

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 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 opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known 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 Silence

Handbell Choir

(Arr.: Kevin Chesney; © 2000 Jeffers Handbell Supply, Inc.; Permission for use granted by Jeffers Publications)

(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 Altar Guild Meeting (Fellowship Hall) 11:30 am Worship & Music Meeting (Music Room)
Mon.	MLK, Jr. Day (office closed)
Tues.	Newsletter Articles Due
Wed.	9:30 am Busy Bees (Smith Building) 7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
Thurs.	
Fri.	11:00 am Bible Study (Smith Building)
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 *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* **ELW 308 (vv. 1-4)**
(Text and music: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship; Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress)

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, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 49:1-7

Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.

- ¹ Listen to me, O coastlands;
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born;
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
- ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.
- ³ And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
- ⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD

Counting our Blessings

		2025	
Sun.	Attendance: 126	September Offering Income	\$ 21,087
1/11	Offering: \$4,261	September Other Income	\$ 2,591
	Homebound: 15	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

and my reward with my God.”
5 And now the LORD says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—
6 he says,
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”
7 Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
“Kings shall see and stand up;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Word of God, word of life.

PSALM

1 I waited patiently upon the LORD,
who stooped to me and heard my cry.
2 **The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**
3 The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the LORD.
4 **Happy are they who trust in the LORD!
They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.**
5 Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us, none can be
compared with you!
Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.
6 **Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.**
7 And so I said, “Here I am; I come.
In the scroll of the book it is written of me:
8 **‘I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep within me.’”**
9 I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;
I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you know.



Prayer List

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

For health & healing: Ruth Albrecht, Sheila Bender, Ethan Alford, Nancy Ford, 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: 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: 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.



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.



- ¹⁰ **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;**
- I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.**
- ¹¹ You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me; may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- ¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
- ² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:
- ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our 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

John 1:29-42

John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him." ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

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

Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult

ELW 696

(Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1896; Music: William H. Jude, 1851-1922)

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.**

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Next Week—Sunday, January 25th— Third Sunday after Epiphany

† 9 am—**Sunday School & Faith + Fellowship**

† 9 am—**Handbell Choir**

† 10 am—**Worship in-person**


and livestreamed on our YouTube Channel

Visit stjohnsparkville.org




The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given in memory of Carl Wehr (January 10th) and Dot Smith's (January 20th) birthdays from their 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 5th, 12th and 19th, August 2nd, 9th, 23rd and 30th, September 6th, 20th and 27th, October 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th.


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 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. 

 **Annual Report...**It's that time of year. If you are responsible for preparing a Ministry Report for the Annual Report, **please email your report to the church office by Friday, January 23rd.** Thanks in advance!

Come out and support St. John's Preschool at their Casa Mia's (White Marsh) fundraiser on Tuesday, February 3rd from 11 am—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)

Confession of Peter

Sunday, January 18, 2026

Today the church remembers the apostle Peter's great acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God." This festival serves as a fitting beginning to the week in which we particularly pray that all Christians might be united in faith and witness.

Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, died 1156

Monday, January 19, 2026

When Erik, King of Sweden, determined to invade Finland for the purpose of converting the people there to Christianity, Henry went with him. Henry is recognized as the patron saint of Finland.

Agnes, martyr, died around 304

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome. The details of her martyrdom are not clear, but she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result, most likely by the sword. The church has honored her as one of the chief martyrs of her time.

Those Serving Today	
Assisting Minister	Tony Jasinski
Crucifer	Alec. B.
Acolyte (s)	Paige M., Roman G.
Lector	Lee Smith
Communion Assistant	Lee Smith
Dismissal Assistant	Alec B.

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 *We Are Singing, for the Lord is Our Light* *Adult Choir*
(Traditional Zulu Song; Arr. Hal H. Hopson; © 1994 Agape Press)

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

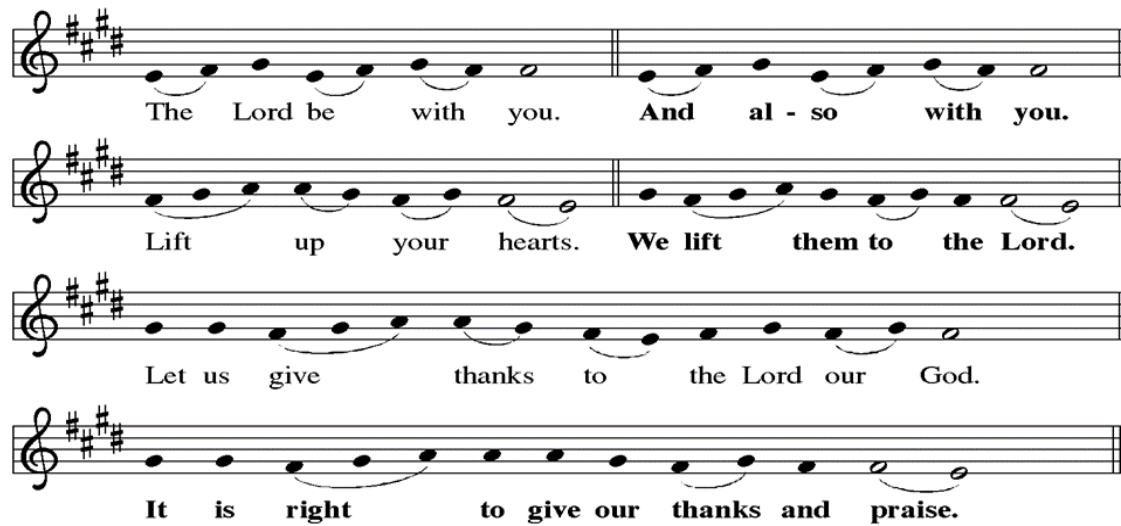
(Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.; Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872)

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

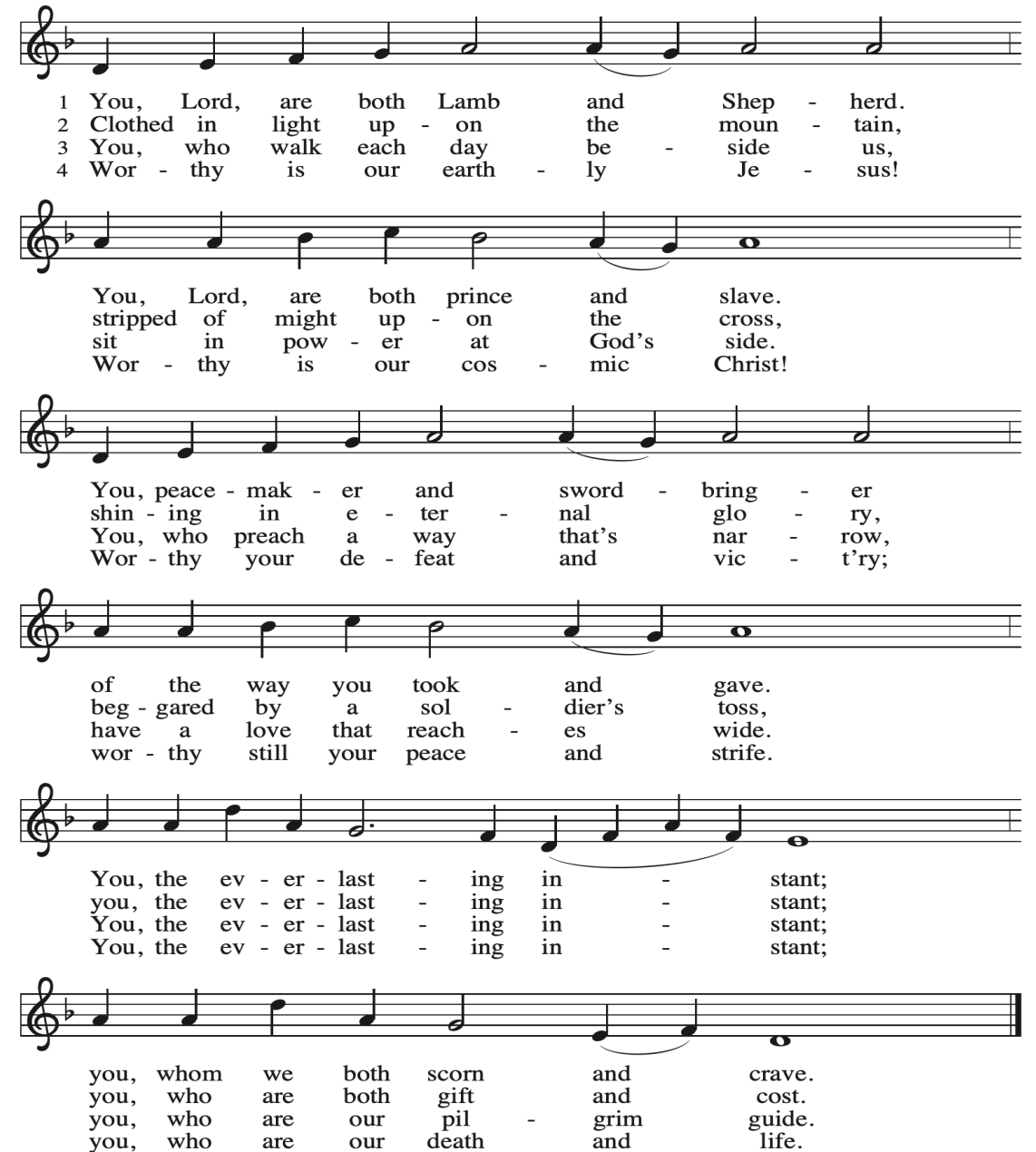


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!

You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
stripped of might up - on the cross,
sit in pow - er at God's side.
Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!

You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;

of the way you took and gave.
beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
have a love that reach - es wide.
wor - thy still your peace and strife.

You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;

you, whom we both scorn and crave.
you, who are both gift and cost.
you, who are our pil - grim guide.
you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

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(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

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 *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd (see page 13)* **ACS 954**

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Toccatina in A Minor*
(© 2009 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

Gerald Peterson

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.

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

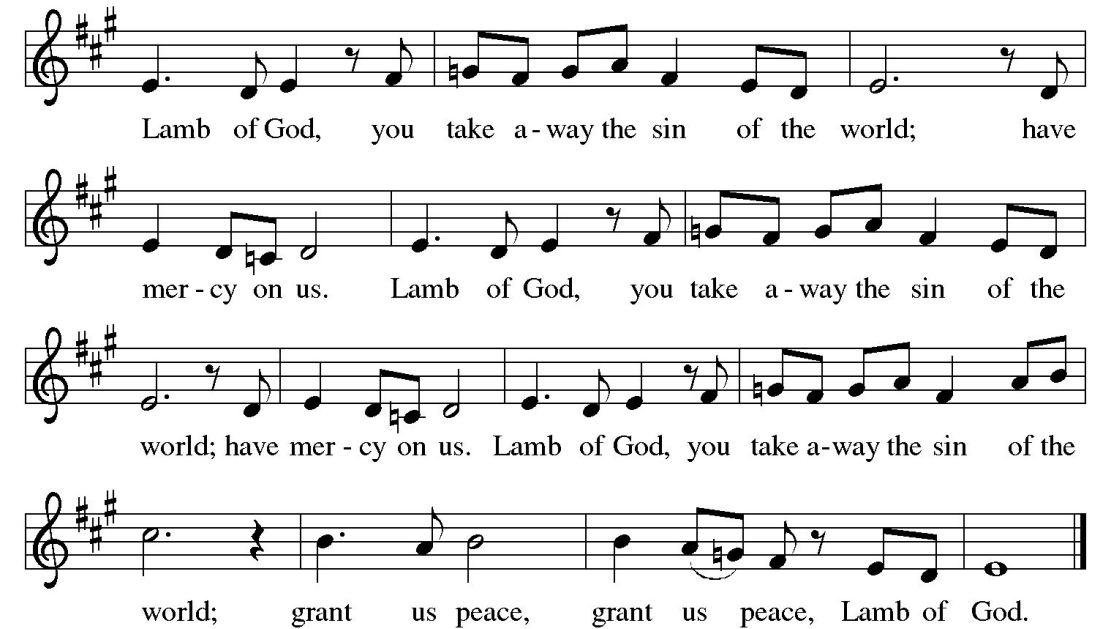
Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Lamb of God

ELW 336

(Text and music: Twila Paris, b. 1958; Text and music © 1985 Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music; CCLI Song #16787; Permission for use granted under license #11527942)

Abide, O Dearest Jesus

ELW 539

(Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588-1623; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923; Music: Melchior Volpius, 1570-1615)