

**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

Paul Kacanowski, Organist

**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

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***Laetare – The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 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> 3/15	9:00 am Divine Service	Altar Server: Ron Heimke	Crucifer: Ezra Ball
<u>Monday:</u> 3/16	6:00 pm Divine Service	<u>Easter Lily Order Deadline</u>	
<u>Wednesday:</u> 3/18	6:00 pm Divine Service	Altar Server: Ron Heimke	Crucifer: Ezra Ball
<u>Next Sunday:</u> 3/22	9:00 am Divine Service 10:30 am Bible Study	Altar Server: Andrew Upton	Crucifer: Ezra Ball
<u>Next Monday:</u> 3/23	6:00 pm Divine Service		

Attendance Wednesday 3/4: 31 Last Sunday 3/8: 57 Monday: 8

Offering March 4/8 Current: \$2,520 Lent: \$370 Delores Bertossi Memorial: \$50 Initial: \$30 Kroger: \$36
To meet our budgetary requirements, an average weekly collection of \$3,635 is required.

Today is Laetare, the fourth Sunday in Lent. During the first four Sundays in Lent, the focus is on temptation and faith, and the Christian's struggle. The **final stage** of the Church's journey to our Lord's cross and empty tomb is Passiontide, which begins with **Judica Sunday** (Passion Sunday, the 5th Sunday in Lent), and extends through Holy Week and the Triduum, or "Three Days," Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday. The focus for those days is expressly on our Lord's passion.

In today's readings: The Lord Feeds His People. The Lord provided bread from heaven for His people in the wilderness (Ex. 16:2–21). Now He who is Himself the living bread from heaven miraculously provides bread for the five thousand (John 6:1–15). This takes place near the time of the Passover, after a great multitude had followed Jesus across the sea, and when He went up on a mountain. Seen in this way, Jesus is our new and greater Moses, who releases us from the bondage of Mount Sinai and makes us free children of the promise (Gal. 4:21–31). Five loaves become twelve baskets—that is, the five books of Moses find their goal and fulfillment in Christ, whose people continue steadfastly in the doctrine and fellowship of the twelve apostles, and in the breaking and receiving of the bread of life, which is the body of Christ together with His precious blood, and in the prayers (Acts 2:41–47).

You can prepare for next week's Divine Service by reading: Genesis 22:1–14; Hebrews 9:11–15; John 8:(42–45) 46–59.
Suggested Book of Concord reading: Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration VII:46-47; XI:84-86.

Schedule for Wednesdays in Lent: Divine Service at 6:00 p.m. each Wednesday through March 25. During Lent, we increase our consumption of God's Word and Sacraments. In this way we confess: "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

Easter Lilies: Single plants \$13. Double plants \$24. Order forms are in the Narthex. Please make checks payable to "Cash" and place your orders by tomorrow, March 16. *Thank you.*

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.

15-Minute Bible Study. "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever" podcast, is a daily 15-minute verse-by-verse Bible study led by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. You can listen at your convenience at thewordendures.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app or a podcast provider. You can also listen by phone at 618-262-0078.

Holy Week Schedule

✠ **Palm Sunday – March 29** ✠
9:00 am – Divine Service
[No Monday evening service on March 30]
✠ **Maundy Thursday – April 2** ✠
6:00 pm – Divine Service
✠ **Good Friday – April 3** ✠
2:00 pm -- Stations of the Cross
3:00 pm – Divine Service

✠ **Easter Vigil – Holy Saturday – April 4** ✠
7:30 pm – Divine Service
✠ **Easter Sunday – April 5** ✠
The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord
9:00 am – Festival Divine Service
[No Monday evening service on April 6]

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.

The Processional Hymn: #774 *Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy*

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: Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad with her,*
all you who | love her;

**All: that you may nurse and be | satisfied*
from her con- | soling breast. (Isaiah 66:10a-11a)**

Psalm:

Cantor: I was glad when they | said to me,*
“Let us go to the house | of the LORD.”

**All: Our feet have been | standing*
within your gates, O Je- | rusalem!**

Cantor: Pray for the peace of Je- | rusalem:*
May they be secure who | love you!

**All: For my brothers and com- | panions' sake*
I will say, “Peace be with- | in you!” (Psalm 122:1-2, 6, 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: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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: Exodus 16:2-21

After the reading:

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

The Gradual

IX g: Aeolian

Cantor: I was glad when they | said to me,*
"Let us go to the house | of the LORD."

All: Peace be with- | in your walls,*
and security within your | towers! (*Psalm 122:1, 7*)

The Second Reading: Galatians 4:21-31

After the reading:

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

The Tract – *Please stand*

IX g: Aeolian

Cantor: Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount | Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides for- | ever.

All: As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His | people*
from this time forth and forevermore. Peace be upon | Israel! (*Psalm 125:1-2, 5*)

Announcement of the Holy Gospel: St. John 6:1-15

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: #743 *Jesus, Priceless Treasure*

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

P 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.

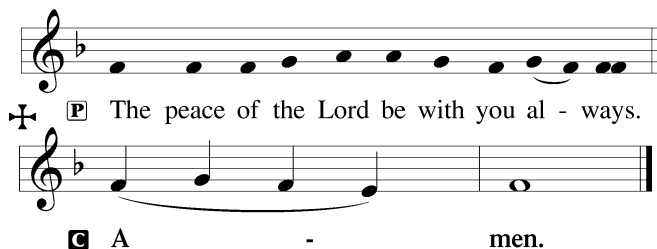
C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
 ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
 bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He, † that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - 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)

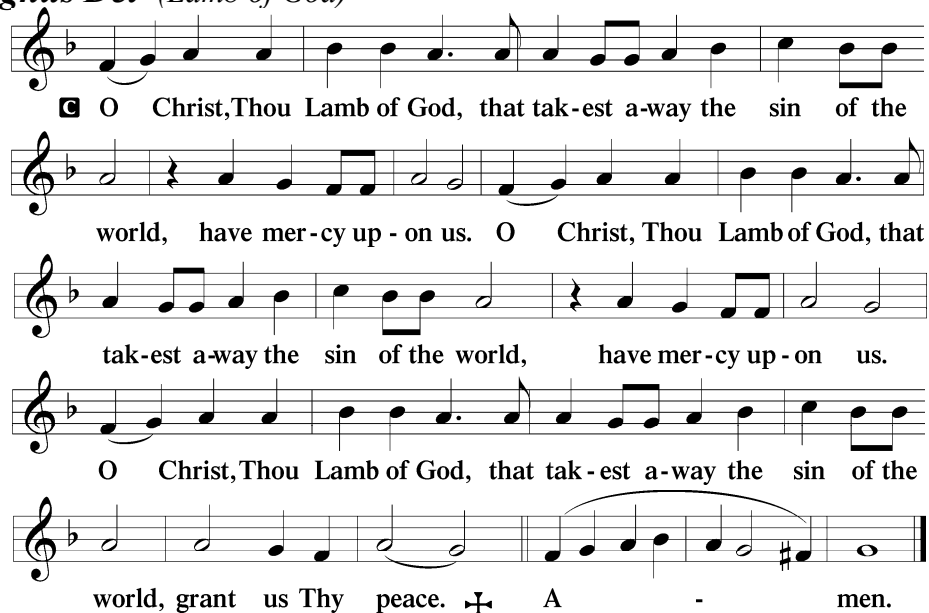
The *Pax Domini* (*The Peace of the Lord*)



✠ **☐** 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 — Hymns sung during distribution of the Sacrament:

#623 *Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray*

#642 *O Living Bread from Heaven*

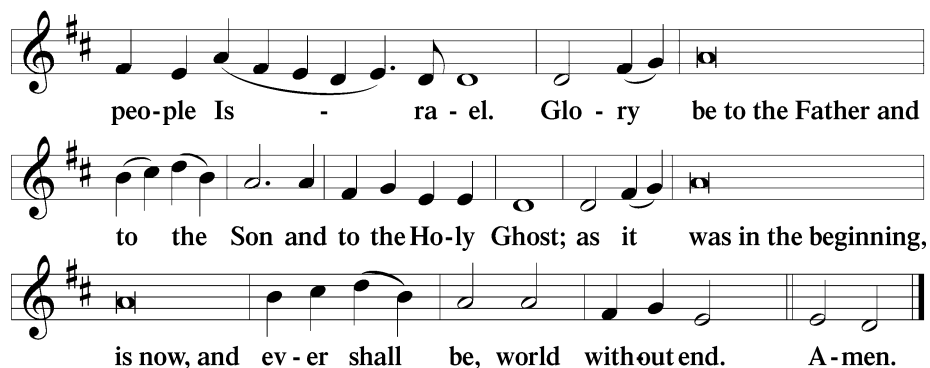
Prayers for before and after receiving the Sacrament are found inside the front cover of the hymnal.

Please stand when motioned by Pastor

The *Nunc Dimittis*

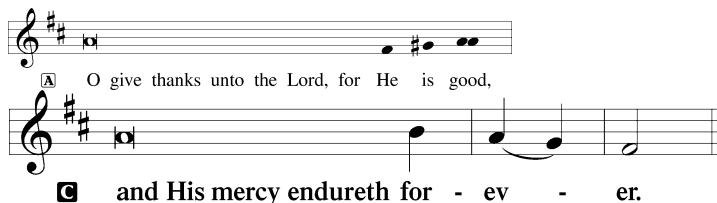


✠ **☐** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



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.

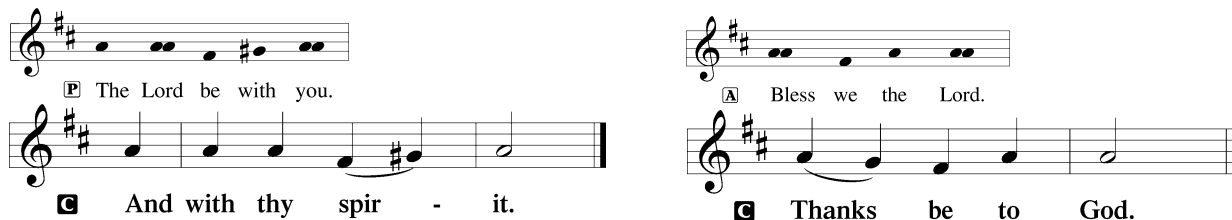
The Post-Communion Collect

P: Grant, we beseech You, O merciful God, that we may use with sincere veneration, and always receive with faithful minds, Your holy mysteries with which we are continually fed; through Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, 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: #423 *Jesus, Refuge of the Weary*

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✠