

**To those who are
visiting today:**

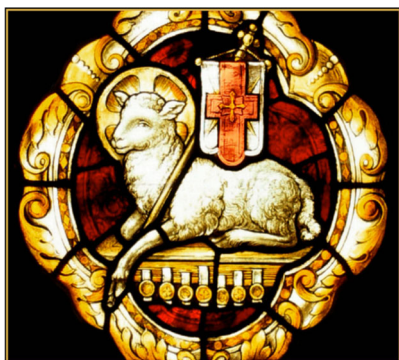
Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! We are delighted to have you here.

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 on the last page of the bulletin.

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

***Cantate – The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 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> 5/3	<p>9:00 am Divine Service Altar Server: Andrew Upton Crucifer: Ezra Ball</p> <p>10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study</p> <p>Voters' Meeting following Bible Study</p>
<u>Monday:</u> 5/4	6:00 pm Divine Service
<u>Next Sunday:</u> 5/10	<p>9:00 am Divine Service Altar Server: Ron Heimke Crucifer: Ezra Ball</p> <p>10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study</p>
<u>Next Monday:</u> 5/11	6:00 pm Divine Service

Last Week's Attendance Sunday: 59 Monday: 8

Offering Current: \$3,194

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

In today's readings: **Jesus Promises to Send His Holy Spirit, the Helper.** Though Jesus has departed from us visibly to the right hand of the Father who sent Him, yet this is to our advantage. For Jesus—who is Lord over all creation, who intercedes for us before the Father, who is preparing a place for us in heaven—has sent the Helper, the Spirit of Truth (John 16:5–15). “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights” through Jesus Christ (James 1:17). The Holy Spirit helps us by taking what is Christ’s and declaring it to us. In the Word of truth, the Spirit works repentance and delivers to us the forgiveness of sins, the righteousness of Christ, and victory over the devil. For the ruler of this world is judged and defeated by the cross. Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, we have been brought forth to new life in Him who is the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. Confident of our resurrection with Christ we confess, “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid” (Is. 12:2).

You can prepare for next week's Divine Service by reading: Numbers 21:4-9; 1 Tim. 2:1-6; James 1:22–27; John 16:23-33. Suggested Book of Concord reading: Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration II:63-64; XI:64-66.

Voters' Meeting Today following Bible Study. All voting members of St. John are urged to attend. Copies of the agenda will be available prior to the meeting.

The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord is Thursday, May 14. Come to St. John and celebrate this high and holy festival of the Church. Divine Service begins 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.

Equipping the Priesthood of All Believers. Issues, Etc. Lutheran talk radio with LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and guests. Listen live or on-demand and get apps at issuesetc.org. Download the free iTunes podcasts and listen anywhere.

May Calendar

- ◆ **Today:** Voters' Meeting following Bible Study.
- ◆ The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord. Thursday, May 14. Divine Service at 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ Euchre Tournament & Game Night. Friday, May 29 at 6:30 p.m.

, 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: #768 *To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray*

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)*



The Antiphon: *(Psalm 98:1-2)*

Cantor: Sing to the LORD a new song, Alle- | luia,*
 for He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations. Alle- | luia.

Psalm:

Cantor: His right hand and His | holy arm*
 have worked salva- | tion for Him.

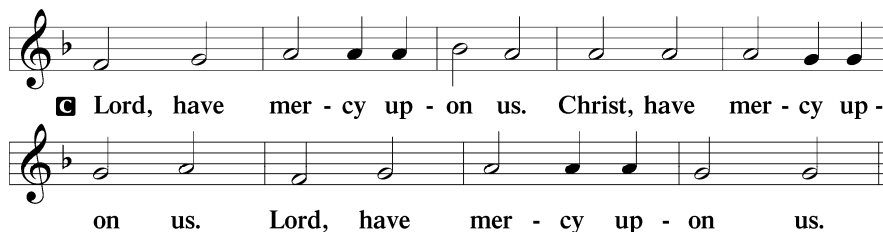
**All: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*
 All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.**

Cantor: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*
 break forth into joyous song and sing | praises! *(Psalm 98:1, 3-4)*

**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. **F** Let us pray ...

P: O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; 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: Isaiah 12:1-6

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: James 1:16-21

After the reading:

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

The Alleluia and Verse


Cantor: 

the right hand of the Lord does valiantly! Alle- | luia.

All: We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never | die again;*
death no longer has dominion over Him. Alle- | luia. *(Psalm 118:16, Romans 6:9)*

Announcement of the Holy Gospel: St. John 16:5-15

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: #556 *Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice*

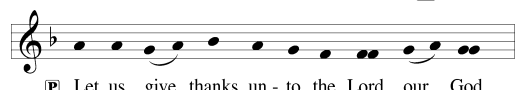
The Prayer of the Church - Please kneel

The Offering

The Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist

Please stand when the offering is brought forward.

The Offertory

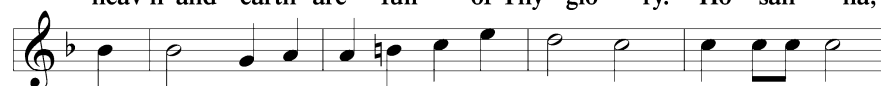


The Proper Preface

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.





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

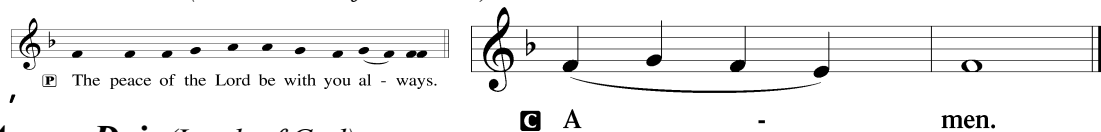
Pastor: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But, deliver us from evil;



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 — Hymn sung during distribution of the Sacrament:

#468 *I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives*

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,
 G and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

The Post-Communion Collect

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G A - men.

The Salutation and *Benedicamus*

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

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

Silent Prayer

Recessional Hymn: #482 *This Joyful Eastertide*
 , *Soli Deo Gloria* ,