

**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

62657 North Avenue Ray Township, Michigan 48096
(586) 749-5286

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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

***The Last Sunday of the Church Year
November 23, 2025***

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> 11/23	9:00 am Divine Service Altar Server: Ron Heimke Crucifer: Ezra Ball 10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study
<u>Monday:</u> 11/24	6:00 pm Divine Service
<u>Tuesday:</u> 11/25	Poinsettia Order Deadline
<u>Wednesday:</u> 11/26	6:30 pm Thanksgiving Eve Divine Service Altar Server: Ron Heimke Crucifer: Ezra Ball
<u>Next Sunday:</u> 11/30	9:00 am Divine Service Altar Server: Andrew Upton Crucifer: Ezra Ball 10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study
<u>Next Monday:</u> 12/1	6:00 pm Divine Service

Last Week's Attendance Sunday: 56

Offering Current: \$3,051 Missions: \$57 Building Fund: \$57

To meet our 2025 budgetary requirements, an average weekly collection of \$3,635 is required.

In today's readings: **By Faith We Are Prepared for Christ's Return.** "The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:1-11). The arrival of the bridegroom will be sudden and unexpected. Therefore you are to be watchful and ready like the five wise virgins. "For you know neither the day nor the hour" when the Son of Man is to return. (Matt. 25:1-13). The lamps are the Word of Christ. The oil in the lamps is the Holy Spirit, who works through the Word to create and sustain the flame of faith in Christ. The foolish are those who do not give proper attention to the working of the Holy Spirit in baptism, preaching, and the supper, and so their faith does not endure. The wise, however, are those who diligently attend to these gifts of the Spirit, and who therefore have an abundance of oil. The flame of faith endures to the end. By God's grace they are received into the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, the new heavens and the new earth created by the Lord for the joy of His people (Is. 65:17-25).

You can prepare for next week's Divine Service by reading: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 21:1-9.
Suggested Book of Concord reading: Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration III:22-23.

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good: Our national day of Thanksgiving gives us the opportunity to render thanks where thanks is due – to God, from Whom all blessings flow. Come to our annual **Thanksgiving Eve Divine Service this Wednesday, November 26 at 6:30 p.m.**

Anthem Notes: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" is today's anthem. The first stanzas are sung to the majestic tune, "Miles Lane." Our prayer on this season of the last times is – "Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall! We'll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all."

Thank you to all who came to the Hymn Sing last Sunday. Thanks especially to the handbell ringers. - *Paul Kacanowski*

Poinsettia order deadline is this Tuesday 11/25. Fill out a form in the narthex and place it in the box with your payment. Make checks out to CASH. Singles \$11; doubles \$17; triples \$21. Call Laura with questions: 586-725-5811. *Thank you!*

Many thanks to all who supported the St. John Missions Society bake sale last Sunday by providing and purchasing baked goods.

The Lutheran Witness. For those interested, subscriptions to The Lutheran Witness are available through the church via the Michigan District. The annual subscription cost is \$22.50. To renew your existing subscription or for a new subscription, please provide payment in the offering plate no later than Sunday, December 7th. Checks should be payable to St. John Lutheran Church. In addition, for new subscriptions or if your address has changed, please include your name and mailing address. If you have any questions, contact Kevin Wiedelman (248-520-6165 / wiedelman@stjohnray.com).

The Sacrament of Individual Confession & Absolution is available by scheduling an appointment with Pastor Ball. The rite for individual, private confession comes from Luther's Small Catechism and is found in our hymnal on Pages 292-293.

November / December Calendar

- ◆ Poinsettia order deadline Tuesday, 11/25.
- ◆ Thanksgiving Eve Divine Service. Wednesday, 11/26 at 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Potluck Suppers – Wednesdays in Advent. 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Midweek Advent Divine Services – Wednesdays, Dec. 3 through Dec. 17 – 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24: Candlelight Divine Service at 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25: Festival Divine Service at 10:30 a.m.
- ◆ New Year's Eve – Wednesday, December 31: 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: #592 *Dearest Jesus, We Are Here*

Baptism: *Laura Ann Lightcap*

Post Baptism Hymn: #663 *Rise My Soul to Watch and Pray*

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  * VII E: Mixolydian

Cantor:  return and come to Zion with | singing,*
everlasting joy shall be up- | on their heads.

**All: They shall obtain glad- | ness and joy,*
and sorrow and sighing shall | flee away. (Isaiah 35:10)**

Psalm:

Cantor: O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure | of my days,*
let me know how fleeting | I am!

**All: Behold, You have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing
be- | fore You.***

Surely all mankind stands as a | mere breath!

Cantor: And now, O Lord, for what | do I wait?*

My hope | is in You.

**All: Deliver me from all my trans- | gressions.*
Do not make me the scorn | of the fool! (Psalm 39:4–5, 7–8)**

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

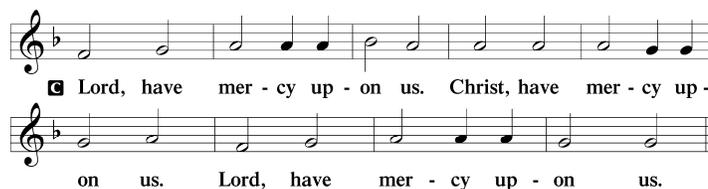
And to the Holy | Spirit;

As it was in the be- | ginning,*

Is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The Antiphon - (as above)

The Kyrie



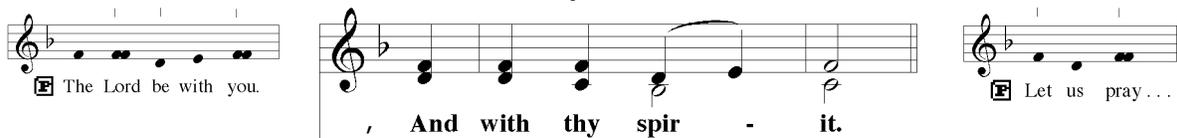
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

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



P Glory be to God on high: **C** 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



P The Lord be with you. **C** And with thy spir - it. **P** Let us pray...

P: Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon ourselves the armor of light, now in the fleeting time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility, that in the Last Day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

The Preaching of the Gospel

Hymn of the Day: #516 *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

Special Rite: The Churching of Women

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.

The Preface



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:

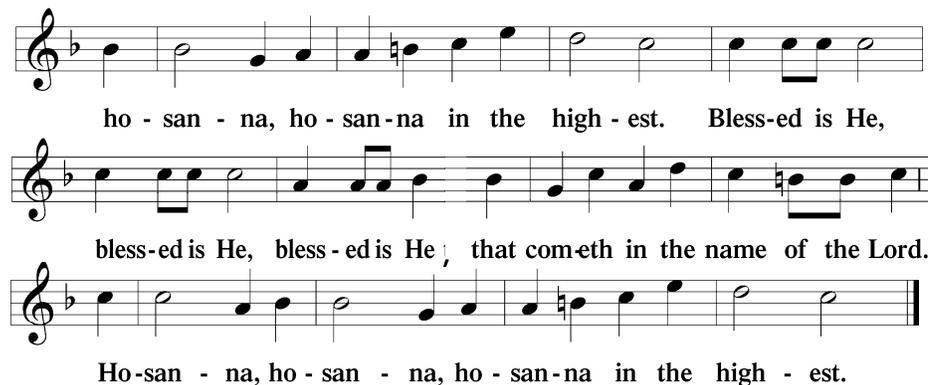
The *Sanctus* (*Holy, Holy, Holy*)



☐ 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,



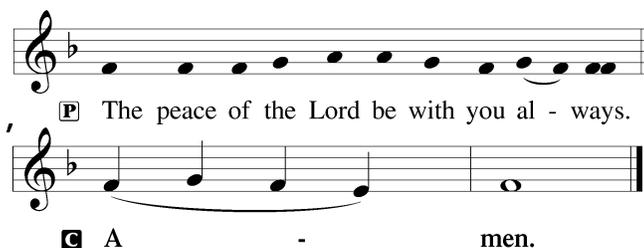
ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
 bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He ; that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

The Our Father (*spoken by all*)

C: 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.

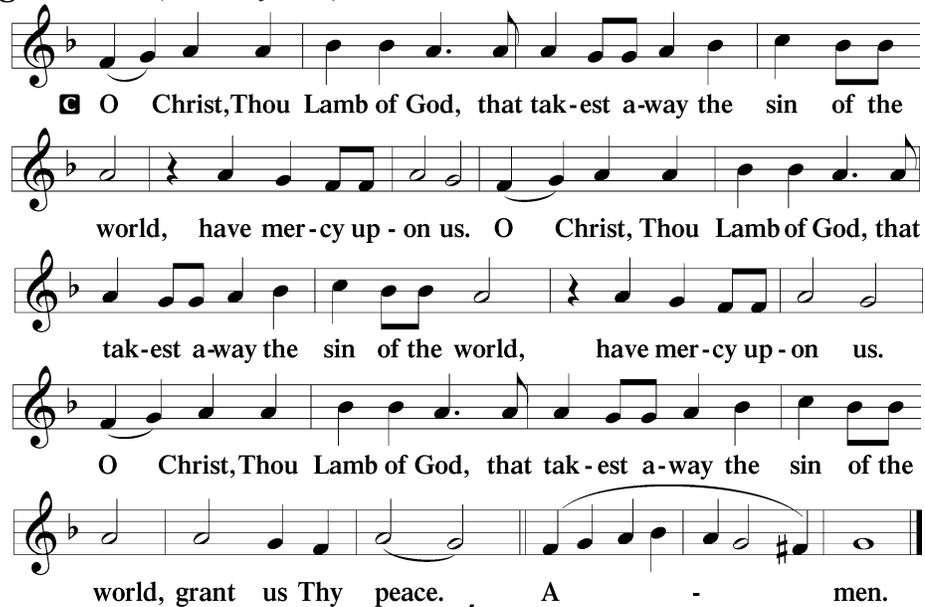
The Verba Christi (*The Words of Christ by which He instituted the Blessed Sacrament*)

The Pax Domini (*The Peace of the Lord*)



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

The Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*)



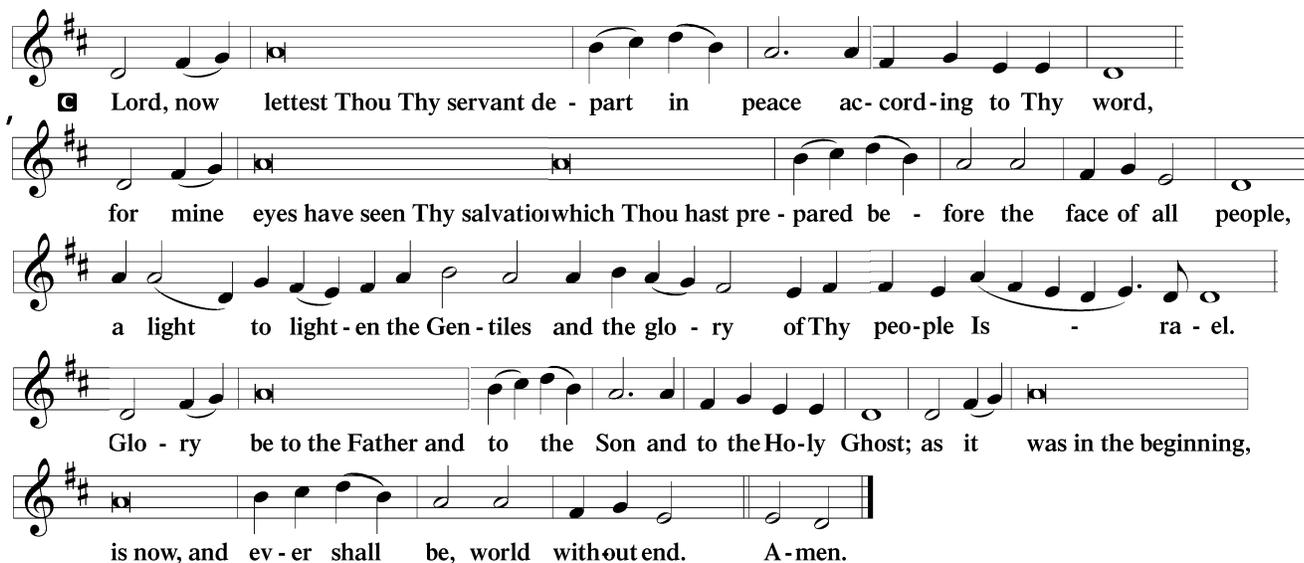
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

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

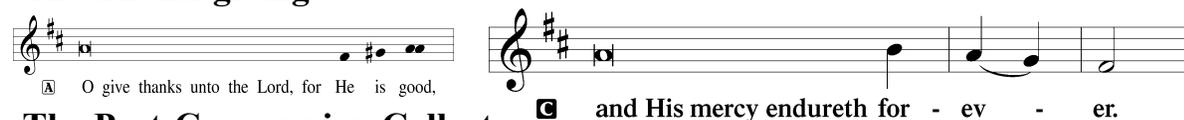
#618 *I Come, O Savior, To Thy Table*

#514 *The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us*

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**


C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac - cord - ing to Thy word,
 for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy peo - ple Is - ra - el.
 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


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

The Post-Communion Collect

P: 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.



C A - men.

The Salutation and *Benedicamus*


P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



A Bless we the Lord.



C 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.



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

Silent Prayer

Recessional Hymn: #515 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

, *Soli Deo Gloria* ,