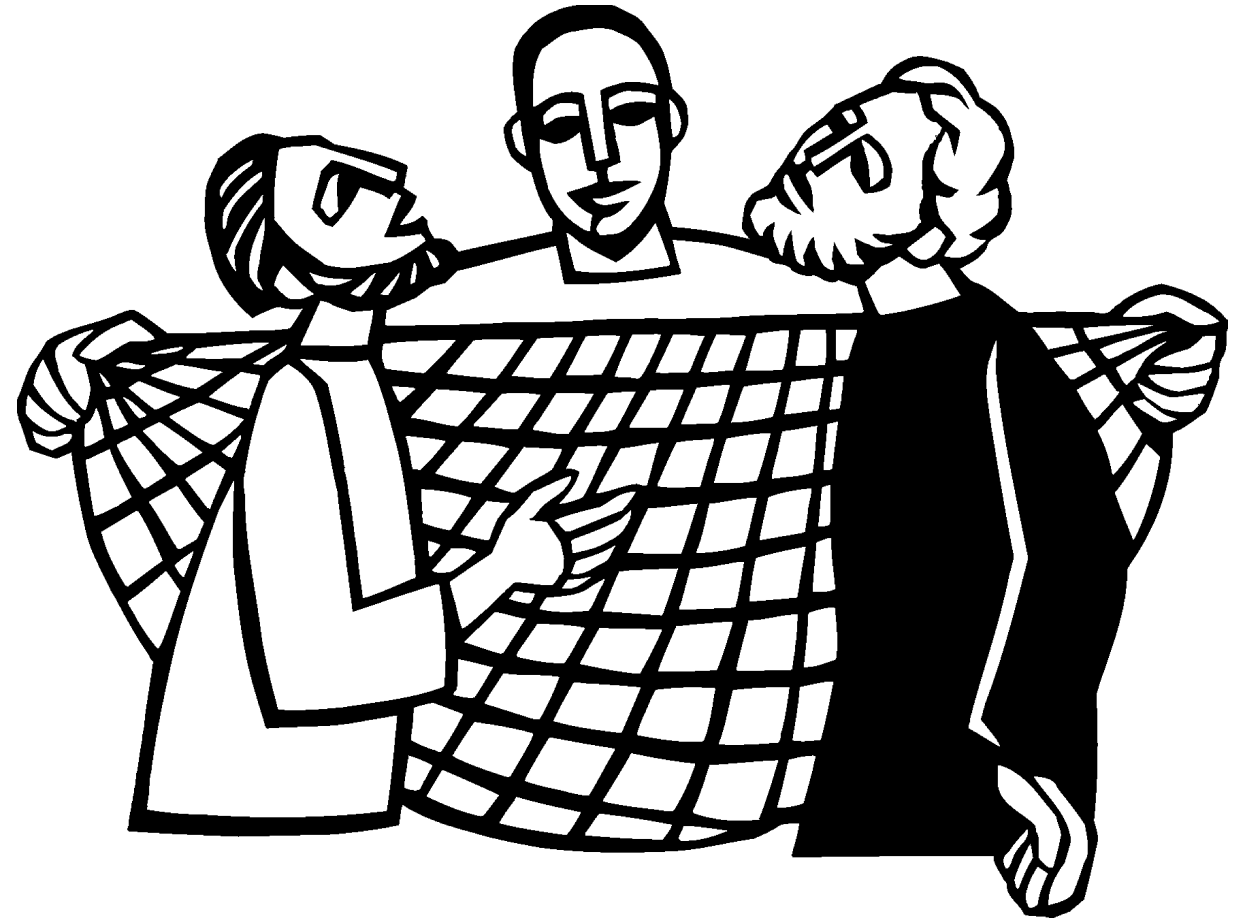


Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 25, 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

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

(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,

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

God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
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

Listen, God Is Calling

ELW 513

(Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, 1922-2010; Music: Tanzanian tune; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, 1919-2010; Text © 1969 Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Arr. © 1968 Austin C. Lovelace)

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

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴ For the yoke of their burden
 and the bar across their shoulders,
 the rod of their oppressor,
 you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
 The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;
 that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the
 beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
 hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.
 Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and
 make music to the LORD.**

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
 have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”
 Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.
 Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God’s salvation.

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

This week's schedule		
Today	9:00 am	Handbell Choir
	9:00 am	Sunday School & Faith + Fellowship
	10:00 am	Live & Online Worship
Mon.		
Tues.		
Wed.	9:30 am	Busy Bees (Smith Building)
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
Thurs.		
Fri.	10:00 am	Cemetery Meeting (Music Room)
	11:00 am	Bible Study (Smith Building)
Sat.		



Counting our Blessings			
Sun. 1/18	Attendance: 106	2025	
	Offering: \$5,084	December Offering Income	\$ 42,204
	Homebound: 15	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 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: 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: 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.

¹⁸ For 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.

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 4:12-23

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—
¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned."

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.

²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.
²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

Faith Begins by Letting Go

ACS 1004



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
 2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - 'ry's roots a - live
 3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
 so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
 shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
 not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
 till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
 Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815
 Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

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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.

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.



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. **The headcount deadline is January 30th.**

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.



Those Serving Today	
Assisting Minister	Tony Jasinski
Crucifer	Devon W.
Acolyte (s)	Paige M., Jack W.
Lector	Vickie Jasinski
Communion Assistant	Vickie Jasinski
Dismissal Assistant	Madilyn A.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Next Week—Sunday, February 1st— Fourth 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—Youth Group
Visit stjohnsparkville.org



The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today 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 5th, 12th and 19th, August 2nd, 9th and 23rd, 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 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!

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 *I Will Make You Fishers of Men* Adult Choir
(Words and music: Dave and Jean Perry; © 2002 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 *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.*

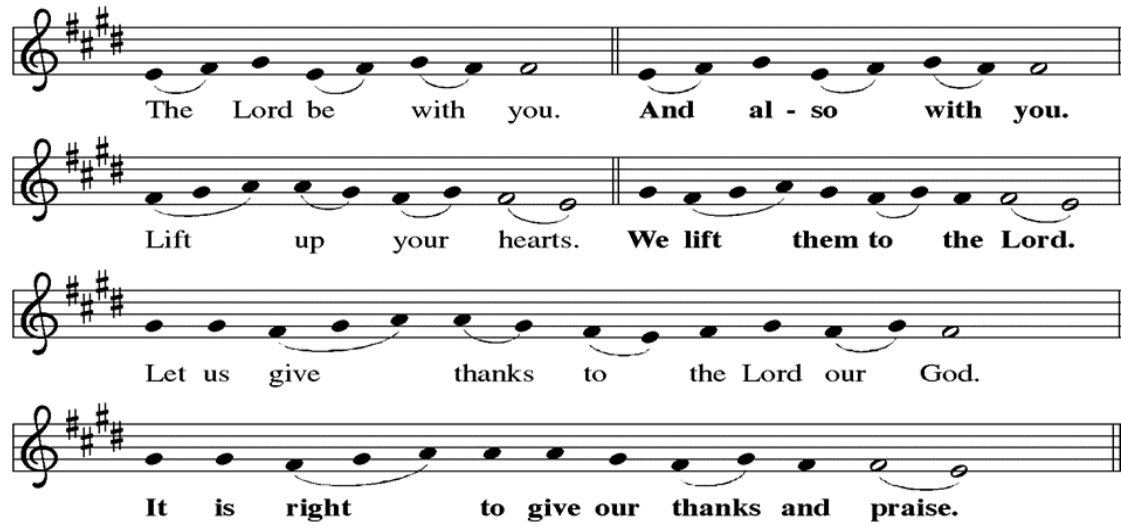
(Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.; Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872)

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:

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)

Conversion of Paul **Sunday, January 25, 2026**

The week of prayer begun by the remembrance of Peter's confession now comes to an end as we recall the pivotal moment in the life of the other pillar of the early church, the apostle Paul. His encounter with the risen Christ turned him from persecutor of the followers of Christ to one of their leaders.

Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries **Monday, January 26, 2026**

These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.

Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith **Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae.

Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274 **Wednesday, January 28, 2026**

One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter.

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

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW 674

(Text: Fred Kaan, 1929-2009; Music: Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925-1980; Text and music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company)

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Rise Up and Serve the Lord

Patricia Lou Harris

(© 1997 Lorenz Publishing Co.)

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

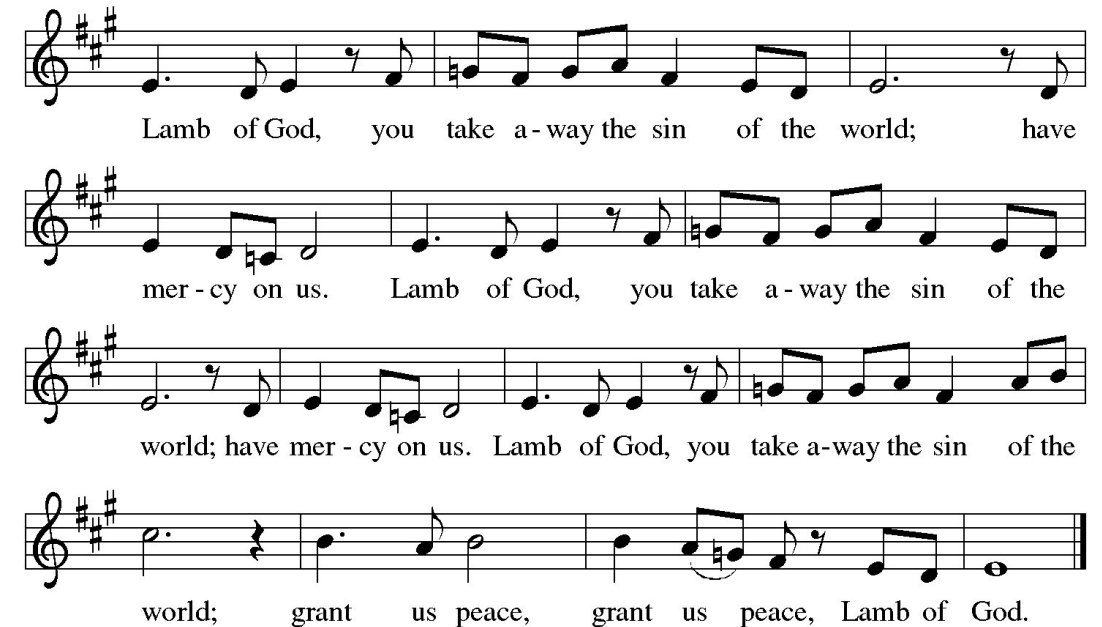
Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

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

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798

(Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949; Music: Scottish traditional; Text © 1987 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815

(Text and music: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934; Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration)

(The assembly remains seated.)