

**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**

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

***The Feast of the Most Holy Trinity  
May 31, 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> 5/31	<u>9:00 am</u> <b>Divine Service</b> Altar Server: Andrew Upton Crucifer: Ezra Ball
<u><b>Monday:</b></u> 6/1	No Divine Service
<u><b>Next Sunday:</b></u> 6/7	<u>9:00 am</u> <b>Divine Service</b> Altar Server: Ron Heimke Crucifer: Ezra Ball <u>10:30 am</u> Sunday School & Bible Study
<u><b>Next Monday:</b></u> 6/8	<u>6:00 pm</u> <b>Divine Service</b>

**Last Sunday's Attendance:** 59

**Many thanks to Rev. Allen Lunneberg** for serving us with God's Word and Sacraments this morning. Welcome to St. John, Pastor Lunneberg!

**In today's readings: The Holy Trinity Reveals Himself to Sinners.** When Isaiah beheld the glory of the Lord, he cried out "Woe is me!" For the sinner cannot stand in the presence of a holy God and live (Is. 6:1-7). But God the Father lifted up His Son Jesus for us on the cross, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. This eternal life of Christ is given us according to the Holy Spirit's good pleasure in Baptism. "Unless one is born [again] of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). To sinners in fear of death, the messengers of God place on our lips the living body and blood of Christ and speak His words of absolution, "Your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for" (Is. 6:7). Having received forgiveness and life from the Father through the Son by the Holy Spirit, we join with the angels in praising the blessed Trinity, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts!" (Is. 6:3). "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen" (Rom. 11:33-36).

**You can prepare for next week's Divine Service by reading:** Genesis 15:1-6; 1 John 4:16-21; Luke 16:19-31.  
Suggested Book of Concord reading: Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration II:57-59; IV:37-40; XI:80-83.

**No Monday Divine Service tomorrow.** Monday services resume on June 8 at 6:00 p.m.

**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.

**15-Minute Bible Study.** "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever" podcast, is a daily 15-minute verse-by-verse Bible study led by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon and produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL. You can listen at your convenience at [thewordendures.org](http://thewordendures.org), Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app or a podcast provider. You can also listen by phone at 618-262-0078.

**Daily Lutheran Chapel Service.** You can watch chapel services from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN live weekdays at 9:30 a.m. (Central Time) and on-demand at [ctsfw.edu/daily-chapel/](http://ctsfw.edu/daily-chapel/) You can also listen on-demand at [issuesetc.org/kramerchapel/](http://issuesetc.org/kramerchapel/) and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

## **Today is the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity**

We rejoice that the only true God, who alone can help or save us, has revealed to us that He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – three, co-equal, co-eternal Persons. “Yet they are not three Gods, but one God” (from the Athanasian Creed.) In Holy Baptism, the Triune God gave you His holy name, along with all the blessings which belong to His children: forgiveness, eternal life, peace, and joy. Glory be to the Father, , Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever!

### **The Athanasian Creed**

The Confession of the True, Holy, Triune God.

Early in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century, a false teaching appeared which claimed that Jesus was not true God. Arius, a north African priest who first proposed this false teaching, was very persuasive. Soon the controversy was so widespread that an Ecumenical (church-wide) Council was called to settle the matter. Out of that meeting in 325 AD came the Church’s creed which is now commonly known as the Nicene Creed. This creed clearly confesses Jesus to be true God, and was expanded in 381 AD in order to defend the divinity of the Holy Spirit. This creed is still widely used today.

Despite the clarity of the Nicene Creed, the controversy continued for some time (actually, it still continues today.) Toward the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> Century, another creed was written that marveled at the mystery of the Holy Trinity in a way that no creed had ever done. Though attributed to Athanasius, a 4<sup>th</sup> Century opponent of Arius, this anonymous creed clearly came at a later stage in the debate.

The Athanasian Creed (which we speak each year on Trinity Sunday,) proclaims that its teachings concerning the Holy Trinity and our Lord’s incarnation are the “Catholic faith.” **The word “Catholic”** means that which the true Church of all times and all places has believed, the faith delivered by Christ to the apostles, and the apostles to us.

More than 15 centuries later, the Church Catholic continues to make this faithful confession of the One True God who saves us through the death of God the Son, Jesus the Christ. Thanks be to God!

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*, 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.*

**The Processional Hymn: #504** *Father Most Holy*

**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.**

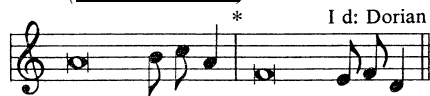
*The pastor stands:*

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:

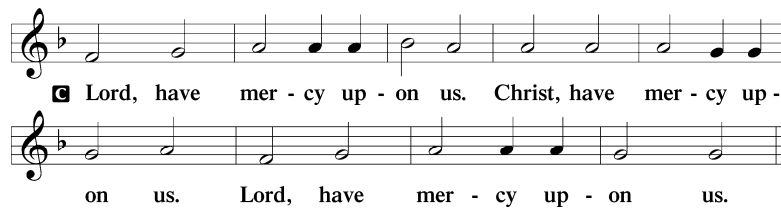
Cantor: Blessèd be the Holy Trinity and the Undivided | Unity,\*  
Let us give glory to Him because He has shown His mer- | cy to us. *(Liturgical Text)*

## Psalm:

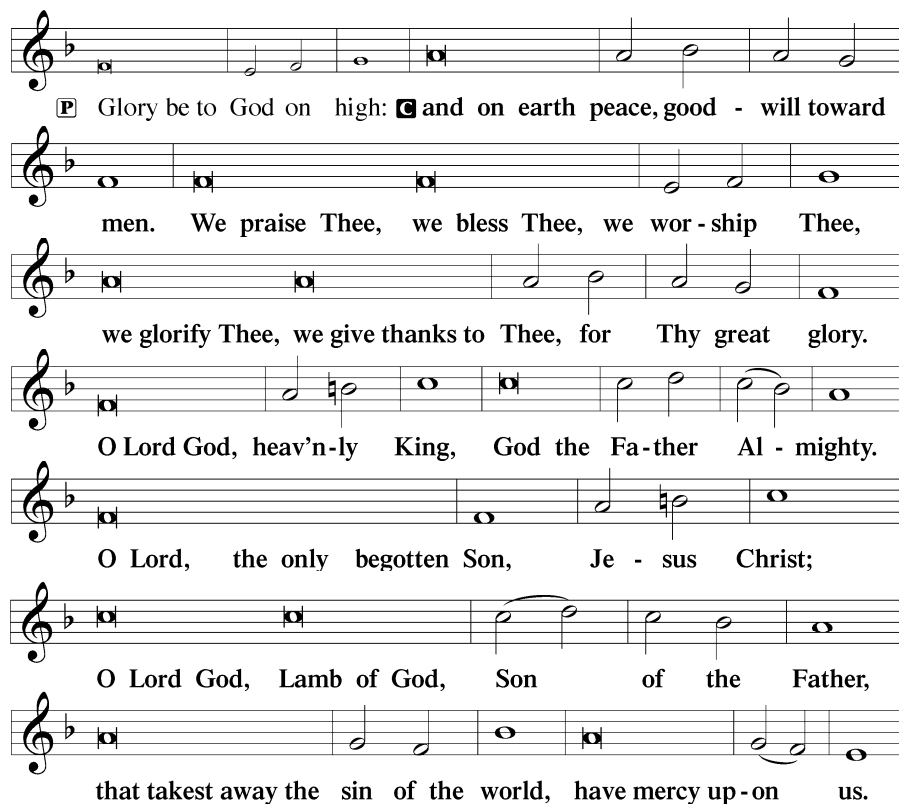
Cantor: O | Lord, our Lord,\*  
How majestic is Your name in | all the earth,  
**All: You have set Your glory above the | heavens!\***  
**Out of the mouth of babes and infants, You have es- | tablished strength.**  
Cantor: When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your | fingers,\*  
the moon and the stars, which You have | set in place,  
**All: What is man that You are mind- | ful of him,\***  
**and the son of man that You | visit him?**  
Cantor: Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly | beings\*  
and crowned him with glory and | honor. *(Psalm 8:1-5)*  
**All: 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)*



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**

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

P: Almighty and everlasting God, thou hast given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

**The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 6:1-7**

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

**The Gradual**

Cantor: Blessèd are You, O Lord, who be- | holds the deep,\*  
and who dwells between the | cherubim.

All: Blessèd are You, O Lord, in the firmament of | heaven,\*  
and greatly to be praised for- | ever. (Song of the Three Children, 29)

**The Epistle Reading: Romans 11:33-36**

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

**The Alleluia and Verse – Please stand**

All: Alleluia. Blessèd are You, O Lord God of our | fathers,\*  
and greatly to be praised and glorified forever. Alle- | luia.

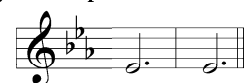
(Song of the Three Children, 29)

**Announcement of the Holy Gospel: St. John 3:1-17 , , ,**

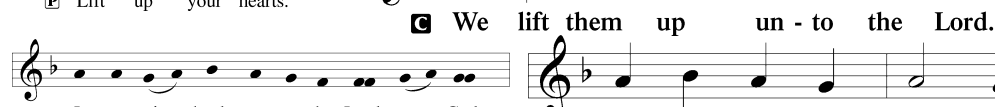
Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord.

**Response to the Gospel**

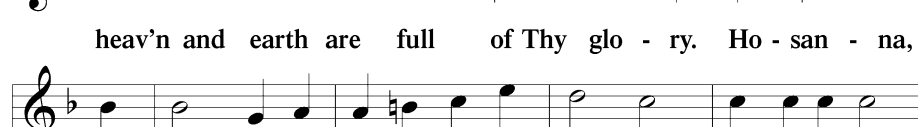
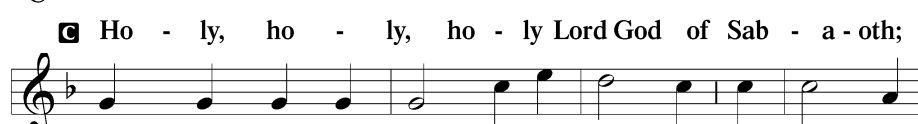
Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

**The Athanasian Creed: Page 319** – Confessed by all in unison.*See Page 3 for the history of this creed.***The Preaching of the Gospel****Hymn of the Day: #498** *Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest***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**

A - men.

**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 — Hymns sung during distribution of the Sacrament:**

#507 *Holy, Holy, Holy*

#506 *Glory Be to God the Father*

*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

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

### The Post-Communion Collect

P: May the reception of this Sacrament, O Lord, our God, as also the confession of our faith in the holy and everlasting Trinity, and its undivided Unity, profit us for the health of 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 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: #805** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

, *Soli Deo Gloria* ,