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 Fifteenth Sunday after the Feast of Pentecost
September 13, 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:

Today: *9/13*	9:00 am **Divine Service** Altar Server: Ron Heimke Crucifer: Ezra Ball 10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study
Monday: *9/14*	6:00 pm Divine Service.
Next Sunday: *9/20*	9:00 am **Divine Service** Altar Server: Andrew Upton Crucifer: Ezra Ball 10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study
Next Monday: *9/21*	6:00 pm **Divine Service**

Last Week's Attendance ***Sunday:*** 61
Offering Current: $3,056 Missions: $207 Building Fund: $207 Kroger Rewards: $40
To meet our budgetary requirements, an average weekly collection of $3,635 is required.

In today's readings: **Anxious Bondage vs. Confident Trust.** You cannot serve God and money" (Matt. 6:24–34), for they require two contrary forms of service. Worry is the worship given to the false god of mammon, an unbelieving anxiousness and focus on the things of this world. Faith is the worship of the true God, a confident trust that He is a loving Father who will care for all of our needs in both body and soul. The widow of Zarephath served God— that is, she believed the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah that the bin of flour would not be used up nor would the jar of oil run dry (1 Kings 17:8–16). He who feeds the birds and clothes the flowers will certainly provide for our daily needs. For He has already provided for our eternal needs, clothing us with Christ's righteousness in Baptism and feeding us His body and blood for our forgiveness. With such confidence we are liberated from worry and freed to do good with our material resources, especially to those who are of the household of faith (Gal. 5:25–6:10).

You can prepare for next week's Divine Service by reading: Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3; Revelation 12:7-12; Matthew 18:1-11; Luke 10:17-20. Suggested Book of Concord reading: Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration VI:6

Sunday School & Bible Study resume today at 10:30 a.m. Please join Pastor Ball for an in-depth study of God's Word.

Anthem Notes: Today's anthem is "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling" from the PSALTER by Heinrich Schuetz based on Psalm 84 coupled with the hymn "Ye Lands to the Lord Make a Jubilant Noise" based on Psalm 100.

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.

Luther had Warburg, we have Collinsville. 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 interview topics include: The Honesty Crisis; Luke's Gospel for the Hungry; Lutheran Schools & the Three Estates; The Story of a 16th-Century German City Embracing Lutheranism; and more. You can listen on-demand at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app or a podcast provider.

September Calendar

- ***Today:*** Sunday School & Bible Study resume at 10:30 a.m.
- St. Michael Liturgical Conference -- Monday, Sept. 28 at Zion, Detroit.

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: #725 *Children of the Heavenly Father*

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.**

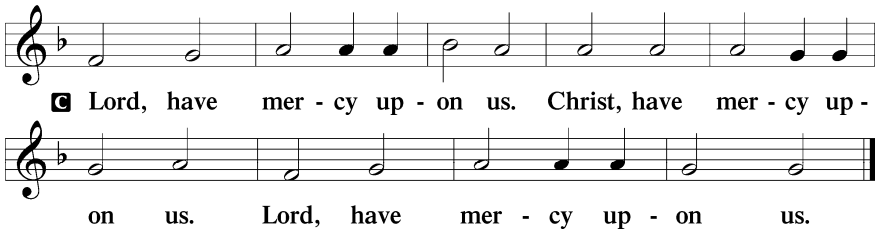
The Liturgy of the Word

The *Introit* *(Please stand)*

The *Antiphon*:
Cantor: Incline Your ear, O LORD, and | answer me,*
save Your servant, who trusts in You – You | are my God.
All: Be gracious to me, | O Lord,*
for to You do I cry | all the day. *(Psalm 86:1–3)*
Psalm:
Cantor: Gladden the soul of Your | servant,*
for to You, O Lord, do I lift | up my soul.
All: Give ear, O LORD, | to my prayer;*
listen to my | plea for grace.
Cantor: But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and | gracious;*
turn to me and be gra- | cious to me;
All: Give Your strength to Your | servant,*
and save the son of Your maid- | servant. *(Psalm 86:4, 6, 15–16)*
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.

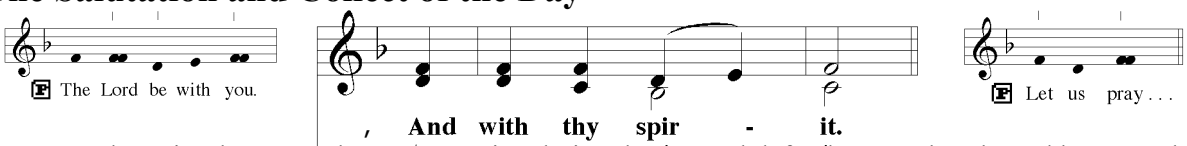
The *Antiphon - (as above)*

The *Kyrie*



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

The Salutation and Collect of the Day

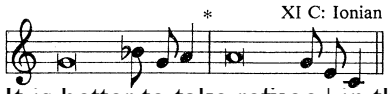


P: O Lord, we implore You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church; and because she cannot continue in safety without Your aid, preserve her evermore by Your help and goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Old Testament Reading: 1 Kings 17:8–16

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

The Gradual



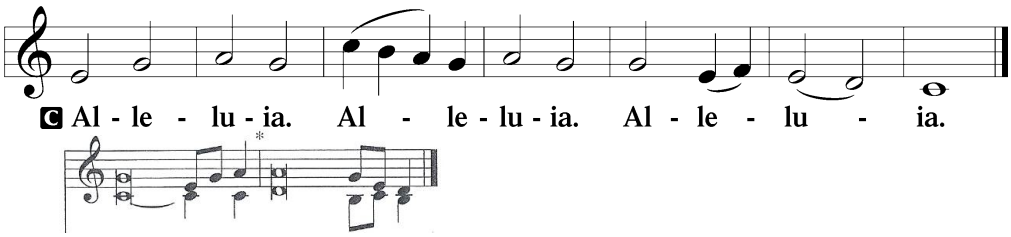
Cantor: It is better to take refuge | in the LORD*
than to | trust in man.
All: It is better to take refuge | in the LORD*
than to trust in | princes. *(Psalm 118:8–9)*

The Epistle Reading: Galatians 5:25–6:10

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

The Alleluia and Verse

All:

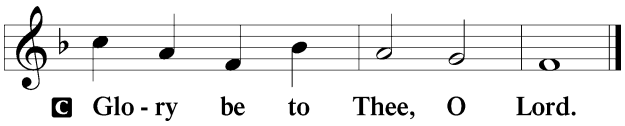


Cantor: Oh, come, let us sing | to the LORD!*
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal- | vation! *(Psalm 95:1)*

All: The Alleluia – ***as above***

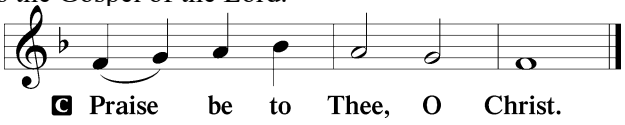
Announcement of the Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 6:24–34

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: #760 *What God Ordains Is Always Good*

The Prayer of the Church - *Please kneel*

The Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist

Please stand when the offering is brought forward.

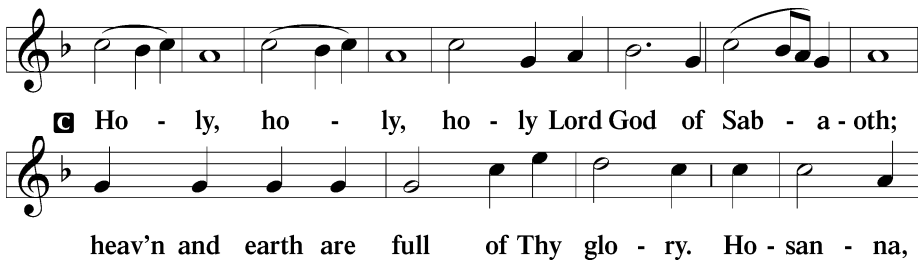
The Offertory

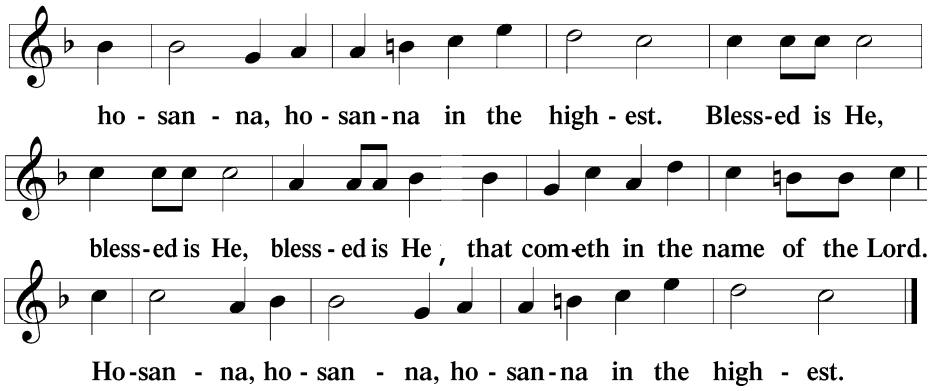
The Proper Preface

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.



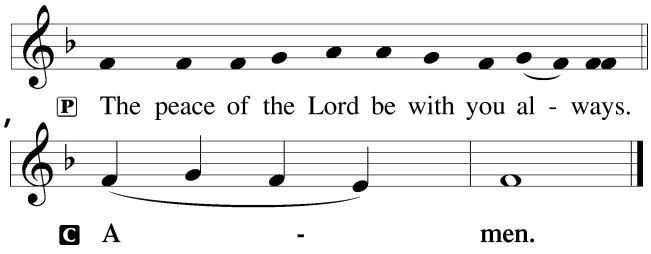


The Our Father (*spoken by all*)

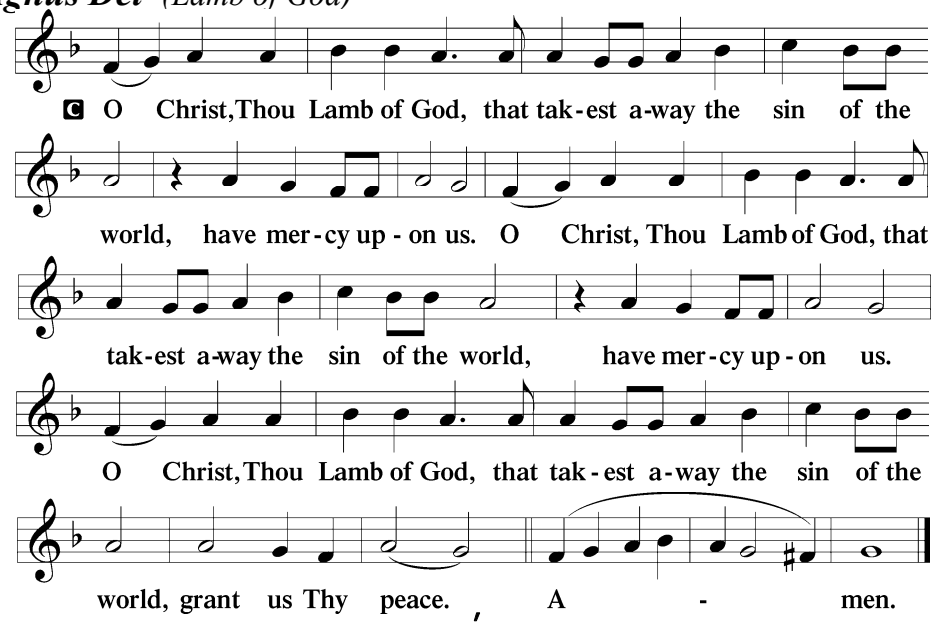
C: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But, deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The *Verba Christi* (*The Words of Christ* by which He instituted the Blessed Sacrament)

The *Pax Domini* *(The Peace of the Lord)*



The *Agnus Dei* *(Lamb of God)*



The Holy Communion — Hymns sung during distribution of the Sacrament:

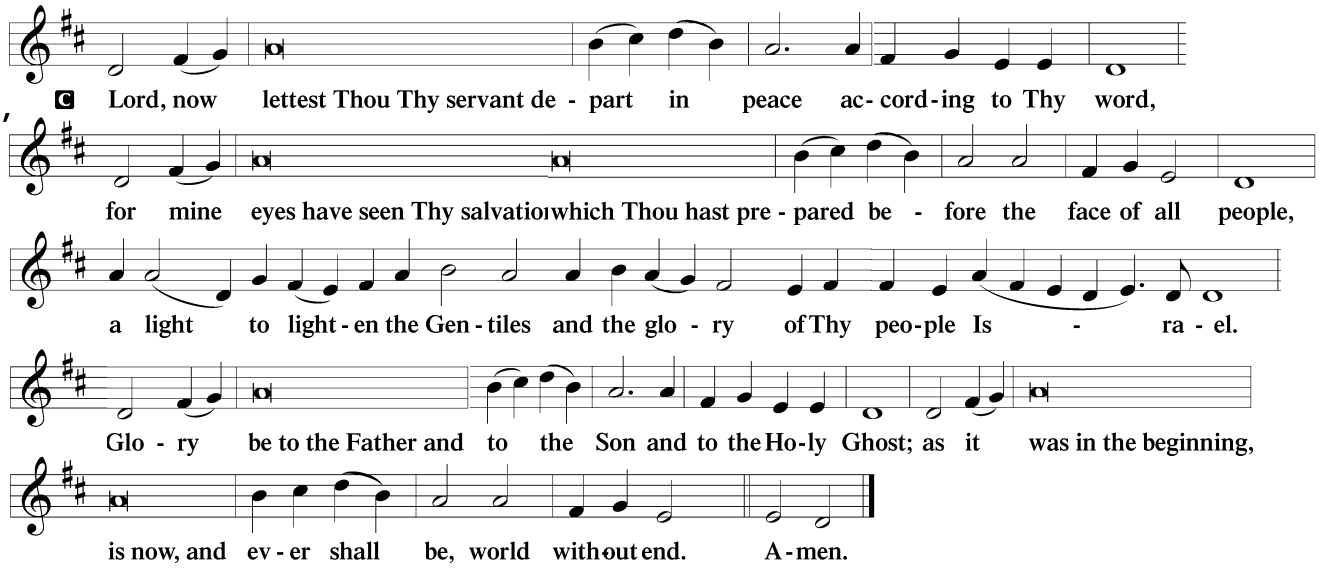
#735 *Have No Fear, Little Flock*

#737 *Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing*

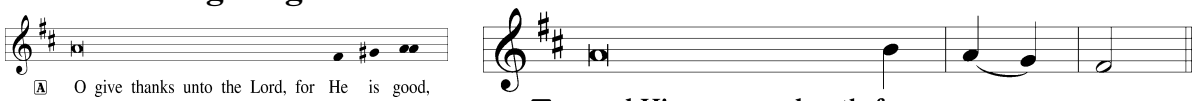
Prayers for before and after receiving the Sacrament are found inside the front cover of the hymnal.

Please stand when motioned by Pastor

The *Nunc Dimittis*



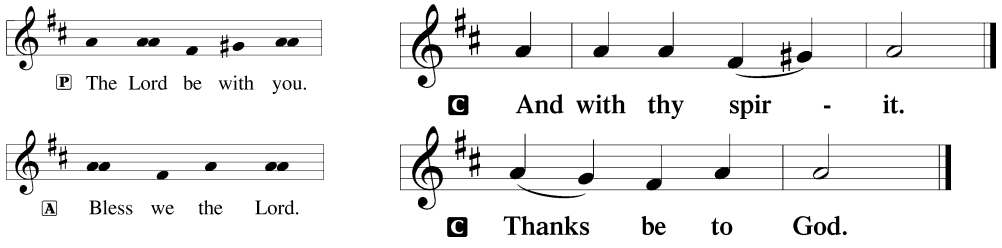
The Thanksgiving



The Post-Communion Collect

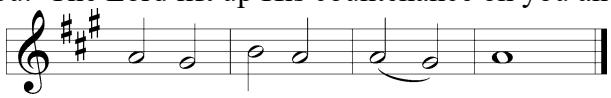
P: Graciously purify our minds, we beseech You, O Lord, and renew them with these heavenly sacraments, so that our bodies may likewise receive help both for the present and the future; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Salutation and *Benedicamus*



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.



Silent Prayer

Recessional Hymn: #738 *Lord of All Hopefullness*

Soli Deo Gloria

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version,
© 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.