

*Welcome to*  
***St. John Lutheran Church***

62657 North Avenue, Ray Township, Michigan 48096  
586-749-5286

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**The Feast of the Resurrection  
of Our Lord, Jesus Christ**

April 5, 2026

If you do not have a church home, you are  
cordially invited to join our parish family.

***A Blessed Easter to each of you!***



The Rev. Joshua Ball, Pastor  
Mr. Erwin Aufdemberge, Director of Parish Music



***The St. John Choir***

Mr. Erwin Aufdemberge, Director  
Karen Aufdemberge, Eric Bachmann  
Karen Burke, Mike Fodor, Sandy Fritsch  
Abigail Herman, Rachael Herman, Paul Kacanowski  
Tina Kacanowski, Karen Smith, Bob Werderman

***Instrumentalists***

Karen Aufdemberge, Flute  
Mike Fodor, Trumpet

***Handbells***

Karen Burke, Director  
Dana Hummel, Paul Kacanowski, Tina Kacanowski

***Many thanks***

to Mr. Aufdemberge and the choir & instrumentalists.  
We appreciate your service in lifting our voices  
with thanksgiving to the Lord  
for His goodness and grace in Jesus Christ!

### **Concerning the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion:**

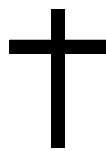
The Lord's Supper is the true Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ for repentant sinners to eat and drink.

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.

✠ *In Nomine Jesu* ✠

**Pre-Service Music** - *The St. John Choir*  
 At the Paling of the Night  
 We Welcome Glad Easter  
 This Joyful Eastertide  
 Alleluia! Jesus is Risen - *Alex Smith, Soloist*

### ***The Preparatory Office***

**The Processional Hymn: #457** *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

### **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.** *Please stand*

## The Liturgy of the Word

### The Introit



### The Antiphon:

Cantor: He is risen! Alle- | luia!\*

Why do you seek the living among the dead?

Alle- | luia!

**All: Remember how He told you, Alle- | luia,\*  
that the Son of Man must be crucified and on  
the third day rise. Alle- | luia! (St. Luke 24:5-7)**

### Psalm:

Cantor: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in | all  
the earth!\*

You have set Your glory above the | heavens.

**All: Yet You have made Him a little lower than the  
heavenly | beings\***

**and crowned Him with glory and | honor.**

Cantor: You have given Him dominion over the works | of  
Your hands;\*

You have put all things under | His feet.

**All: O | LORD, our Lord,\*  
how majestic is Your name in | all the earth!  
(Psalm 8:1, 5-6, 9)**

**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

6

**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

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



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: #458 Verse 5: Choir alone

*Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands*

### Reception of New Members

The Prayer of the Church *Please kneel*

### The Offering

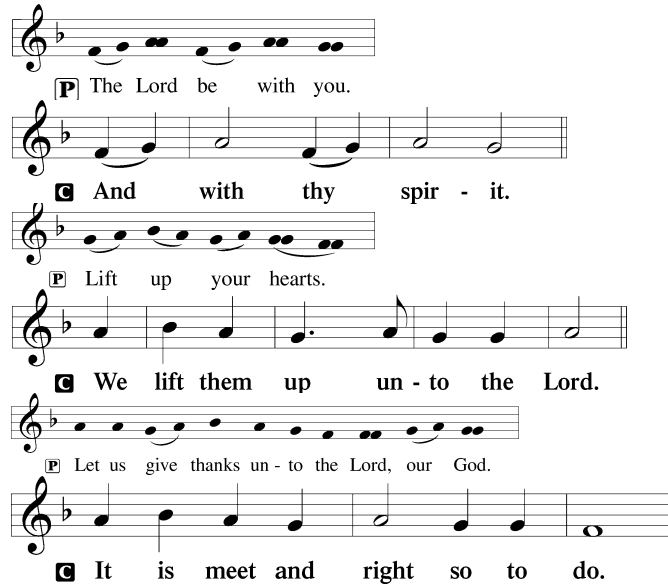
Choir: Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem - Cantor Kevin Hildebrand

## The Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist

### 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.

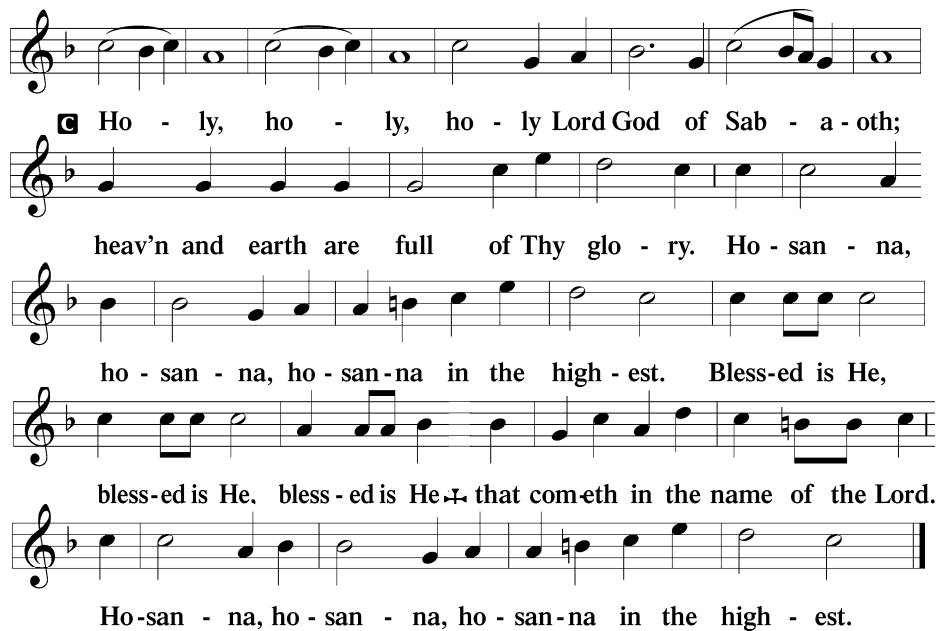
**C** It is meet and right so to do.

## The Proper Preface

**P:** It is truly 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**

P: 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)

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P: In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**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

*Please see Page 3 concerning Holy Communion.*

### Hymns sung during distribution:

#464 *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done* Verse 3: Choir

#461 *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* Verses 4 & 6: Choir

*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.

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

P: Pour forth upon us, O Lord, the Spirit of Your love, that those whom You have filled with the Easter Sacraments may, by Your goodness, be of one mind. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**Salutation <sup>G</sup> A <sup>A</sup> and *Benedicamus* <sup>men.</sup>**

Ⓟ 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**

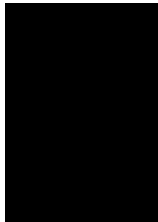
**The Recessional Hymn: #465** *Now All The Vault of Heaven Resounds*

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✠

**The Paschal Candle** will burn throughout the forty days of Easter until Ascension Day. It symbolizes the fact that Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, was present on earth in the flesh for forty days after His resurrection from the dead, as the Holy Scriptures testify:

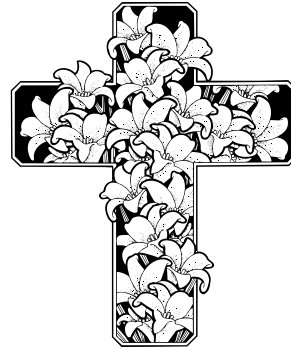
*He rose again on the third day ... and was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that he was seen by over five hundred brethren at once ... (1 Corinthians 15:4-6) "He presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3)*

The Paschal Candle also burns at baptisms to remind us that we are grafted into Christ through that Sacrament, and thereby become members of the resurrected, ever-living Body of Christ. Likewise, the Paschal Candle burns at funerals, to remind us that through Holy Baptism, the departed one was joined to a body that death could not hold. Therefore, death could not hold this person who lives forever in Christ. (Romans 6) That is the basis of our hope and confidence in the midst of grief, whenever a Christian departs this life. **Alleluia!**



Thank you to all who  
purchased Easter lilies  
for this holy festival.

*Feel free to take your lily home after  
the Easter Sunday service. You may  
also leave it here until a later date.*



Erv & Judy Aufdemberge. In thanksgiving for blessings received.

Rev. Ball Family. Emanuel Ball & Jesse Ball.

Clara Ball. Tom Ball; Elizabeth & Ed Ball.

Ken & Sandy Fritsch. In loving memory of our parents, Raymond &  
Frances Heimke; Ken C. Fritsch; and Elaine Arft.

Karen Fodor.

Herb & Kathy Gerstenberger. In memory of our parents.

Ron, Sue & Dan Heimke; Nancy DeCaussin; Marlene Dickenson. In  
celebration of our brother-in-law, Ken Fritsch, on his Easter  
Sunday birthday.

Bill Hummel. In memory of Mom & Dad and Trish & Linda, and in  
thanks for my family.

Laura Hummel. In memory of Adelbert & Leona Hummel; Linda  
Hummel; & Patricia Podolan; and in thanksgiving for my family.

Debbie Jakubiak. Love to all at Easter.

Dan & Deb Jensenius. Thanksgiving to God for His Son, the family I  
am blessed with personally and here at St. John!

Kacanowski Family. In memory of Adelbert & Leona Hummel; Patricia  
Podolan; and Linda Hummel.

Judy Kamyszek. In memory of husband, John and parents, Donald &  
Gladys Chaltron; and in thanksgiving for my family.

Karen Smith.

Ron Swamp. Bob & Dee Anderson; Harvey Swamp.

Bob Werderman. Janet Crawford; Norman & Isabel Werderman  
Lee & Sandy Western.

Wiedelman Family. In memory of Ellie McGuirk; Flossie Wallace.

Bill & Toni Ziehm. In loving memory of Joseph A. Ziehm.

**Many Thanks**

- ◆ To Mr. Erwin Aufdemberge and the St. John Choir for their faithful service; Karen & Alex Smith for singing with the choir this Easter season; and to our Monday evening organist Paul Kacanowski.
- ◆ To our Altar Servers & Crucifers, who assist with the Divine Service, as well as all of our congregation officers and altar guild members for their hard work and dedication during Lent and Easter and throughout the year.
- ◆ To Laura Hummel for coordinating & arranging the Easter lilies, and to the Hummel & Kacanowski Families for caring for them throughout the season.
- ◆ To all who filled the St. John Mission Society's plastic Easter Eggs.

**The Calendar for the Week:**

<b><u>Easter Sunday:</u></b> 4/5	<b>9:00 am Easter Festival Divine Service</b> Altar Server: Andrew Upton    Crucifer: Ezra Ball
<b><u>Monday:</u></b> 4/6	<i>Monday evening Divine Services resume 4/13</i>
<b><u>Next Sun:</u></b> 4/12	<b>9:00 am Divine Service</b> Altar Server: Ron Heimke    Crucifer: Ezra Ball 10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study
<b><u>Monday:</u></b> 4/13	<b>6:00 pm Divine Service</b>

**Last Week's Attendance** *Wednesday 3/25:* 14 *Last Sunday 3/29:* 70  
**Offering** 3/25 & 3/29: Current: \$7,329 Lent: \$337 Missions: \$5  
 Building Fund: \$5 Delores Bertossi Memorial: \$245  
*To meet our budgetary requirements, an average collection of \$3,635 is required.*

**You can prepare for next week's Divine Service by reading:**

Ezekiel 37:-14; 1 John 5:4-10; John 20:19-31.

**Suggested Book of Concord reading:**

Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration. II:50-52; IV:16-20.

**Welcome New Members!** Mike & Karen Fodor and children, Paul & Kim; and Joe & Lauren Finazzo, and son, DiLario (D.J.) will be received into membership in this morning's Divine Service.

**St. John Missions Society:** Easter Eggs are in the narthex! Please grab one, fill it with an offering, and return to the basket. Your donations help support various missions in and outside of the congregation. *Thank you!*

**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.

## **ANNO DOMINI**

An excerpt from: *The Liturgical Year for Church and Home*

# **Paschaltide**

*from Easter Sunday to Pentecost*

The long season of Lent, so somber and penitential, is over. Like the caterpillar, we burst from the prison of our sins, and soar like the butterfly to the very heights of Heaven on the wings of faith.

This is Easter! This is Life! This is joy that knows no bounds! Such great things cannot be celebrated in just one day. The Feast goes on for a full fifty days, a week of weeks, a “Jubilee”. It celebrates the freedom Christ has won for us. God created the world in six days and rested the seventh day. Christ re-created the world which has been ruined by sin, beginning on the first day of the week (Palm Sunday), and ending His work on the sixth day (Good Friday), resting on the seventh day in the grave.

Easter Day, then, is the day after the Sabbath, the first day of the new creation. Easter is the type, now, of the eternal rest which we will enter when Christ comes again. So it is fitting that we should celebrate the Resurrection for forty-nine days, and culminate it with the Feast of Pentecost, the fiftieth day, the eighth day (that is, the eighth Sunday) of the week of weeks. ...

The blessing and lighting of the Paschal Candle is indicative of Christ rising from the grave. With great joy we greet the risen Christ. The cry rings out, “The light of Christ!” to which we reply, “Thanks be to God!” ... the bells peal forth the glad news to the world that Christ is risen and is present among His people, as He appeared to the amazed disciples that first Easter Day. He is our Host as well as the Banquet as we commune at His festive table.

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