

**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 First Sunday in Advent – Ad Te Levavi
November 30, 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> 11/30	9:00 am Divine Service Altar Server: Andrew Upton Crucifer: Ezra Ball 10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study
<u>Monday:</u> 12/1	6:00 pm Divine Service
<u>Wednesday:</u> 12/3	5:30 pm Potluck 6:30 pm Divine Service Altar Server: Andrew Upton Crucifer: Ezra Ball
<u>Next Sunday:</u> 12/7	9:00 am Divine Service Altar Server: Ron Heimke Crucifer: Ezra Ball 10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study
<u>Next Monday:</u> 12/8	6:00 pm Divine Service

Last Week's Attendance Last Sunday: 70 Monday: 15

Offering Current: \$2,442 Missions: \$7 Building Fund: \$47 Thanksgiving: \$5

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

In today's readings: **The Lord Jesus Comes in Humility to Redeem Us.** The new Church Year begins by focusing on the humble coming of our Lord. "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey" (Matt. 21:5). Even as He was born in a lowly manger, so Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a beast of burden. For He bears the sin of the world. He is the Son of David riding to His enthronement on the cross, where He shows Himself to be "The LORD is our Righteousness" (Jer. 23:5-6). Our Lord still comes in great humility to deliver His righteousness to us in the Word and Sacraments. Before receiving Christ's body and blood, we also sing, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" (Matt. 21:9) As we receive the Sacrament, we set our hearts on His return in glory, for "our salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed" (Rom. 13:11).

You can prepare for next week's Divine Service by reading: Malachi 4:1-6; Romans 15:4-13; Luke 21:25-36.
Suggested Book of Concord reading: Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration IV:30-32; XI:45-47.

Wednesday Evening Advent Services begin this week at 6:30 p.m. and will continue through December 17. These mid-week services of Word and Sacrament help us prepare for the glorious Christmas celebration of our Lord's incarnation and birth. Each Wednesday service will be preceded by a potluck supper at 5:30.

Anthem Notes: Johann Franck, noted German poet and hymn writer (note the fine hymn texts by him in LSB 608, 636, 743) wrote this text and tune suitable for Advent. The refrain is: "O come, Thou precious Ransome, come..." and in the verse we sing "Thou Prince of Peace, Thou Pearl from heaven, True God, true Man, My Morning Star."

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.

Annual Boar's Head Festival, St. John Luth, Fraser. Dec. 11, 13, 14. *For details & to reserve FREE tickets visit stjohnfraser.org*

The Faith once for all delivered to the saints. Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. Recent topics include: The Hymnal as Devotional Resource; Why Christians Should Build Cathedrals; Late First-Century Bishop Clement of Rome; The Third Use of God's Law; and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

The Divine Service schedule for the Holy Days of Advent and Christmas

- ◆ **Potluck Suppers** – Wednesdays in Advent. 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Midweek Advent** – Wednesdays through December 17: Divine Services at **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.**

, In Nomine Jesu ,

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: #331 *The Advent of Our King*

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: To You, O LORD, I lift | up my soul.*
O my God, in You I trust; let me not be | put to shame.

All: Let not my enemies exult | over me.*
Indeed, none who wait for You shall be | put to shame. *(Psalm 25:1-3a)*

Psalm:

Cantor: Make me to know Your ways, | O LORD;*
teach me | Your paths.

**All: Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my sal- | vation;*
for You I wait all the | day long.**

Cantor: May integrity and uprightness pre- | serve me,*
for I | wait for You.

All: Redeem Israel, | O God,*
out of all his | troubles. *(Psalm 25:4-5, 21-22)*

**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 is omitted throughout Advent.]

The Salutation and Collect of the Day

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

P: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A - - - men.

The Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 23:5-8

After the reading:

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual

I d: Dorian
*
A - - - men.

Cantor: None who wait for You shall be | put to shame;*
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly | treacherous.

All: **Make me to know Your ways, | O LORD;*
teach me | Your paths.** (*Psalm 25:3-4*)

The Epistle Reading: Romans 13:11-14

After the reading:

P: The Word of the Lord.

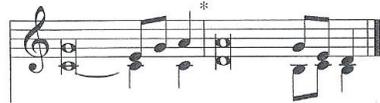
C: Thanks be to God.

The Alleluia and Verse

All:



Cantor:

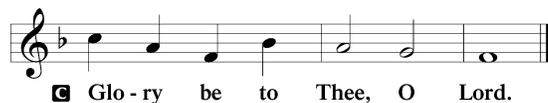


Show us Your steadfast | love O Lord,
And grant us Your sal- | vation. (*Psalm 115:11*)

All: The Alleluia – *as above*

Announcement of the Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 21:1-9

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



Response to the Gospel

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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.

The Preaching of the Gospel

The Hymn of the Day: #332 *Savior of the Nations, Come*

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

C 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 Preface

* The Lord be with you. **C** And with thy spir - it.
P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God. **C** It is meet and right so to do.

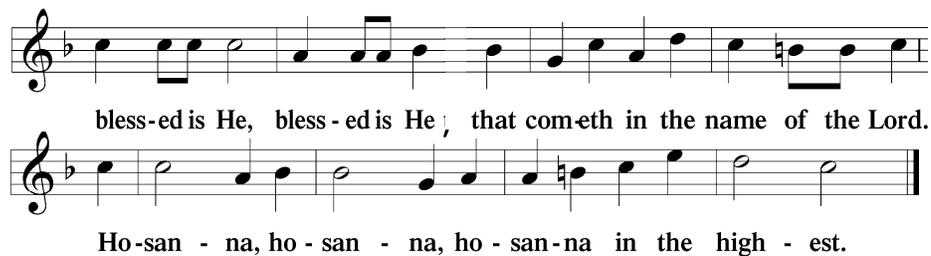
The Proper Preface

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.

C 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,



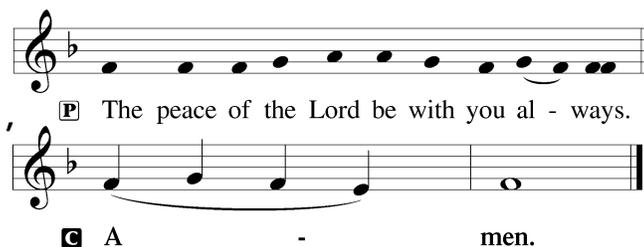
bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He; that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

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.

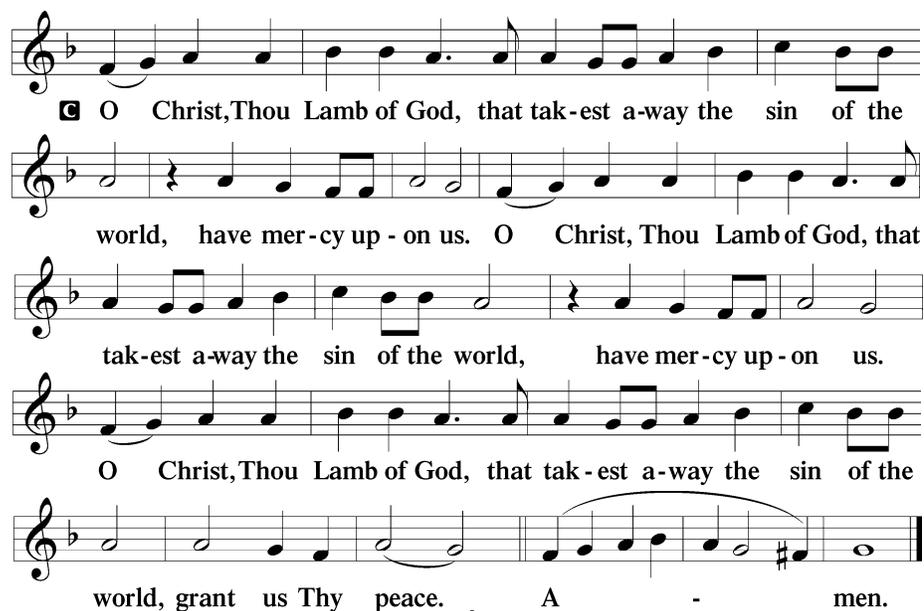
The Verba Christi (*The Words of Christ* by which He instituted the Blessed Sacrament)

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:

#625 Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread

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

The Nunc Dimittis

C 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.

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

The Post-Communion Collect

P: May we receive Your mercy in the midst of Your temple, O Lord, that we may anticipate with due honor the coming solemnities of our renewal; 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: #349 Hark the Glad Sound

, Soli Deo Gloria ,