

**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

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(586) 749-5286

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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Quinquagesima
February 15, 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> 2/15	9:00 am Divine Service Altar Server: Ron Heimke Crucifer: Ezra Ball 10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study Soup Sale -- St. John Missions Society
<u>Monday:</u> 2/16	6:00 pm Divine Service
<u>Ash Wednesday:</u> 2/18	6:30 pm Divine Service Altar Server: Ron Heimke Crucifer: Ezra Ball
<u>Next Sunday:</u> 2/22	9:00 am Divine Service Altar Server: Andrew Upton Crucifer: Ezra Ball 10:30 am Sunday School & Bible Study
<u>Next Monday:</u> 2/23	6:00 pm Divine Service

Attendance Last Sunday: 34 **Offering** Current: \$1,585
To meet our budgetary requirements, an average weekly collection of \$3,635 is required.

Why is today called “Quinquagesima”? Preparation for Holy Week and Easter takes place through **3 periods or steps:**

The **first period** is the “-gesimas.” These three Sundays of “Pre-Lent” focus on the Grace of God.

- **Septuagesima** (meaning, “about 70 days”) — Grace is undeserved.
- **Sexagesima** (meaning, “about 60 days”) — Grace is passively received.
- **Quinquagesima** (meaning, “about 50 days”) — Grace is not easily understood.

The **second period** or stage of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. This second stage ends when the week of Laetare (the 4th Sunday in Lent) is completed. During these four Sundays, the focus is on temptation and faith, and the Christian’s struggle.

The **final stage** is Passiontide, which begins with **Judica Sunday** (Passion Sunday, the 5th Sunday in Lent), and extends through Holy Week and the Triduum (“Three Days”), which includes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Now the focus is expressly on our Lord’s passion.

In today’s readings: Faith Alone. The seeing are blind, while the one who is blind can see (Luke 18:31–43). Jesus tells the twelve that He is going up to Jerusalem to suffer and die and rise again, but they cannot understand or grasp what He is saying. The meaning of His words is hidden from their sight. However, as Jesus makes His way up to Jerusalem, a blind man calls out to Him for mercy. This blind man sees that Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior, for he calls Him “Son of David.” Indeed, Jesus is the Lord’s anointed, the keeper of sheep (1 Sam. 16:1–13) who goes to lay down His life for the sheep. He is the incarnate love of the Father who suffers long and is kind, who is not puffed up, who never fails us (1 Cor. 13:1–13). Jesus opens the eyes of the blind (Is. 35:3–7) to see Him not according to outward appearances of lowliness, but according to His heart of mercy and compassion. Those who behold Him thus by faith follow Him to the cross through death into life.

You can prepare for next week’s Divine Service by reading: Genesis 3:1-21; 1 Samuel 17:40-51; 2 Corinthians 6:1-10; Hebrews 4:14-16; Matthew 4:1-11. Book of Concord: Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration I:8-12; III:54-56; XI:6-7.

February 18 is Ash Wednesday. Divine Service is at 6:00 p.m. *The Pastor will invite all those who wish to receive ashes on their foreheads to come forward to the communion rail at the beginning of the service.* Wednesday evening Divine Services throughout the season of Lent will also be at 6:00 p.m. February 25 through March 25.

Soup Sale Today: Pick up a container of homemade soup and help fund the St. John Missions Society’s ongoing charitable projects. *Thank you!* Your support is very much appreciated. *Many thanks* to all those who provided the soup!

The light of God’s Word in a world of darkness. 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 subjects include: A Christian View of Leisure; Responding to Transgenderism in Light of God’s Word; Jesus as Priest; Faithful Ministry in a Post-Christian Culture; Reducing Theology to Pithy Slogans; Christian Apologetics; and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

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.

February / March Calendar

- ◆ **Today:** Soup Sale. Sponsored by St. John Missions Society.
- ◆ Ash Wednesday Divine Service, 2/18 at 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ Mid-week Lent Divine Services begin Wednesday, 2/25 at 6:00 p.m. and continue through 3/25.
- ◆ Palm Sunday Divine Service – March 29 at 9:00 a.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: #819 *Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good*

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: Be a rock of re- | fuge for me,*
a strong fortress to | save me.*

**All: For You are my rock and my | fortress,*
and for Your name's sake You lead me and | guide me. (Psalm 31:2-3)**

Psalm:

Cantor: In You, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be | put to shame;*
in Your righteousness de- | liver me!

**All: Into Your hand I commit my | spirit,*
You have redeemed me, O LORD, | faithful God.**

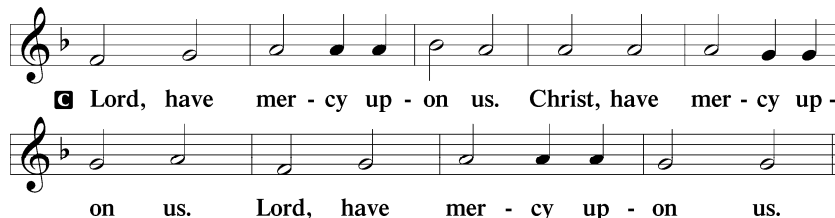
Cantor: Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am | in distress;*
my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body | also.

**All: Make Your face shine on Your | servant,*
save me in Your | steadfast love! (Psalm 31:1, 5, 9, 16)**

**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
is not sung until Holy
Thursday and Easter.*

The Salutation and Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

, And with thy spir - it.

Let us pray...

P: O Lord, mercifully hear our prayers, and, having set us free from the bonds of our sins, deliver us from every evil; 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: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

After the reading:

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

The Gradual

* V Eb: Lydian

Cantor: You are the God who works | wonders,*
 You have made known Your might among the | peoples.
All: You with Your arm redeemed Your | people,*
The children of Jacob and | Joseph. (Psalm 77:14-15)

The Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

After the reading:

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

The Tract – Please stand

* V Eb: Lydian

Cantor: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth!*

Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with | singing.*

All: Know that the LORD, | He is God!*
It is He who has made us, and we are His; we are His people
and the sheep of His | pasture. (Psalm 100:1-3)

Announcement of the Holy Gospel: St. Luke 18:31-43

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: #849 *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

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



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

* 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 (*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 peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



The Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*) A - men.



☐ 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.

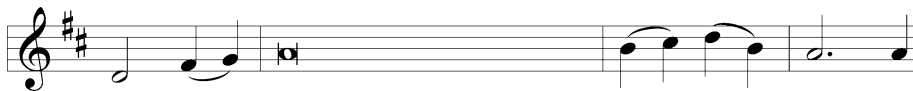
The Holy Communion — Hymn sung during distribution of the Sacrament:

#531 *Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus*

*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-



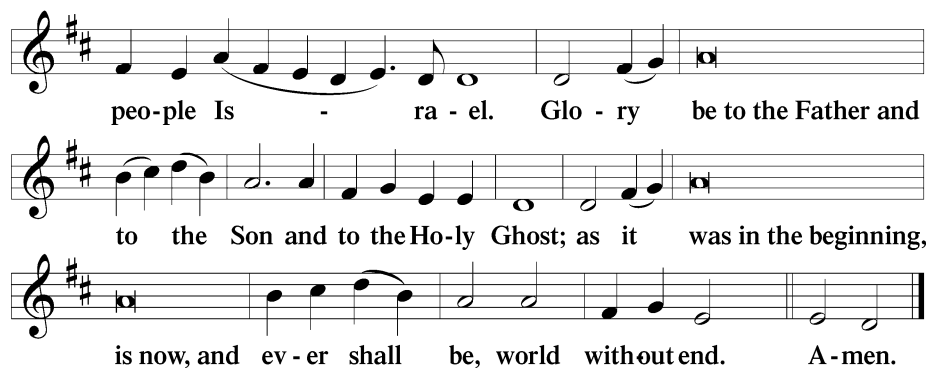
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

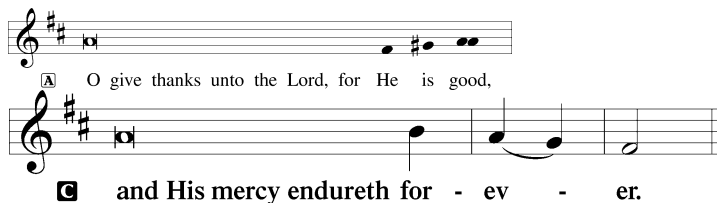


a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



people 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.

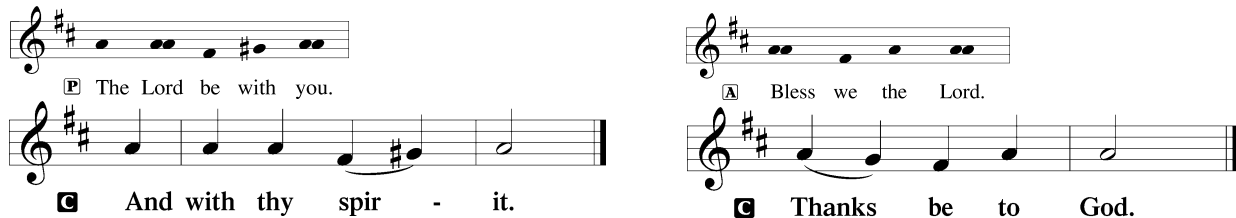
The Post-Communion Collect

P: We, beseech You, almighty God, that we who have received celestial food may be defended by it against all adversities; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

The Salutation and *Benedicamus*



B The Lord be with you. **A** Bless we the Lord.
C And with thy spir - it. **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: #525 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

, *Soli Deo Gloria* ,