

***To those who are
visiting today:***

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! We are delighted to have you here.

If you do not have a church home, you are cordially invited to join the St. John parish family.

Sound amplifying devices,

which are electronically connected to our speaker system, are available to those who have a hearing impairment. The units are light-weight, cordless, and simple to operate.

Please speak to an usher if you would like to use one.



The Rev. Joshua Ball
Pastor
(586) 749-5286

The Rev. Anthony Keilani
Assistant Pastor

Mr. Erwin Aufdemberge
Director of Parish Music

***Prayers as you await the beginning
of the Divine Service are found
inside the front cover of the hymnal.***

***The Psalms in the front section of
the hymnal will also aid your
pre-service meditation.***

St. John Evangelical-Lutheran Church

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(586) 749-5286

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Web site: www.stjohnray.com **E-mail:** pastorjtball@gmail.com

***The Second Sunday after Christmas
January 4, 2026***

Welcome, Visitors to St. John Lutheran Church!

Concerning the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion:

The Lord's Supper is the true Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ for repentant sinners to eat and drink.

In addition, receiving this blessed Sacrament of the Altar is a public expression that you are one with the faith that is believed, taught, and confessed by that congregation. St. John Ev.-Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LC-MS.) Our pastors and congregations subscribe to the Confessions contained in the Book of Concord of 1580 as the correct interpretation of the Holy Scriptures, and faithful proclamation of the Christian faith. Therefore, communicant members in good standing of LC-MS congregations, and churches in altar and pulpit fellowship with the LC-MS, are invited to commune at St. John.

Not all Christians believe in communion practice of this kind, however we ask your kindness in respecting our practice. We rejoice at the faith of all who belong to our Lord's Church, and are glad that you are here with us today.

Adult and youth catechism instruction is always available, without obligation.

The Sign of the Cross, kneeling and other Church Customs

The hymnal places a cross , at certain points in the service where you may cross yourself. This is a very ancient and good – but *optional* – symbol and custom among Lutherans and many other Christians. Two examples are at the Invocation (“In the Name of the Father and of the , Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”) and in the final sentence of the Nicene Creed.

What does making the sign of the cross mean?

It means “I belong to the true, living God: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit”, for the sign of the cross is His sign. On the cross, God the Son willingly died in our place to pay for all our sins. God's sign was placed on your forehead and heart at Holy Baptism to “mark you as belonging to Christ the crucified.”

Please kneel where indicated *if you are able* (or stand with head bowed.)

Kneeling is a sign of humility and thanksgiving before God. Martin Luther encouraged Lutherans to follow the ancient custom of kneeling for these words in the Nicene Creed: “came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man.” Why? This outward action shows our humility and thanksgiving that God has made Himself our Brother by becoming a true Man. Those words in the Creed are, therefore, marked [▼▲] for those who desire to kneel. You could also bow your head at those words.

Another ancient and good custom is bowing the head whenever the name “Jesus” is spoken during the Divine Service. This is an outward way to give honor and glory to our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Calendar for the Week:

<u>Today:</u> 1/4/26	9:00 am Divine Service Altar Server: Andrew Upton Crucifer: Ezra Ball
<u>Tuesday:</u> 1/6	<i>The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord</i> 6:00 pm Divine Service Altar Server: Andrew Upton Crucifer: Ezra Ball
<u>Next Sunday:</u> 1/11	9:00 am Divine Service Altar Server: Ron Heimke Crucifer: Ezra Ball 10:30 am Bible Study
<u>Next Monday:</u> 1/12	6:00 pm Divine Service

Attendance Christmas Eve: 80 Christmas Day: 50 Sunday 12/28: 74

Offering 12/24: Current: \$454 Christmas Eve: \$1,650 Christmas Day: \$200 Birthday: \$1,000 Initial: \$50

12/25: Current: \$40 Christmas Eve: \$2 Christmas Day: \$595

We gratefully acknowledge a gift in memory of Jim Boeder from Christine Dissbrun

12/28: Current: \$2,667 Missions: \$7 Building Fund: \$7 Birthday: \$20 Christmas Eve: \$5 NY Eve: \$5

To meet our 2026 budgetary requirements, an average weekly collection of \$3,635 is required.

In today's readings: **Jesus Is the Perfect Israel.** Israel and all his family went and dwelt in Egypt (Gen. 46:1–7). God made a great nation of him there, but that nation would prove unfaithful to the Lord. Therefore, the New Israel came. In fleeing the murderous Herod, our young Lord goes to Egypt (Matt. 2:13–23), that the prophecy might be fulfilled, “Out of Egypt I called my Son” (Hos. 11:1). Jesus brings to perfection what old Israel could not. He is the faithful Israel, the embodiment of the people of God. He offers His perfect and holy life in place of our own. He submits Himself to persecution and suffering in order to save us. Therefore, we should not think it strange when we who are in Christ experience trials because of the faith (1 Pet. 4:12–19). Rather, we rejoice to share in Christ’s sufferings, knowing that we will also share in His glory.

You can prepare for next week's Divine Service by reading:

Joshua 3:1-3, 7-8, 13-17; Isaiah 42:1-7; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 3:13-17.

Suggested Book of Concord reading: Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration I:44-45; II:8-11; V:3-6; VIII:7-12.

The Christmas season continues through January 6, the Great Feast of our Lord's Epiphany. Christmas is an extended season of thanksgiving to God and celebration. For unto us a Child is born who is Christ, the Lord. God's own Son is born to be our Savior from sin and sin's eternal consequences. This festive season began on Christmas Eve, but it continues through January 6th, the Feast of Epiphany. In fact, Epiphany is an even older Church festival than Christmas. On Epiphany we celebrate the Visit of the Magi, who were led by a miraculous star to the Child Jesus from many hundreds of miles away. The Epiphany season celebrates that Jesus is true God in human flesh.

Come then, and continue the Christmas celebration with the **Divine Service for The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord this Tuesday, January 6 at 6:00 p.m.**

Many thanks to Tina Kacanowski & Dana Hummel for the loving care given to our church's poinsettias. Plants may be taken home any time or you may leave them here for the Epiphany season.

Monday Evening Divine Services resume on January 12 at 6:00 p.m.

Study God's Word in 2026. The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute, verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. You can listen by phone, (618) 262-0078. You can also listen at thewordendures.org; the LPR mobile app; and a podcast provider.

Weekly Bach Cantatas. Lutheran Public Radio streams an appointed Bach Cantata uninterrupted at 1 pm and 8 p.m. Central on Sundays. You can listen at lutheranpublicradio.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn and on the LPR mobile app.

The Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord

Tuesday, January 6

Divine Service at 6:00 p.m.



The Preparatory Office

Please stand when the bells are rung. You may give reverence to our Lord by turning to face His cross as it comes down the center aisle and by bowing as it passes.

Processional Hymn: #379 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

The Invocation, Confession and Absolution *Please stand*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the , Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Congregation: Amen.**

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help , is in the name of the Lord, **C: Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord, **C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Please kneel – Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

The pastor stands:

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the , Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

The Introit *(Please stand)*



The Antiphon:

Cantor: Out of the mouth of babes and infants, You have established strength because | of Your foes,*
to still the enemy and the a- | venger. *(Psalm 8:2)*

Psalm:

Cantor: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in | all the earth!*
You have set Your glory above the | heavens.

**All: What is man that You are mind- | ful of him,*
and the son of man that You | care for him?**

Cantor: Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly | beings*
and crowned him with glory and | honor.

**All: You have given him dominion over the works | of Your hands;*
You have put all things under | his feet. *(Psalm 8:1, 4-6)***

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

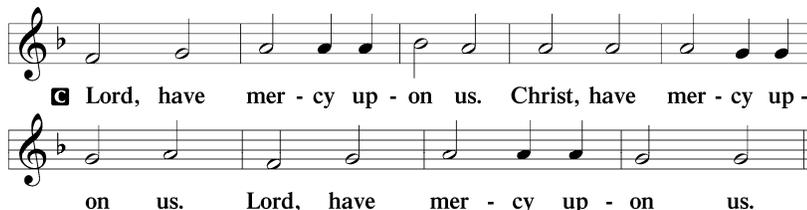
And to the Holy | Spirit;

As it was in the be- | ginning,*

Is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The Antiphon – (as above)

The Kyrie



The Gloria in Excelsis (Glory to God in the Highest)

Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Salutation and Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.
, And with thy spir - it.
Let us pray...

P: Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

A - - - - men.

The Old Testament Reading: Genesis 46:1-7

After the reading:

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual



Cantor: Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the | nations,*
that we may give thanks to Your holy name and glory | in Your praise.

**All: You, O LORD, are our | Father,*
our Redeemer from of old | is Your name.** (*Psalm 106:47; Isaiah 63:16*)

The Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-19

After the reading:

P: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand **The Alleluia and Verse**



**All: Alleluia. My mouth will speak the praise | of the LORD,*
and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever. Alle- | luia.** (*Psalm 98:1a*)

Announcement of the Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 2:13-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. ___ the ___ chapter. , , ,



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

Response to the Gospel

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed: Confessed by all.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation ▼ came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; ▲ and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy *Christian and Apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life , of the world to come. Amen.

*The ancient text reads: one holy *catholic* and apostolic Church.

Hymn: #376 *Once in Royal David's City*

The Preaching of the Gospel

Hymn of the Day: #385 *From East to West*

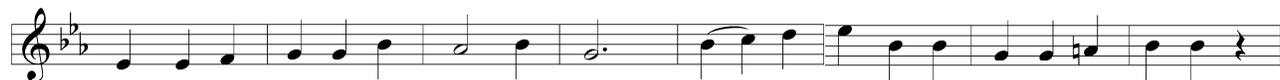
The Prayer of the Church - Please kneel

The Offering

The Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist

Please stand when the offering is brought forward.

The Offertory



☐ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.



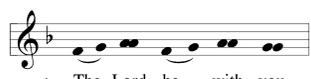
Cast me not a - way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me.



--- Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it.



A - men.



* The Lord be with you.



☐ And with thy spir - it.



☐ Lift up your hearts.



☐ We lift them up un - to the Lord.



☐ Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



☐ It is meet and right so to do.

The Proper Preface

It is good, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:

The *Sanctus* (Holy, Holy, Holy)

It is appropriate to kneel for the Sanctus and to remain kneeling until the distribution.



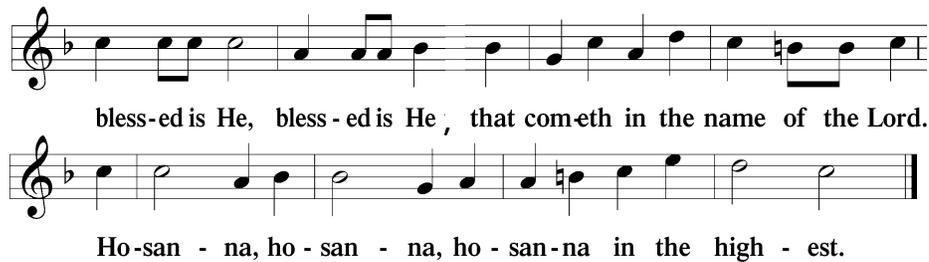
☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



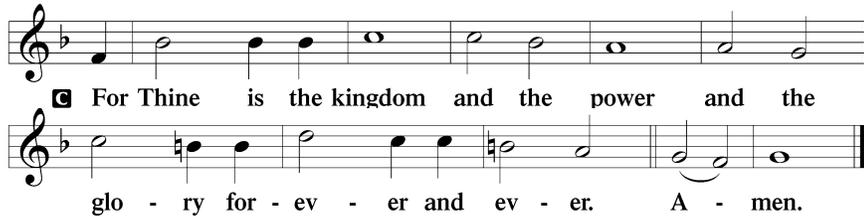
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He, that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

The Our Father

Pastor: 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
glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Verba Christi (The Words of Christ by which He instituted the Blessed Sacrament)

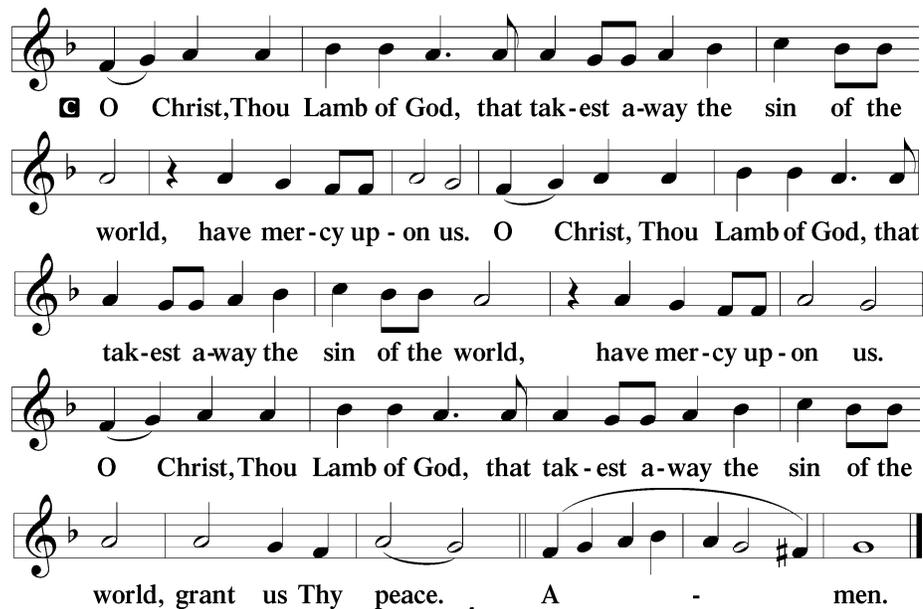
The Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)



The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.

The Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

A - men.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

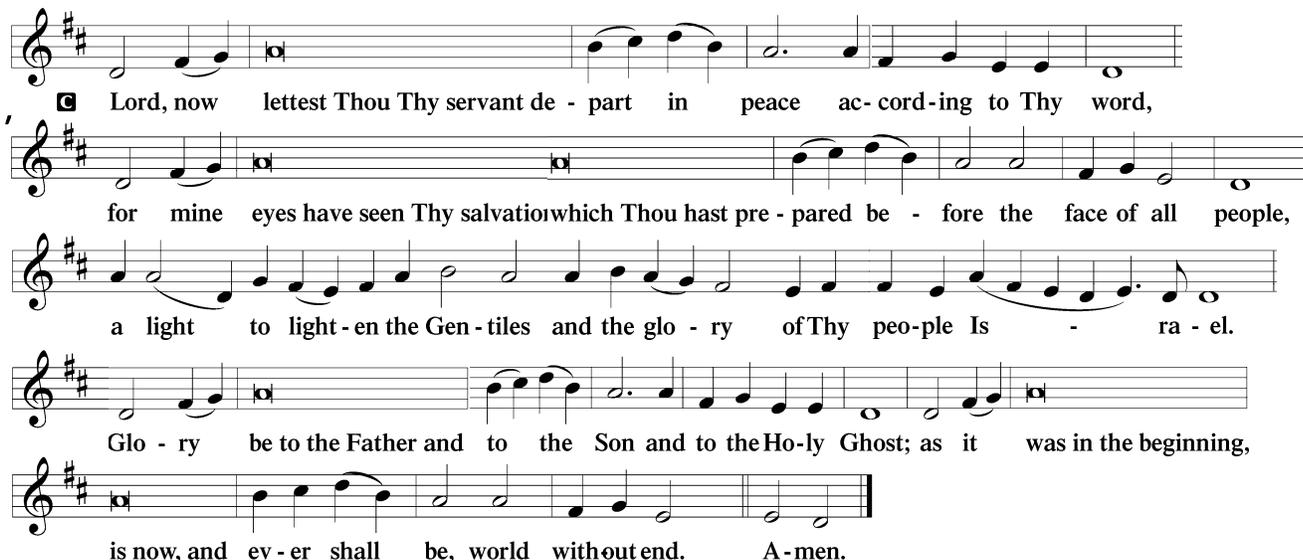
The Holy Communion — Hymns sung during distribution of the Sacrament:

- #392 *God Loves Me Dearly*
- #388 *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Prayers for before and after receiving the Sacrament are found inside the front cover of the hymnal.

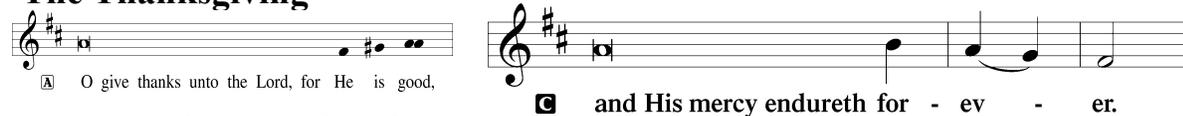
Please stand when motioned by Pastor

The Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

The Thanksgiving



O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

The Post-Communion Collect

P: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



A - men.

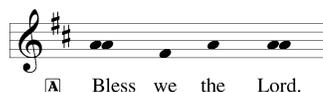
The Salutation and *Benedicamus*



The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir - it.



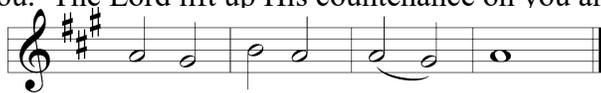
Bless we the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance on you and , give you peace.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

Silent Prayer

Recessional Hymn: #390 *Let Us All with Gladsome Voice*

, *Soli Deo Gloria* ,