

**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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*The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod*

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**Judica – The Fifth Sunday in Lent  
Passion Sunday**

**March 22, 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><b>Today:</b></u> 3/22	9:00 am <b>Divine Service</b> Altar Server: Andrew Upton Crucifer: Ron Heimke
<u><b>Monday:</b></u> 3/23	Monday evening Divine Services resume on April 13
<u><b>Wednesday:</b></u> 3/25	12:00 pm <b>Matins</b>
<u><b>Next Sunday:</b></u> 3/29	9:00 am <b>Divine Service</b> Altar Server: Ron Heimke Crucifer: Andrew Upton 10:30 am Bible Study
<u><b>Next Monday:</b></u> 3/30	Monday evening Divine Services resume on April 13

**Last Week's Attendance** **Wednesday:** 28 **Last Sunday:** 63

**Offering** 3/11: Current: \$250 Lent: \$310

3/15: Current: \$2,887 Lent: \$65 Linda Hummel Memorial: \$200

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

**Many thanks** to Rev. Edward Steeh for serving us with God's Word and Sacraments this morning.  
Welcome back to St. John, Pastor Steeh and Darla.

**Today is Judica, the fifth 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: Jesus Is Our Redemption.** In the temple Jesus said, "If anyone keeps my word, he will never see death" (John :51). For Jesus came to taste death for us—to drink the cup of suffering to the dregs in order that we might be released from its power. Clinging to His life-giving words, we are delivered from death's sting and its eternal judgment. Christ is our High Priest, who entered the Most Holy Place and with His own blood obtained everlasting redemption for His people (Heb. 9:11–15). He is the One who was before Abraham was, and yet is his descendant. He is the promised Son who carries the wood up the mountain for the sacrifice, who is bound and laid upon the altar of the cross. He is the ram who is offered in our place, who is willingly caught in the thicket of our sin, and who wears the crown of thorns upon His head (Gen. 22:1–14). Though Jesus is dishonored by the sons of the devil, He is vindicated by the Father through the cross.

**You can prepare for next week's Divine Service by reading:** Matthew 21:1-9, 26:1-27:66; John 12:12-19; Zechariah 9:9-12; Philippians 2:5-11. Suggested Book of Concord reading: Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration VII:38-45.

**Our final midweek Lenten service is this Wednesday at 12:00 noon:** Come to church for the service of Matins and take this opportunity to receive God's Word and, by the Word, to be prepared for Holy Week and Easter. Many thanks to Rev. Ronald Roland, who will lead us in worship.

**Anthem Notes.** "Lamb of God" by Kenneth Kosche, contemporary Lutheran composer, is a setting of the familiar Agnus Dei. The refrain contains the "Lamb of God ..." text and the verses quote familiar Psalm texts.

**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.

**Explaining Lutheranism to Non-Lutherans.** Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to a series of interviews with Dr. Jordan Cooper, author of the new book "Lutheranism for Non-Lutherans," at [issuesetc.org/nonlutherans](http://issuesetc.org/nonlutherans).

, **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]

, 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: #718** *Jesus, Lead Thou On*

**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: Vindicate | me, O God,\*  
 and defend my cause against an ungodly | people,

**All: from the deceitful and unjust man de- | liver me!\***  
**For You are the God in whom I take | refuge.** (*Psalm 43:1-2a*)

**Psalm:**

Cantor: Send out Your light and Your truth; let them | lead me;\*  
 let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your | dwelling!

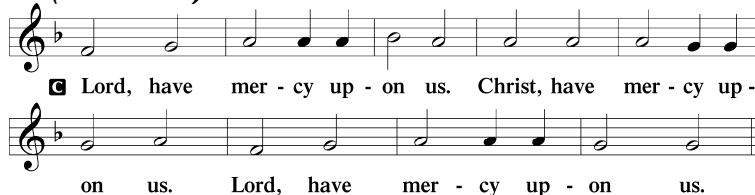
**All: Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my ex- | ceeding joy,\***  
**and I will praise You with the lyre, O | God, my God.**

Cantor: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil with- | in me?\*

Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my salvation | and my God. (*Psalm 43:3-5*)  
 (*The Gloria Patri is omitted during Passiontide.*)

**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: We implore You, almighty God, merciful Father, look upon Your people that by Your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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: Genesis 22:1-14

*After the reading:*

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

## The Gradual

IX g: Aeolian

Cantor: Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!\*

Teach me to do Your will, for You | are my God!

All: **You delivered me from my | enemies;\***

**You rescued me from the man of | violence.** (Psalm 143:9a, 10a; 18:48a, c)

## The Epistle Reading: Hebrews 9:11-15

*After the reading:*

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

## The Tract – *Please stand*

IX g: Aeolian

Cantor: “Greatly have they afflicted me | from my youth”—\*

let Israel | now say —

All: **“Greatly have they afflicted me | from my youth,\***

**yet they have not prevailed a- | gainst me.**

Cantor: The plowers plowed up- | on my back;\*

they made long their | furrows.”

All: **The LORD is | righteous;\***

**He has cut the cords of the | wicked.** (Psalm 129:1-4)

## Announcement of the Holy Gospel: St. John 8:46-59

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: #430 *My Song Is Love Unknown*

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)

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

**The Agnus Dei** (Lamb of God)

**C** A - - - men.

**C** 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:**

#563 *Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness*

#610 *Lord Jesus, Think on Me*

*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 letteth 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. A-men.

*(The Gloria Patri is omitted during Passiontide.)*

## 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: Be present with us, O Lord our God, and support with unceasing help those whom You have refreshed with Your mysteries; 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: #431** *Not All the Blood of Beasts*

, *Soli Deo Gloria* ,

**Veils so soon?** Today is Judica Sunday, the beginning of Passiontide, the deepest portion of the Lenten Season. During Passiontide, all crucifixes and sacred art in the nave are veiled (except for the Stations of the Cross). These black veils dramatize the startling occurrence recorded in today's Gospel, when Jesus "hid Himself" from the Jews who took up stones to murder Him. If God hides Himself from us, we have nothing but eternal darkness. "Do not hide Your face from me; do not turn Your servant away in anger. You have been my help; do not leave me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation." (*Psalms* 27:9)