

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

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 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

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

(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 *Forty Days and Forty Nights* *Lyndell Leatherman*
(© 2014 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:



Prayer List

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

For health & healing: Sue Wenneson, Judy Jasinski, Ruth Albrecht, Sheila Bender, Ethan Alford, 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, Diane Carroll, Richard Souders, Oluseye Fowode, Robert Suznick, Lisa Duerling, Debbie Miller, Sandy Scott and Vickie Jasinski

For family & friends: Marianne Widderich, Patricia Dunn, Jerre Keller, Ian Miles, Robin Bailey, Jennifer Ward, Elaine Perzan, Tommy Martin, Joe Brown, Karen Alban, Janet Barney, Tony & Barb Distefano, Jane Esterby, Leroy Harrison, Cierra Harrison, Owen Hastings, Peggy Van Houten, Lou Ermer, Roxann Kelly, and Joong In Rhee

For the military and their families: Ryan 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: Louis Christensen, Jr., Kenneth Davis, Sr., Marion McDonough, Joan Kraft, Janet Roth, and Charles Bender

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

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.

This week's schedule	
Today	9:00 am Handbell Choir 9:00 am Sunday School & Faith + Fellowship 10:00 am Live & Online Worship 11:30 am Community Meal/Hospitality Committee Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
Mon.	7:00 pm Council Meeting (Smith Building)
Tues.	
Wed.	9:30 am Busy Bees (Smith Building) 6:00 pm Soup & Salad (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service (Sanctuary) 7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
Thurs.	
Fri.	11:00 am Bible Study (Smith Building)
Sat.	9:00 am Men-in-Mission Breakfast (First Watch-Towson)

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
 For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
 and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
 Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
 God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
 Through faith, the free gift of God,
 you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
 The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
 dwells in you,
 pours God's love into your hearts,
 and gives you life and peace.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days* **ELW 319**

(Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., 1930-2024; Music: A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003; Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Arr. © 1979 Concordia 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.

KYRIE

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.
 Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.
 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Counting our Blessings			
Sun. 2/15	Attendance: 124 Offering: \$6,380 Homebound: 15	2025	
		December Offering Income	\$ 42,204
		December Other Income	\$ 3,025
		December Total Income	\$ 45,229
		December Expenses	\$ 29,421
		YTD Offering Income	\$322,459
		YTD Other Income	\$ 44,344
		YTD Total Income	\$366,803
		YTD Expenses	\$411,841
		YTD Tax Credit	*\$ 92,089

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, 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

WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

St. John's Lent & Holy Week Schedule

Wednesday Worship during Lent

****February 25th, March 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th ****

6 pm – Soup & Salad (Fellowship Hall)
7 pm Holden Evening Prayer Service

(Please note: Adult Choir practice will begin after the prayer service.)

Sunday Worship during Lent

****March 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd ****

10 am Live & Online Worship

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship, March 29th

10 am Live & Online Worship

Service of Holy Communion with Passion Reading according to Matthew

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

6 pm Community Meal

7 pm Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 3rd

12 noon Procession & Ecumenical Stations of the Cross

(Please note: The Ecumenical Procession begins at St. Ursula Catholic Church.)

7 pm Good Friday Service with Choir Cantata

Easter Sunday, April 5th

10 am Service of Holy Communion
Live & Online Worship



50/50 Raffle to support St. John's Preschool. Tickets are 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$25. Tickets are available in the church office. Ticket stubs must be returned by February 25th and the drawing will take place on February 27th. Cash or check will be accepted. Winner will be contacted by phone. Thanks for your support.



Easter Plants are available for purchase. The cost is \$12 for daffodils, tulips and hyacinths and \$16 for lilies. Flyers may be found on the bulletin board and in the weekly email. **Orders are due by March 1st.**

Join us for our next Community Meal (Soup and Salad) on Wednesday, March 4th beginning at 6:00 pm. Please come and invite your friends, family and neighbors! Look for the sign up sheet on the third floor bulletin board.



The world-renowned Concordia Choir of Moorhead, Minnesota, under the direction of Dr. Michael Culloton, will perform at The Cathedral of Mary Our Queen on Saturday, March 7th at 7:30 pm. From the music of J.S. Bach to familiar hymn arrangements, The Concordia Choir will amaze you with their technical mastery and incredible sound. Visit ConcordiaTickets.com for tickets.

Save the Date for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28th. More information is coming soon.



Save the Date for our Annual Bingo on Saturday, May 2nd. Doors open at 5 pm and Bingo starts at 7 pm. More information coming soon!

Save the Date for our 2026 Vacation Bible School. VBS will take place July 13th — 17th from 9:00 am– 12:30 pm. More information will be provided in early Spring.



- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- ⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**
- ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- ⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**
- ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."
- ¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**
- ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

When We Are Tested (see page 13)

ACS 922

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Next Week—Sunday, March 1st— Second Sunday in Lent

† 9 am—Sunday School & Faith + Fellowship

† 9 am— Handbell Choir

† 10 am—Worship in-person

and livestreamed on our YouTube Channel


† 11:30 am— Youth Group

Visit stjohnsparkville.org



The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given in honor of Robert Suznick and Anne Blackburn-Suznick’s wedding anniversary on this date 51 years ago at St. John’s.

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 March 15th and 22nd, May 3rd and 24th, June 28th, July 12th and 19th, August 9th and 23rd, September 6th, 20th and 27th, October 4th, 11th and 18th, November 1st, 8th, 15th and 29th, December 6th, 13th 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. 



Sunday School takes place on Sunday mornings from 9 am-9:45 am. Children ages 3 through 5th grade meet on the third floor. Middle and High School students meet in the Youth Room on the second floor.

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. See you there!

Join us for our Friday morning Bible Study at 11:00 am in the Smith Building.

Our study is on the Parables of Jesus. All are welcome!



The Food for Thought Program is providing 60 food bags for 30 students in need at Carney Elementary. **At this time we are in need of: Chef Boyardee single serving meals, pudding cups and pop tarts.** Don’t feel like shopping? Monetary donations are always welcome.

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)*

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156

Monday, February 23, 2026

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

Those Serving Today	
Assisting Minister	Robin Dibley
Crucifer	James W.
Acolyte (s)	Devon W.
Lector	Michelle Alkire
Communion Assistant	Michelle Alkire
Dismissal Assistant	Alec. B.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

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

One Step He Leads

Adult Choir

(Words and Music: Pepper Choplin; © 1996 GlorySound)

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

Change My Heart, O God

ELW 801



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953
Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa
Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services

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

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

When We Are Tested



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

COMMUNION HYMN*Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song***ELW 808**

(Text and music: *Les Petites Soeurs de Jesus and L'Arche Community*; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931;
Text and music © *Les Petites Soeurs de Jesus*; Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville)

(The assembly remains seated.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**SENDING****BLESSING**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN*Chief of Sinners Though I Be***ELW 609**

(Text: *William McComb, 1793-1870*; Music: *Richard Redhead, 1820-1901*)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE*Grave from "Introduction and Toccata in G Major"* William Walond

(© 1985 Harold Flammer Music)

Bulletin Cover: *Temptation in the Wilderness* by Briton Rivière, 1898.

From *SundaysAndSeasons.com*. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual 30295. Permission for hymn use and organ music granted under ONE LICENSE #735150-A and CCLI License #11527942.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

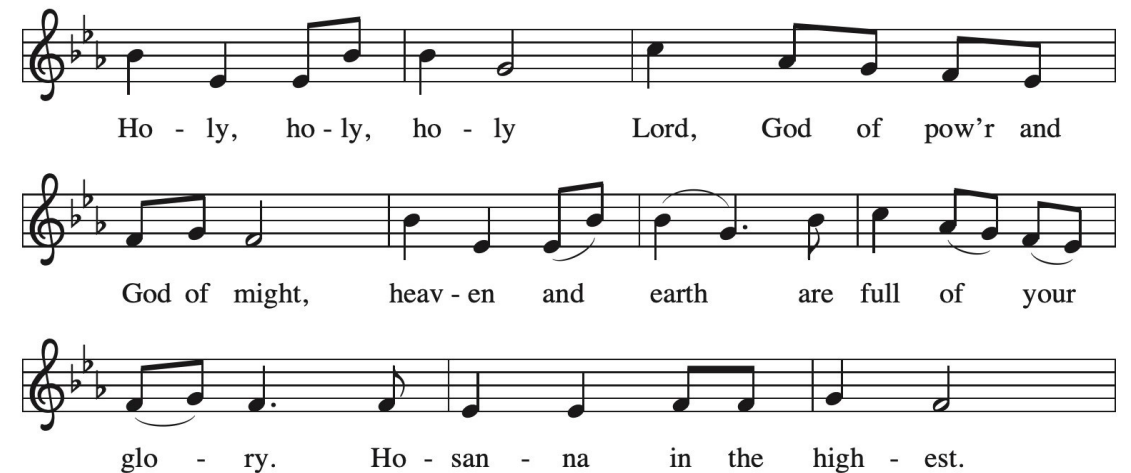
We lift them to the Lord.

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.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the Easter feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.
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, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, God of the universe.
 You made everything that is, and you sustain every living thing.

You taught us to tend and care for your earth.
 When we turned away from our task of sharing,
 you made for yourself a people, rescued them from slavery,
 nourished them with manna in the wilderness,
 and taught them to rely daily on your mercy.

You entered human life in Jesus,
 who ate with sinners,

who fed the thousands with a few loaves,
 and who called us back to the way of sharing our bread and your mercy.

In the night in which he was betrayed...

With this meal we remember Jesus giving himself to us.
 Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

As we share this bread and cup, O God, fill us up.
 Pour your Spirit on us so that we may be the body of Christ,
 food for your hungry world and signs of your love.
 With the earth and all its creatures,
 with all who have gone before us,
 we give you praise, feeding God, now 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

Come to the table.
 Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

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

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.