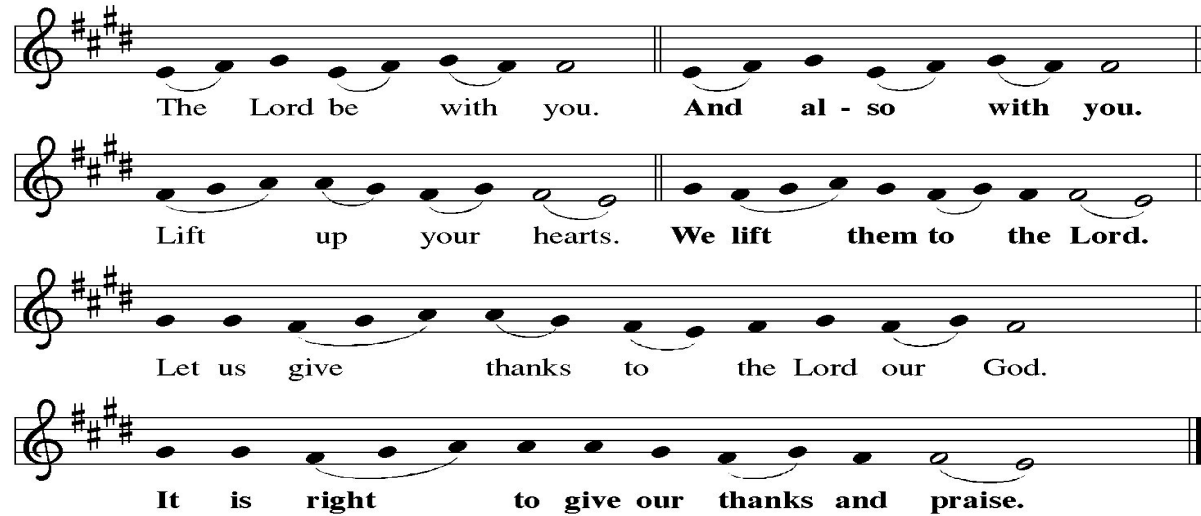
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## OFFERING PRAYER

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.  
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:

## 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)

### **John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591**

**Sunday, December 14, 2025**

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

### **Las Posadas (LLC)**

**Tuesday, December 16, 2025**

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

### **Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552**

**Saturday, December 20, 2025**

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

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**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**

*People, Look East*

*ELW 248*

*(Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965; Music: French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934; Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates; Arr. © 1999 Novello & Co. Ltd., London)*

**DISMISSAL**

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

**Postlude**

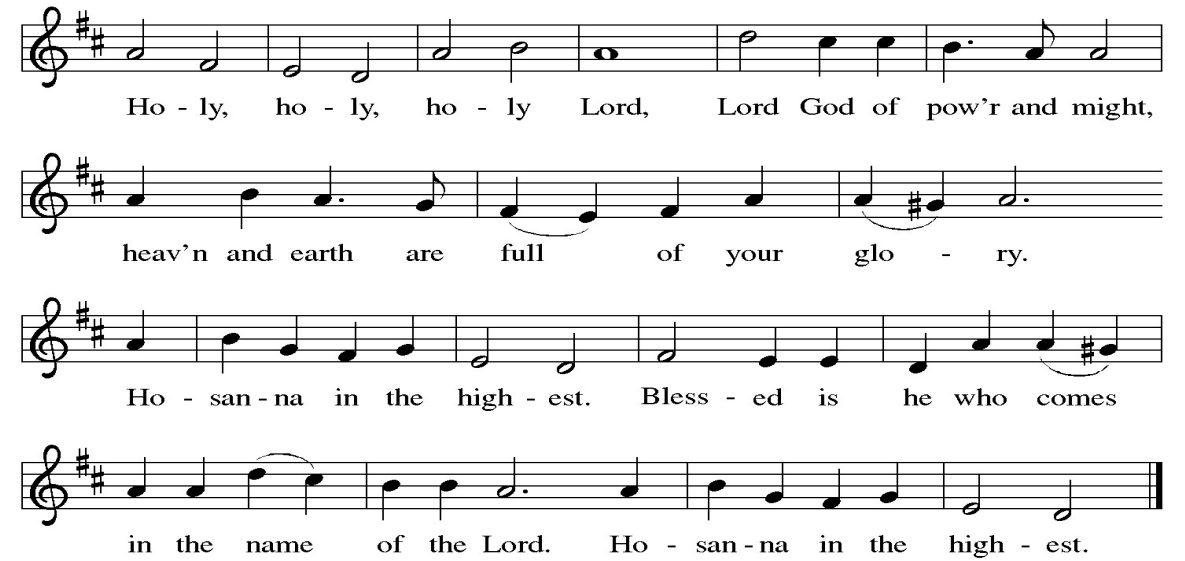
*People, Look East*

*Stephen L. Aber*

*(© 2015 Lorenz Publishing Co.)*

<b>Those Serving Today</b>	
Assisting Minister	Lee Smith
Crucifer	Devon W.
Acolyte (s)	Jack W., Maddie W.
Lector	Tom Walter
Communion Assistant	Tom Walter
Dismissal Assistant	Alec B.

**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.**

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.

**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

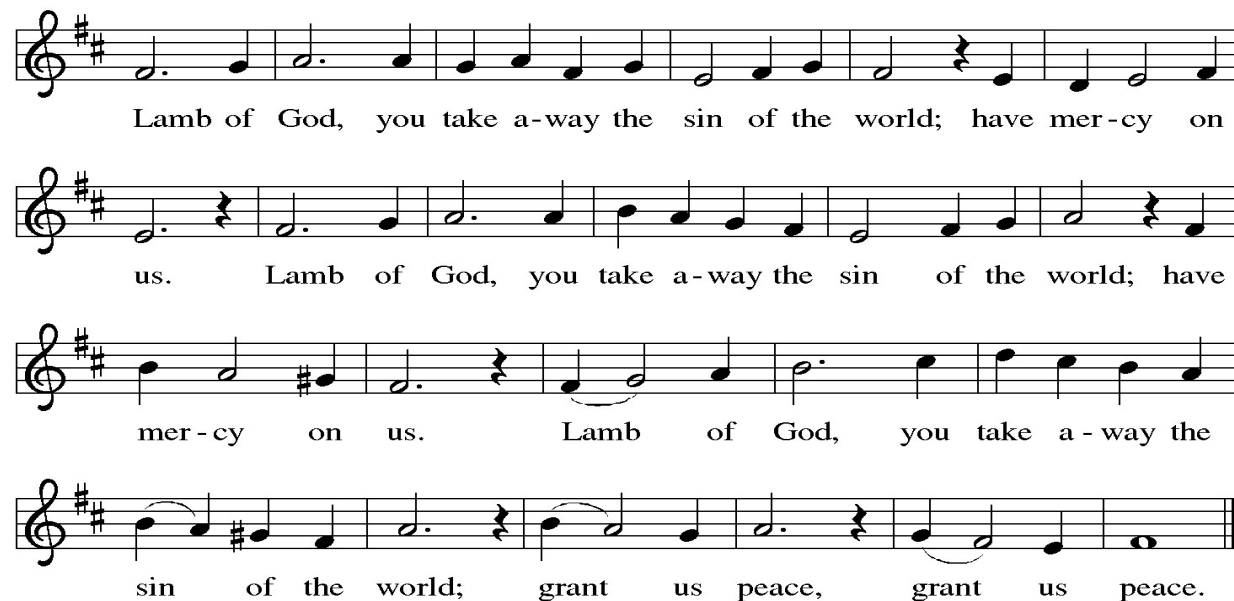
Here is life. God is with us.  
Come, receive what God has promised.

## 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

*He Comes to Us as One Unknown*

*ELW 737*

*(Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926-2024; Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918; Text © 1984 Hope Publishing Company)*

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

*ELW 257*

*Text: P(salteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Koln, 1710; tr. Composite; Music: French processional, 15<sup>th</sup> cent.; Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress)*

*(The assembly remains seated.)*

## 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