

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

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

Sexagesima

February 8, 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> 2/8	9:00 am Divine Service Altar Server: Andrew Upton Crucifer: Ezra Ball 10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study
<u>Monday:</u> 2/9	6:00 pm Divine Service
<u>Next Sunday:</u> 2/15	9:00 am Divine Service Altar Server: Ron Heimke Crucifer: Ezra Ball 10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study Soup Sale -- St. John Missions Society
<u>Next Monday:</u> 2/6	6:00 pm Divine Service

Attendance Last Sunday: 53 Monday: 11

Offering Current: \$2,932 Missions: \$10

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

Many thanks to Rev. Ronald Roland for serving us with God's Word and Sacraments this afternoon.

Why is today called "Sexagesima"? Preparation for Holy Week and Easter takes place through **3 periods or steps**:

The **first period** is the "-gesimas." These three Sundays of "Pre-Lent" focus on the Grace of God.

- **Septuagesima** (meaning, "about 70 days") — Grace is undeserved.
- **Sexagesima** (meaning, "about 60 days") — Grace is passively received.
- **Quinquagesima** (meaning, "about 50 days") — Grace is not easily understood.

The **second period** or stage of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. This second stage ends when the week of Laetare (the 4th Sunday in Lent) is completed. During these four Sundays, the focus is on temptation and faith, and the Christian's struggle.

The **final stage** is Passiontide, which begins with **Judica Sunday** (Passion Sunday, the 5th Sunday in Lent), and extends through Holy Week and the Triduum ("Three Days"), which includes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday. Now the focus is expressly on our Lord's passion.

In today's readings: Scripture Alone. The Sower sows the seed of His Word (Luke 8:4-15). This Word is living and powerful (Heb. 4:9-13) to conceive new life in those who hear it. But the planting of Christ is attacked by the devil, the world, and the flesh. Satan snatches the Word away from hard hearts. The riches and pleasures of this life choke off faith. Shallow and emotional belief withers in time of temptation and trouble. But see how Christ bears this attack for us! Christ's cross was planted in the hard and rocky soil of Golgotha. A crown of thorns was placed upon His head. Satan and His demons hellishly hounded and devoured Him. Yet, through His dying and rising again, He destroyed these enemies of ours. Jesus is Himself the Seed which fell to the ground and died in order that it might sprout forth to new life and produce much grain. In Him, the weak are strong (2 Cor. 11:19-12:9). He is the Word of the Father which does not return void (Is. 55:10-13) but yields a harvest hundredfold.

You can prepare for next week's Divine Service by reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Isaiah 35:3-7; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 18:31-43. Suggested Book of Concord reading: Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration II:23-24; XI:73-75.

Soup Sale: St. John Missions Society is hosting a Soup Sale next Sunday, February 15. Your purchase will help fund the St. John Missions Society's ongoing charitable projects. See Christiane Upton for details.

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.

Sanctifying your exercise routine with the Word of God. Issues, Etc. is a podcast and radio talk show by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. Recent topics include: A Christian View of Leisure; Remember the Sabbath Day; Bioethics for Nurses; The movie "Knives Out: Wake up Dead Man"; and more. Listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app, and a podcast provider.

February Calendar

- ♦ Soup Sale, Sunday, 2/15. Sponsored by St. John Missions Society.
- ♦ Ash Wednesday Divine Service, 2/18 at 6:00 p.m.
- ♦ Mid-week Lent Divine Services begin Wednesday, 2/25 at 6:00 p.m. and continue through 3/25.

, 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: #823 *May God Bestow on Us His Grace*

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: Awake! Why are You sleeping, | O LORD?*

Rouse yourself! Do not reject us for- | ever!

All: For our soul is bowed down | to the dust.*

Rise up; come | to our help! (*Psalm 44:23, 25-26*)

Psalm:

Cantor: O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have | told us,*
 what deeds You performed in their days, in the | days of old:

**All: You with Your own hand drove out the nations, but them
 You | planted;***

You afflicted the peoples, but them You | set free.

Cantor: But You have saved us | from our foes*
 and have put to shame those who | hate us.

**All: In God we have boasted con- | tinually,*
 and we will give thanks to Your name for- | ever.** (*Psalm 44:1-3, 7-8*)

**All: 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
 is not sung until Holy
 Thursday and Easter.

The Salutation and Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

, And with thy spir - it.

Let us pray...

P: O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; 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 Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

After the reading:

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual

* V Eb: Lydian

Cantor: Let Your enemies know that You alone, whose name | is the LORD,*
are the Most High over | all the earth.

All: O my God, make them like | whirling dust,*
like chaff be- | fore the wind. (*Psalm 83:18, 13*)

The Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 11:19-12-9

After the reading:

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Tract – *Please stand*

* V Eb: Lydian

Cantor: O God, You have rejected us, broken our de- | fenses;*
You have been angry; oh, re- | store us.

All: You have made the land to quake; You have torn it | open;*
repair its breaches, for it | totters.

Cantor: That Your beloved ones may be de- | livered,*
give salvation by Your right hand and | answer us! (*Psalm 60:1-2, 5*)

Announcement of the Holy Gospel: St. Luke 8:4-15

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.

The Preaching of the Gospel

Hymn of the Day: #577 *Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast*

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 Preface

* 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 (*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*)

Two staves of musical notation in G major. The first staff contains a melodic line with lyrics: **P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: **A** - men.

The Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*)

Five staves of musical notation in G major. The lyrics are: **A** 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.

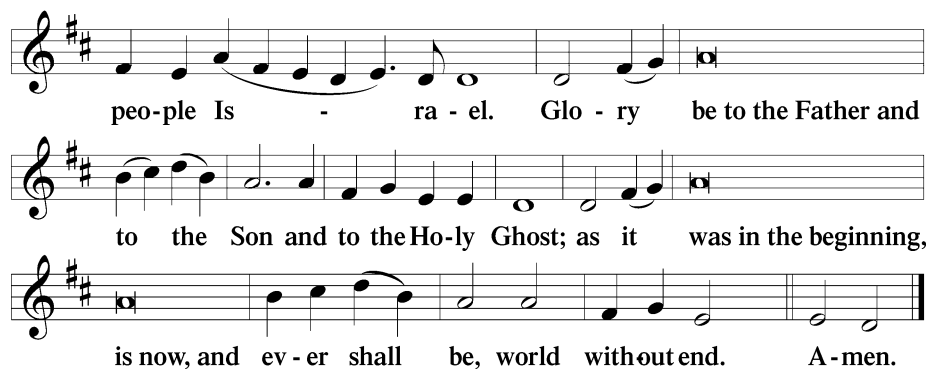
The Holy Communion — Hymn sung during distribution of the Sacrament:
#630 *Now, My Tongue, the Mystery Telling*

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

Please stand when motioned by Pastor

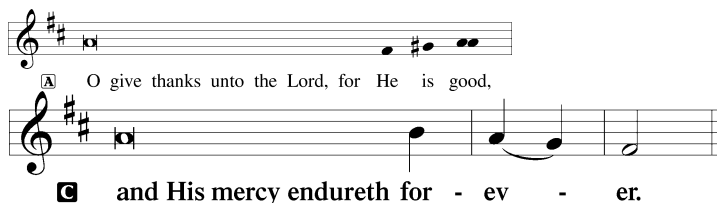
The Nunc Dimittis

Four staves of musical notation in D major. The lyrics are: **A** 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.

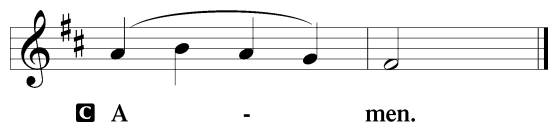
The Thanksgiving



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

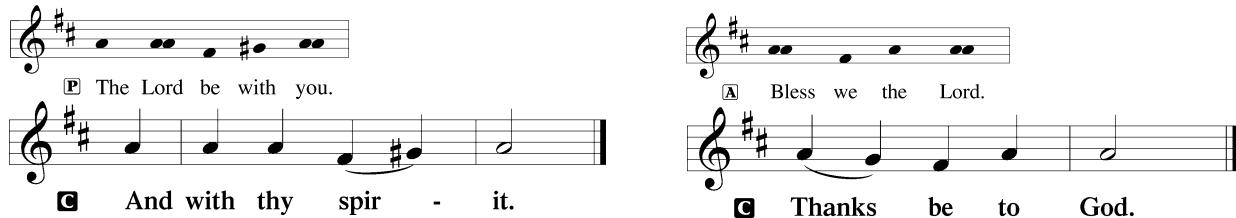
The Post-Communion Collect

P: We humbly beseech You, almighty God, to grant that those whom You refresh with Your sacraments may serve You worthily with a life well pleasing to 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. **A** Bless we the Lord.
C And with thy spir - it. **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: #655 *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

, *Soli Deo Gloria* ,