

**To those who are
visiting today:**

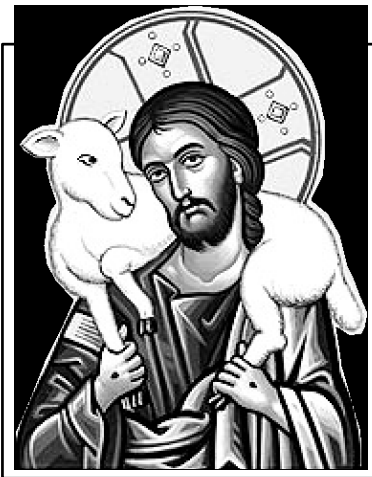
Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! We are delighted to have you here.

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.



I Am the Good Shepherd

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

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

***Misericordias Domini – The Third Sunday of Easter
April 19, 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> 4/19	9:00 am Divine Service Altar Server: Andrew Upton Crucifer: Ezra Ball 10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study
<u>Monday:</u> 4/20	6:00 pm Divine Service
<u>Next Sunday:</u> 4/26	9:00 am Divine Service Altar Server: Ron Heimke Crucifer: Ezra Ball 10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study
<u>Next Monday:</u> 4/27	6:00 pm Divine Service

Last Week's Attendance Sunday: 56 Monday: 10

Offering Current: \$1,978 Missions: \$5 Building Fund: \$5

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

In today's readings: **The Good Shepherd Cares for His Sheep.** Our Lord Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11–16). He is not like the hireling, who cares nothing for the sheep and only for himself, who flees when he sees the wolf coming. Rather, Jesus is the Good Shepherd who seeks out His scattered sheep to deliver them (Ezek. 34:11–16). He gathers them and feeds them in rich pasture. He binds up the broken and strengthens the sick. He lays down His life for wandering and wayward sheep. On the cross, Christ bore in His body the attacks of the predators of sin and death and the devil for you that you might be saved. He now lives to restore your soul in the still waters of baptism, to lead you in the paths of righteousness by the voice of His Gospel, to prepare the table of His holy supper before you, that you may dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23). “For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls” (1 Peter 2:25).

You can prepare for next week's Divine Service by reading: Isaiah 40:25-31; Lamentations 3:22-33; 1 Peter 2:11-20; 1 John 3:1-3; John 16:16-22. Suggested Book of Concord reading: Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration II:27-30.

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.

Expert guests, expansive topics, extolling Christ. Issues, Etc. is a podcast and radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. Recent teachings include: The Easter Hymn “The Day of Resurrection;” Worship, Adiaphora & the Lutheran Confessions; First-Century Jewish Historian Josephus on Jesus of Nazareth; Restoring Faith, Freedom & Family; 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.

Sacred Music for the Easter Season. “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today,” “Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands,” “I Know That My Redeemer Lives,” “Awake, My Heart, with Gladness,” “He's Risen, He's Risen.” Lutheran Public Radio streams the best of the Church's music for the past 2,000 years. You can listen 24/7 to sacred music for the 50 days of the Easter season at lutheranpublicradio.org, TuneIn, Amazon Echo, Google Home, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

, 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: #475 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing*

The Invocation, Confession and Absolution

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*)



Cantor: The earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. Alle- | luia.*
 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made. Alle- | luia. (*Psalm 33:5-6*)

Psalm:

Cantor: Shout for joy in the LORD, O you | righteous!*
 Praise befits the | upright.

**All: Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who | fear Him,*
 on those who hope in His | steadfast love,**

Cantor: that He may deliver their | soul from death*
 and keep them alive in | famine.

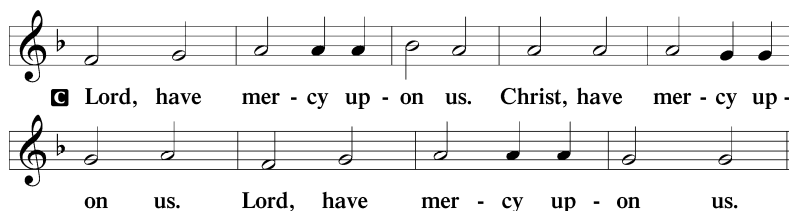
**All: Our soul waits | for the LORD;*
 He is our help | and our shield.** (*Psalm 33:1, 18-20*)

**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 (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. , And with thy spir - it. P: Let us pray . . .

P: O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and

, A - - - - men.

The Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16

After the reading:

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

There is no Gradual on these Sundays of Easter.

The Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 2:21-25

After the reading:

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

The Alleluia and Verse

All: Hymn #952 Alleluia – II

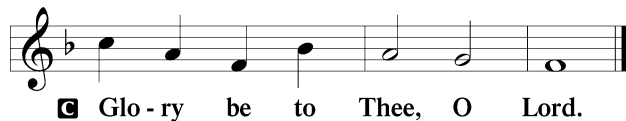


The Lord was known to them in the breaking of the bread. Alle- | luia.*
I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my | own know me.
(Luke 24:35, John 10:14)

All: Hymn #952 Alleluia – II

Announcement of the Holy Gospel: St. John 10:11-16

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

Hymn of the Day: #709 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

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



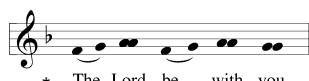
☐ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.



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 Lord be with you.



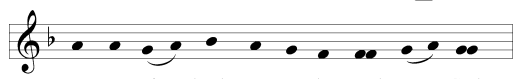
A - men.



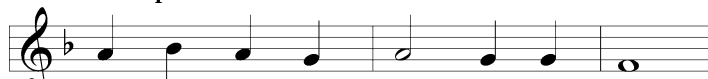
☐ Lift up your hearts.



☐ And with thy spir - it.



☐ Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



☐ We lift them up un - to the Lord.

☐ 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

Pastor: 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 glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

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:

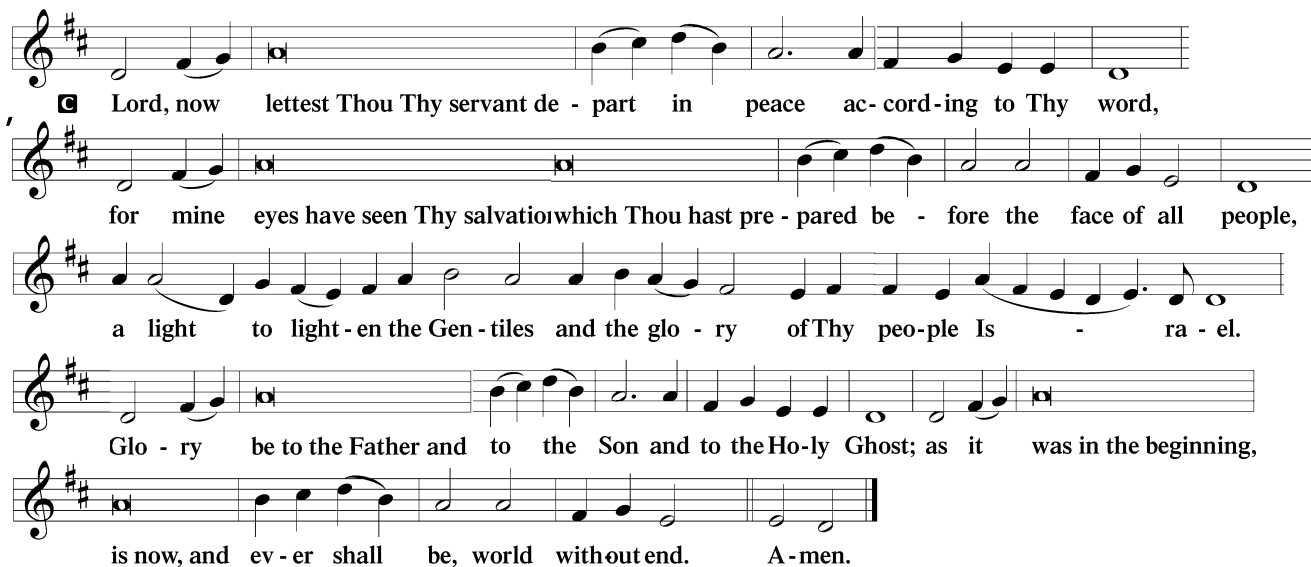
#740 *I Am Jesus' Little Lamb*

#735 *Have No Fear, Little Flock*

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



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

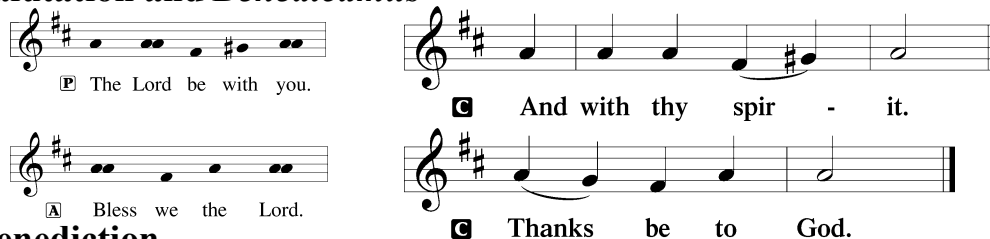
The Post-Communion Collect

P: Let us pray. 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.



A - men.

The Salutation and *Benedicamus*



The Lord be with you.
 And with thy spir - it.
 Bless we the Lord.
 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.



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

Silent Prayer

Recessional Hymn: #477 *Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven*

, *Soli Deo Gloria* ,