

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 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

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

(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

You Are Born to Be Loved

Yoon-Mee Chong- violinist

(Music: Min Sub Lee)

(Please stand as you are able.)

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Mighty God, lover of justice,
**you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,

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

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 Youth Group (Youth Room)
Mon.	
Tues.	11 am– 10 pm Preschool Casa Mia's Night (White Marsh)
Wed.	9:30 am Busy Bees (Smith Building) 5:30 pm Community Meal (Fellowship Hall) 6:45 pm Wed. Night Worship (Smith Building) 7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
Thurs.	
Fri.	11:00 am Bible Study (Smith Building) 6:30-10:30 pm Bull & Shrimp Roast (Columbus Gardens)
Sat.	

and forgives your sin in + Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table* **ACS 977**



1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -
3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand
4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled
dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:
be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -
with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -
they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -
who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -
breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.
fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945
Music: COPELAND, Michael Corzine, b. 1947
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Counting our Blessings

Attendance: **		2025	
Sun.	Offering: \$	December Offering Income	\$ 42,204
1/25	Homebound: 15	December Other Income	\$ 3,025
		December Total Income	\$ 45,229
	**Worship cancelled due to inclement weather.	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

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

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

WORD

FIRST READING

Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

¹ Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ "O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

⁶ "With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?



Prayer List

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

For health & healing: Vernon Reid, 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: Karen Alban, Janet Barney, Tony & Barb Distefano, Jane Esterby, Leroy Harrison, Cierra Harrison, Owen Hastings, Peggy Van Houten, Lou Ermer, Roxann Kelly, Joong In Rhee and Phyllis Gray

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: Bob Murphy, Catherine Whitehead, Marion McDonough, Joan Kraft, Janet Roth, Charles Bender, and 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

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.

Come out and support St. John's Preschool at their Casa Mia's (White Marsh) fundraiser this Tuesday, February 3rd from 11 am—10 pm. Flyers are located on the third floor bulletin board.



 **Join us for our next Community Meal on Wednesday, February 4th 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, February 4th 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 or pick them up in the church office.


Souper Bowl of Caring will be celebrated on Sunday, February 8th. You may help in two ways: a monetary donation or items needed for Victor's Vittles. Flyers with more details are located on the bulletin board outside of the Sanctuary.



 **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.**

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

The 2026 Offering Envelopes are here. They are on the third floor, on the counter outside of the Sanctuary. Feel free to deliver envelopes to those who are not able to pick them up.



⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 15

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your holy hill?
² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**
³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.
⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**
⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be ¹ overthrown.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."
²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.
²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the

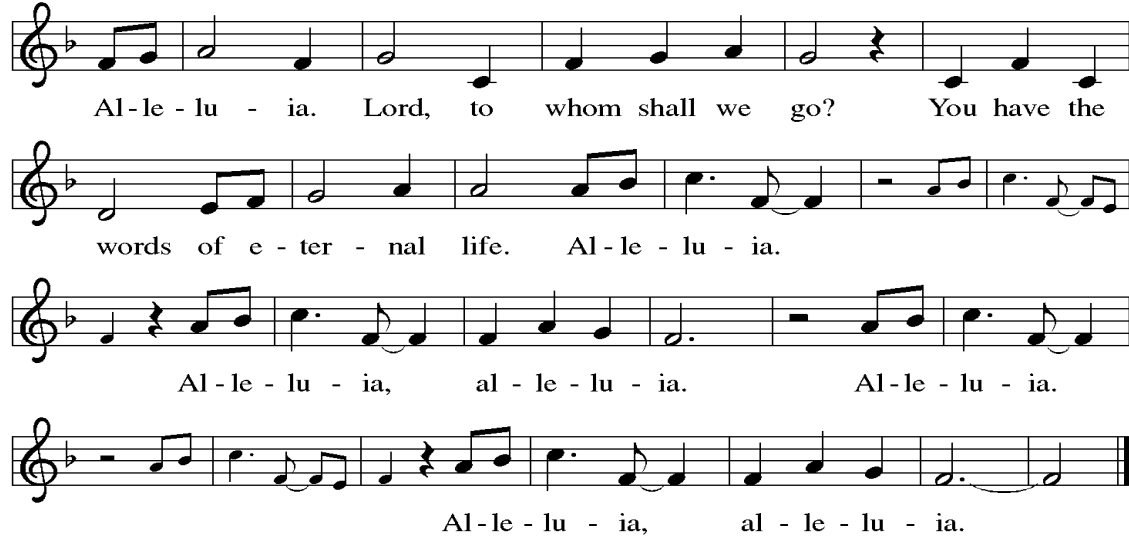
strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

- ¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.
- ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:
- ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- ⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- ⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
- ⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- ⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- ¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Next Week—Sunday, February 8th—Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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




The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given in honor of Sophia Shull’s 21st birthday.


Additional flowers are given in honor of Linda Wiley’s birthday with love from her family.

Additional flowers are given in honor of Rachel Hills’ birthday with love from her family.


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 February 8th, 15th and 22nd, March 15th, 22nd and 29th, May 3rd and 24th, June 28th, July 12th and 19th, August 9th and 23rd, September 6th, 20th and 27th, October 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th, November 1st, 8th, 15th and 29th.


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. See you there! 

BIBLE 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 and Tuna and/or Chicken Salad kits.** Don’t feel like shopping? Monetary donations are always welcome. 

Annual Report... If you are responsible for preparing a Ministry Report for the Annual Report, and you haven’t already done so, **please email your report to the church office asap!** 

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)

Presentation of Our Lord

Monday, February 2, 2026

Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597

Thursday, February 5, 2026

Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.

Those Serving Today	
Assisting Minister	JoAnn Weiland
Crucifer	Gabby G.
Acolyte (s)	Roman G., Devon W.
Lector	Amanda Hartman
Communion Assistant	Amanda Hartman
Dismissal Assistant	Devon W.

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¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

Build a Longer Table

ACS 1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984
 Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
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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 Merciful God.
Receive 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 *Lord, Make Us Instruments of Your Peace* *Adult Choir*
(Words: Marti Lunn Lantz; Music: David Lantz; © 1998 Harold Flammer Music)

Each time refrain is sung, Choir only first time; Choir and Congregation, second time.

Refrain: **Lord, make us instruments of your peace,
Messengers, Lord, in thought and deed.**

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 *As with Gladness Men of Old* *ELW 302 (v. 4)*

*Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last*

COMMUNION HYMNS *As We Gather at Your Table* *ELW 522*

(Text: Carl P. Daw Jr, b. 1944; Music: Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710; arr. Julius Rontgen, 1855-1932; Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company)

O God of Mercy, God of Light *ELW 714*

(Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.; Music: Joseph Barnby, 1838-1896; arr. hymnal version; Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress)

(The assembly remains seated.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Radiant God,
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood
you have drawn us to your heart.
Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL

BLESSING

May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
✚ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Rise Up, O Saints of God!* *ELW 669*

(Text: Norman O. Forness, 1936-2009; Music: William H. Walter, 1825-189; Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

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

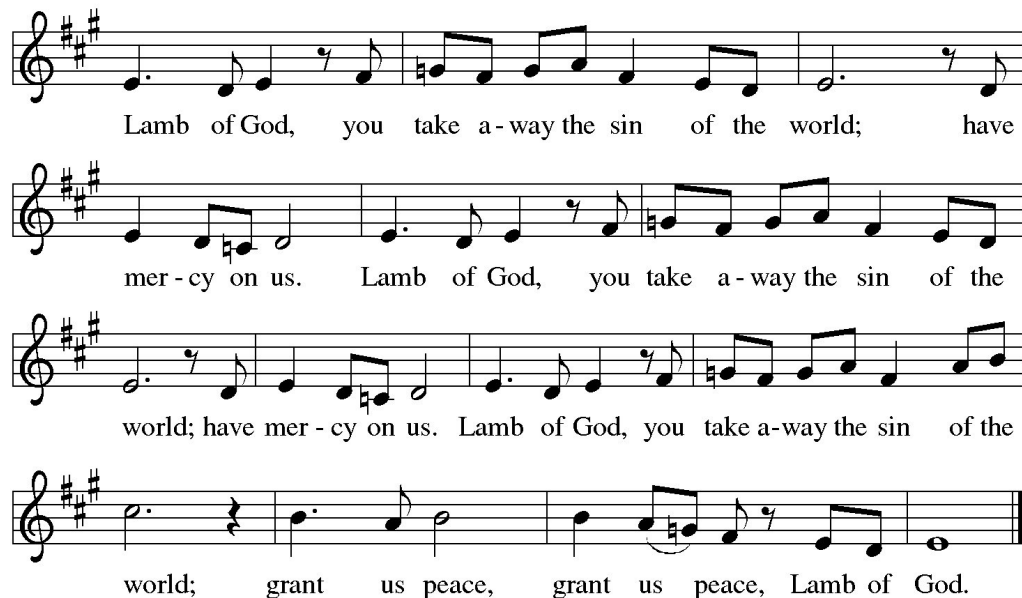
Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

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, Lamb of God.

*where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.*

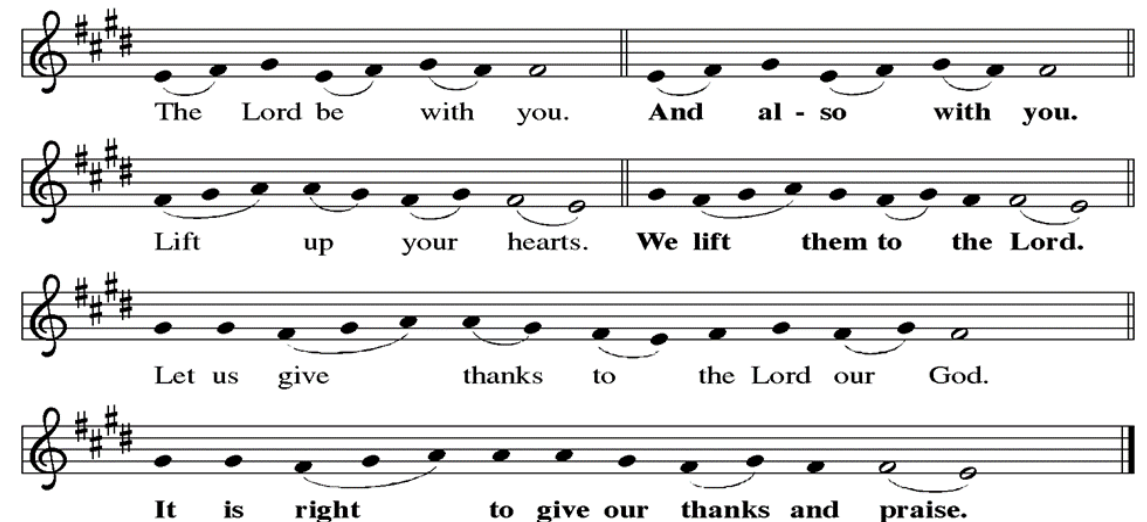
(Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.; Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872)

OFFERING PRAYER

God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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.
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, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
you alone are holy,
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars;
beneath the sea;
within each cell;
with every breath.
We praise you, O God.
We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water;
by night and day;
across the wilderness;
out of exile;
into the future.

We bless you, O God.
We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life;
near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner;
among the poor;
with us now.

We thank you, O God.
We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed...

Remembering his love for us
on the way,
at the table,
and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering;
within this meal;
among your people;
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks
to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit,
in your church,
without end.
Amen.