

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.

 St. John's Lutheran Church Parkville
  [stjohnsparkville](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsparkville)

Epiphany of Our Lord

January 4, 2026



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

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

(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 *Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning* *Lyndell Leatherman*
 (© 2018 Lorenz Publishing Company)

(Please stand as you are able.)

GATHERING

CONFESSIO 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**

This week's schedule

Today	10:00 am	Live & Online Worship
Mon.		
Tues.		
Wed.	9:30 am	Busy Bees (Smith Building)
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
Thurs.		
Fri.	11:00 am	Bible Study (Smith Building)
Sat.		

Counting our Blessings

		2025	
Christmas Eve. 12/24	10:00 am	Attendance: 42	September Offering Income \$ 21,087
	4:00 pm	Attendance: 94	September Other Income \$ 2,591
	8:30 pm	Attendance: 159	September Total Income \$ 23,678
		Offering: \$7,800	September Expenses \$ 26,035
Christmas Day 12/25		Attendance: 12	YTD Offering Income \$235,293
		Offering: \$345	YTD Other Income \$ 36,234
			YTD Total Income \$271,527
			YTD Expenses \$308,174
Sun. 12/28		Attendance: 68	YTD Tax Credit *\$ 92,089
		Offering: \$3,947	
		Homebound: 15	



Join us for our next Community Meal on Wednesday, January 14th (New Date) 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 14th 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!



St. John's 7th Annual Bull and Shrimp Roast is on Friday, February 6th from 6:30 pm—10:30 pm at Columbus Gardens. See Tony Jasinski for tickets.



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, 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. Brandan Hartmann, Michael Anthony Tucker, and all those in harm's way

For those grieving family & friends of: Joan Kraft, Janet Roth, 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, Doris Rye, Mildred Schaffer, Kim Townsley, and Emma Volz

**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

Rise, Shine, You People!

ELW 665

(Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.; Music: Dale Wood, 1934-2003; Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House)

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, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

- ¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- ² For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light

and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
 they all gather together; they come to you;
 your sons shall come from far away,
 and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.
⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
 your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
 because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
 the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
 the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
 all those from Sheba shall come.
 They shall bring gold and frankincense
 and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Word of God, word of life.

PSALM

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
 and your righteousness to the king's son;
² **that he may rule your people righteously
 and the poor with justice;**
³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
 and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
 rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
 from one generation to another.
⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
 like showers that water the earth.**
⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;
 and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
 and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**
¹¹ May all kings bow down before him,
 and all the nations do him service.
¹² **For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
 the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**
¹³ He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
 and preserves the lives of the needy.
¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
 and precious is their blood in his sight.**

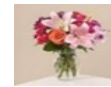
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Announcements & Upcoming Events


Next Week—Sunday, January 11th—Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

† 9 am—**Sunday School & Faith + Fellowship**
 † 9 am—**Handbell Choir**
 † 10 am—**Worship in-person
 and livestreamed on our YouTube Channel**
 † 11:30 am—**Exec. Meeting**
 Visit stjohnsparkville.org




The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given by Ron and Carolyn Ruffner. We extend our heartfelt wishes to the entire congregation and your loved ones for a blessed, joyful, and safe 2026. May this new year be filled with peace and prosperity for all.


We are taking altar flower dedications for 2026. The cost is \$50. Contact Rachel Hills at rm_hills@yahoo.com if you would like to sponsor the flowers. Dates available are January 25th, February 8th, 15th and 22nd, March 15th, 22nd and 29th, April 12th and 19th, May 3rd and 31st, June 28th, July 5th, 12th and 19th, August 2nd, 9th, 23rd and 30th, September 6th, 20th and 27th.

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. **There will be no youth group today. We will resume in February.** 

 **Thank You to everyone who has supported the Food for Thought Program this year.** Due to your generosity, our stock is full! We will let you know when we need donations.

Join us for our Friday morning Bible Study at 11:00 am in the Smith Building. Our new study beginning January 9th is on the Parables of Jesus. 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 out and support St. John's Preschool at their Texas Roadhouse (White Marsh) fundraiser on Tuesday, January 13th from 3 pm—10 pm. Flyers are located on the third floor bulletin board. 

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)

Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710 (TFF)

Friday, January 9, 2026

African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England. He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.

Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968

Thursday, January 15, 2026

An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356

Saturday, January 17, 2026

One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit. Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor.

Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346

Saturday, January 17, 2026

Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier. He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

¹ This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard

this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

As with Gladness Men of Old

ELW 302

(Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.; Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872)

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.

SENDING

BLESSING

The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

ELW 677

(Text and music: African American spiritual; Arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, 1935-2009; Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer)

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

Flourish on “Salzburg”

Douglas E. Wagner

(© 2016 Lorenz Publishing Company)

Those Serving Today	
Assisting Minister	Linda Wiley
Crucifer	Landry E.
Acolyte (s)	Alec B., Roman G.
Lector	Judy Jasinski
Communion Assistant	Judy Jasinski
Dismissal Assistant	Maddie W.

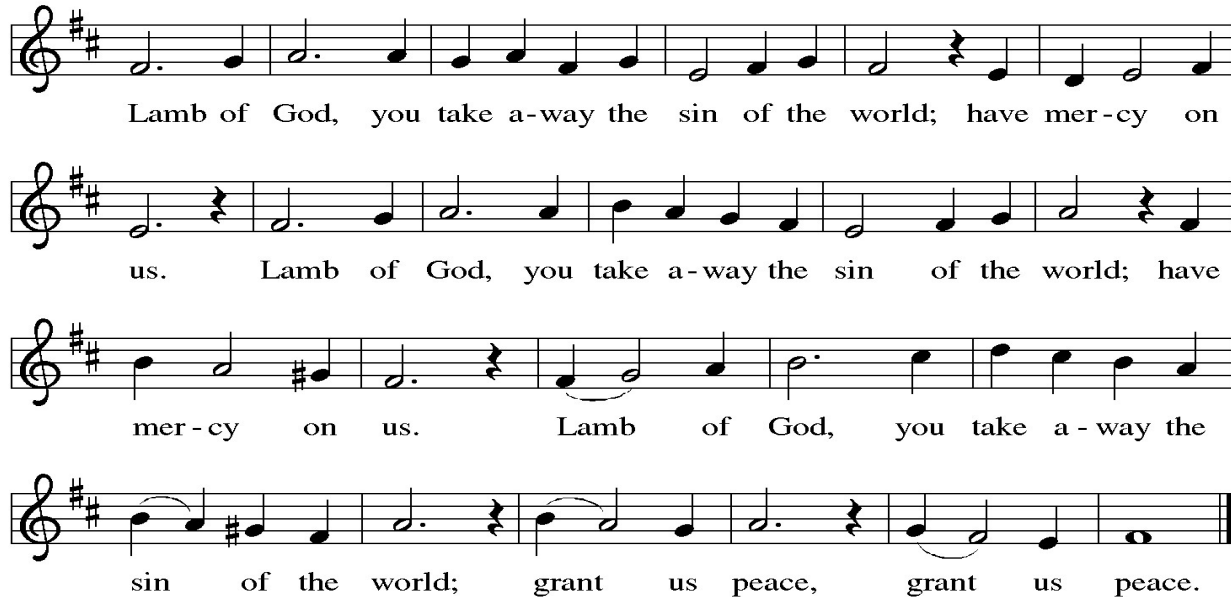
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COMMUNION

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 HYMN

The First Noel

ELW 300

(Text: English traditional; Music: English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901)

(The assembly remains seated.)

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 Christ's peace. Afterwards, the assembly is seated.)

MEAL

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow

Lyndell Leatherman

(© 2013 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. 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

What Child is This

ELW 296 (v. 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

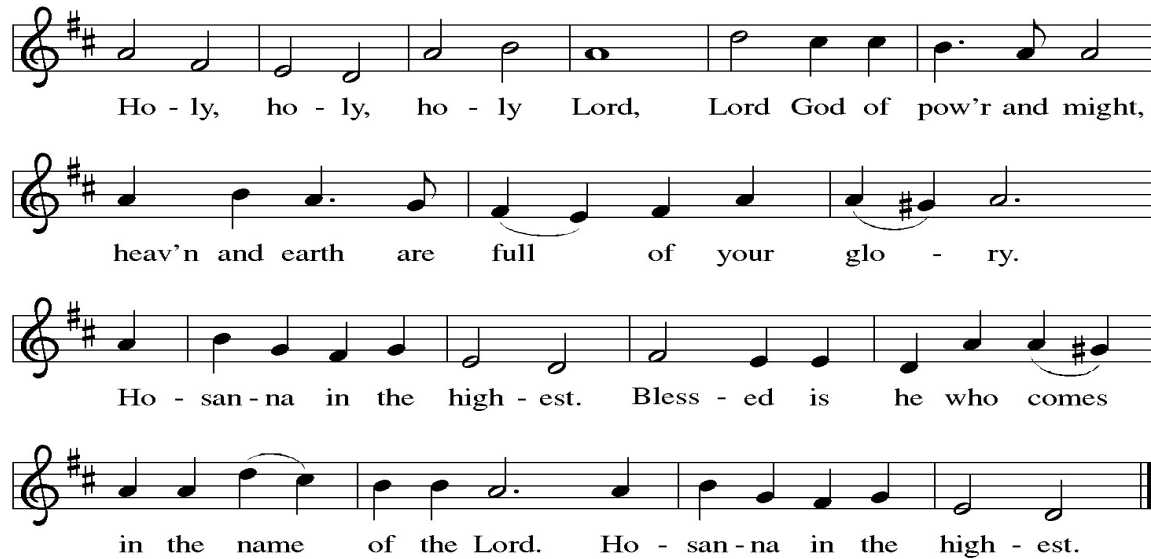
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
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.

**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 with us.

Come to the feast of joy!