

Second Sunday in Lent

March 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

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

(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 *On My Heart Imprint Your Image* Gregg Sewell
(© 2018 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:

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.	
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.	11:00 am Joan Kraft Celebration of Life (lunch will follow in the Fellowship Hall)

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 God of Mercy, God of Light* **ELW 714 (vv. 1-4)**
Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.; Music: Joseph Barnby, 1838-1896; arr. hymnal version; Arr. © 2006 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.

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			
Ash	Attendance: 77	2025	
Wed.	Offering: \$690	December Offering Income	\$ 42,204
2/18		December Other Income	\$ 3,025
		December Total Income	\$ 45,229
Sun.	Attendance: 109	December Expenses	\$ 29,421
2/22	Offering: \$5,171	YTD Offering Income	\$322,459
	Homebound: 15	YTD Other Income	\$ 44,344
		YTD Total Income	\$366,803
		YTD Expenses	\$411,841
		YTD Tax Credit	*\$ 92,089

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

¹ The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a} So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

² **My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the LORD watches over you;

the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**



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.

GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through 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

God Loved the World

ELW 323

(Text: Gesangbuch, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt.; Music: Edward Miller, 1731-1807, adapt.)

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 today.**



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.



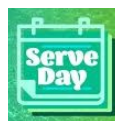
The Franciscan Center of Baltimore has invited us to participate in their "Children's Sunday Best Clothing Drive." Each year, they strive to provide individuals and families in need with dignified, high-quality attire so they can celebrate Easter with confidence, warmth, and joy. They are in need of NEW children's clothing: Easter dresses, polo shirts, slacks, ties, and nice hats. Sizes needed are 2T-6T, 4-6x, and 7-16. Please NO shoes! Donations can be brought to church and dropped off in the bin in the 3rd floor hallway or to the church office by Wednesday, March 18th. Thank you for your generous support!

Come out and support St. John’s Preschool at their Lib’s Grill (Honeygo Shopping Center) fundraiser on Tuesday, March 24th from 4-10 pm.



Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 28th from 10 am-11:30 am. Egg hunt starts at 10:45 am. This event is for ages 2-5th grade with crafts, games and storytime. Bring your own basket or bag. Event is rain or shine.

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 first St. John’s Family, Friends, and Neighbors Property Committee Serve Day! This event will take place on Saturday, May 16th from 9 am-12 pm with lunch to follow, so mark your calendars. It will include several projects inside and outside of our church property. Contact the church office if you would like to help.

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.



OFFERING HYMN

Change My Heart, O God

ELW 801

Refrain

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.

End

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

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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

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)

George Herbert, hymnwriter, died 1633
Sunday, March 1, 2026

An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40.

John Wesley, died 1791; Charles Wesley, died 1788; renewers of the church
Monday, March 2, 2026

These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.

Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202
Saturday, March 7, 2026

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

Those Serving Today	
Assisting Minister	Bob Berner
Crucifer	Olivia S.
Acolyte (s)	Roman G.
Lector	Bonnie Spellman
Communion Assistant	Bonnie Spellman
Dismissal Assistant	Madilyn A.

COMMUNION HYMNS*On My Heart Imprint Your Image**ELW 811**(Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.; Music: Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693)**Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross**ELW 335**(Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915; Music: William H. Doane, 1832-1915)**(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*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**ELW 803**(Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872)***DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE*Fantasia on "Salvation"**David Paxton**(© 1999 Lorenz Publishing Co.)***DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

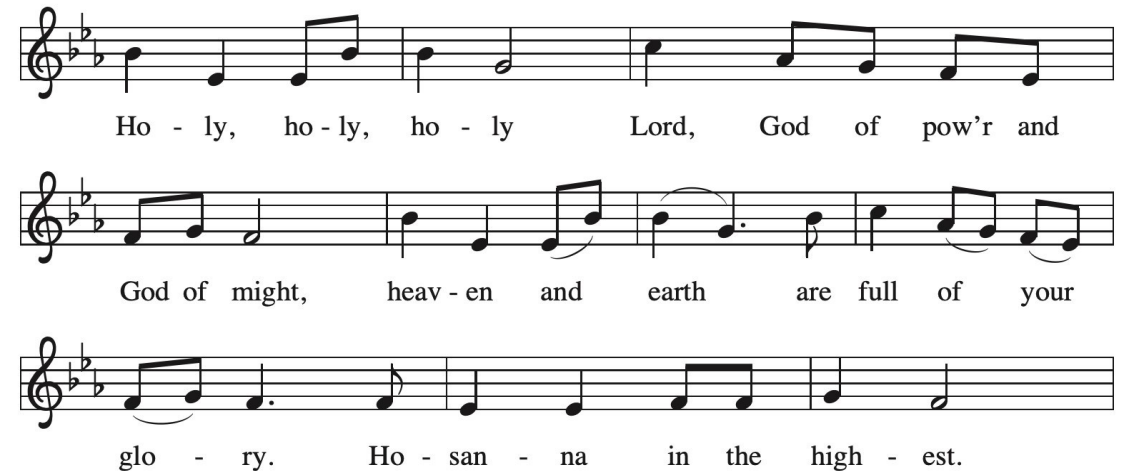
Lift up your hearts.

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 paschal 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.

(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.**

(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.