

**To those who are
visiting today:**

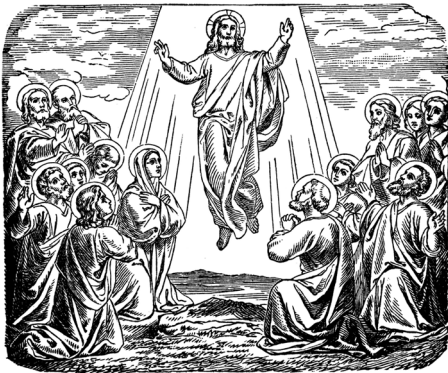
Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! We are delighted to have you here.

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

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

**Exaudi – The Sunday in the Octave of the Ascension
May 17, 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> 5/17	9:00 am Divine Service Altar Server: Andrew Upton Crucifer: Ezra Ball 10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study
<u>Monday:</u> 5/18	6:00 pm Divine Service
<u>Next Sunday:</u> 5/24	9:00 am Divine Service Altar Server: Ron Heimke Crucifer: Ezra Ball 10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study
<u>Next Monday:</u> 5/25	<u>Memorial Day:</u> No Divine Service

Last Week's Attendance Sunday: 49 Monday: 13
Offering Current: \$4,582 Ascension: \$5 Missions: \$55 Building Fund: \$55
To meet our budgetary requirements, an average weekly collection of \$3,635 is required.

In today's readings: **The Spirit of Truth Bears Witness to Jesus.** The Spirit of Truth bears witness to Jesus, who is the truth. But the world does not receive the truth. It loves its own and hates those who are of the truth. Just as Jesus was scorned, so is His Church. "The hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God" (John 16:2). Yet it is by Jesus' suffering and death that we are saved. Therefore we rejoice to share in His sufferings, that we may also share in His resurrection glory (1 Pet. 4:7-14). Through the ministry of the Spirit of Truth, we are cleansed from the deceit of our idols and given a new heart and a new spirit, the heart and Spirit of Christ (Ezek. 36:22-28). He now works in us fervent, self-giving love for one another, love which covers a multitude of sins, "that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen" (1 Pet. 4:11).

You can prepare for next week's Divine Service by reading: Genesis 11:1-9; Acts 2:1-21; John 14:23-31.
Suggested Book of Concord reading: Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration II:48-49; VIII:67-70; XI:67-69.

No Monday Divine Service on May 25. Monday services resume on June 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Euchre Tournament & Game Night hosted by the St. John Missions Society. Friday, May 29th at 6:30 p.m. See if you can beat Pastor at Euchre, or come to fellowship over board games and outdoor games. Pizza and snacks will be provided. Hope to see you there!

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.

Understanding Difficult Old Testament Passages. Was the universe really created in six days? Why did men live so long? What about all the violence in the Old Testament? Do Old Testament prophets predict current events? You'll find answers to these questions in a series of interviews with Doctor Reed Lessing and Doctor Andrew Steinmann, co-authors of the new book "Wrestling with God." You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org/wrestlingwithgod. Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken.

May Calendar

- ◆ Memorial Day. Monday May 25. No Divine Service.
- ◆ Euchre Tournament & Game Night. Friday, May 29 at 6:30 p.m.

The Gloria in Excelsis (Glory to God in the Highest)

P Glory be to God on high: 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 King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

, A - - - - men.

The Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 36:22-28

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

The First Alleluia and Verse



All: Alleluia. God reigns over the | nations;*
God sits on His holy throne. Alle- | luia. (Psalm 47:8)

The Epistle Reading: 1 Peter 4:7-11

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

Please stand

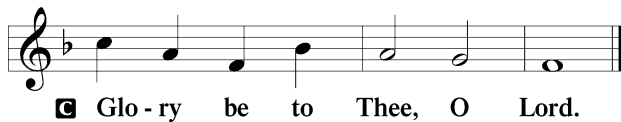
The Second Alleluia and Verse



All: Alleluia. I will not leave you as | orphans;*
I am going away and I will come back to you, and your hearts will
rejoice. Alle- | luia. (St. John 14:18, 14:28, 16:22)

Announcement of the Holy Gospel: St. John 15:26-16:4

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: #539 *Christ Is the World's Redeemer*

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



C 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.

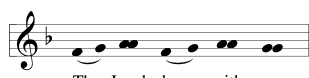


Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it.

The Preface



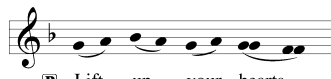
A - men.



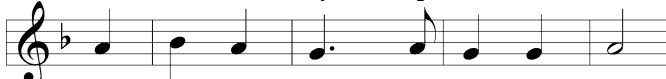
* The Lord be with you.



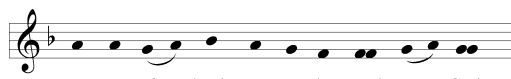
C And with thy spir - it.



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

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;

G 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*)

P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.
G A - men.

The Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*)

G 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:

- #464 *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done*
- #475 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing*

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

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: Being replenished with the sacred gifts, grant us, we beseech You, O Lord, always to continue in thanksgiving; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

The Salutation and *Benedicamus*

D 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: #478 *The Day of Resurrection*

, *Soli Deo Gloria* ,