ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

4939 W Montrose Ave
Chicago
773-736-1112
StJohnsChicago.org
office@StJohnsChicago.org

REFORMATION DAY

Observed October 25, 2026
9 a.m. | 6 p.m.

St. John's is a family of God's beloved children,
joyfully walking in the truth of Jesus Christ
and being perfected in the Spirit of His love.
1 John 3:1–2 | 3 John 4 | 1 John 4:12

A Note to Guests and Visitors

Let us know you're here! Please sign our guestbook near the entrance steps if this is your first time visiting or use our virtual guestbook at stjohnschicago.org/Guestbook or by scanning the code to the left. If you are a returning visitor, please sign our Record of Fellowship, found in the blue folder in the pews.

The liturgy is printed in its entirety in this folder. Hymns can be found in our hymn book, *Lutheran Service Book* (LSB), located in the pew racks.

From the Lutheran Confessions

X. Church Practices

Which Are Called Adiaphora or Matters of Indifference

A disagreement has also arisen among the theologians of the Augsburg Confession about ceremonies or Church rites that are neither commanded nor forbidden in God's Word, but have been introduced into the Church for the sake of good order and fitting use.

From "X. Church Practices [1]" in The Formula of Concord, Epitome, Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, Pocket Edition. © 2005, 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Source: https://bookofconcord.cph.org/en/formula-of-concord-epitome/x_church_practices/x-church-practices

Participants

Presiding Minister:	Rev. Jacob Ehrhard Senior Pastor, St. John's – Chicago | pastor@stjohnschicago.org
Music team:	Mark Eggert, Director of Music Katrina Jurica, Music Teacher Aaron Doehring, Evening accompanist

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Five from Lutheran Service Book

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Divine Service, Setting Five

Prelude

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

P 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.**

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.**

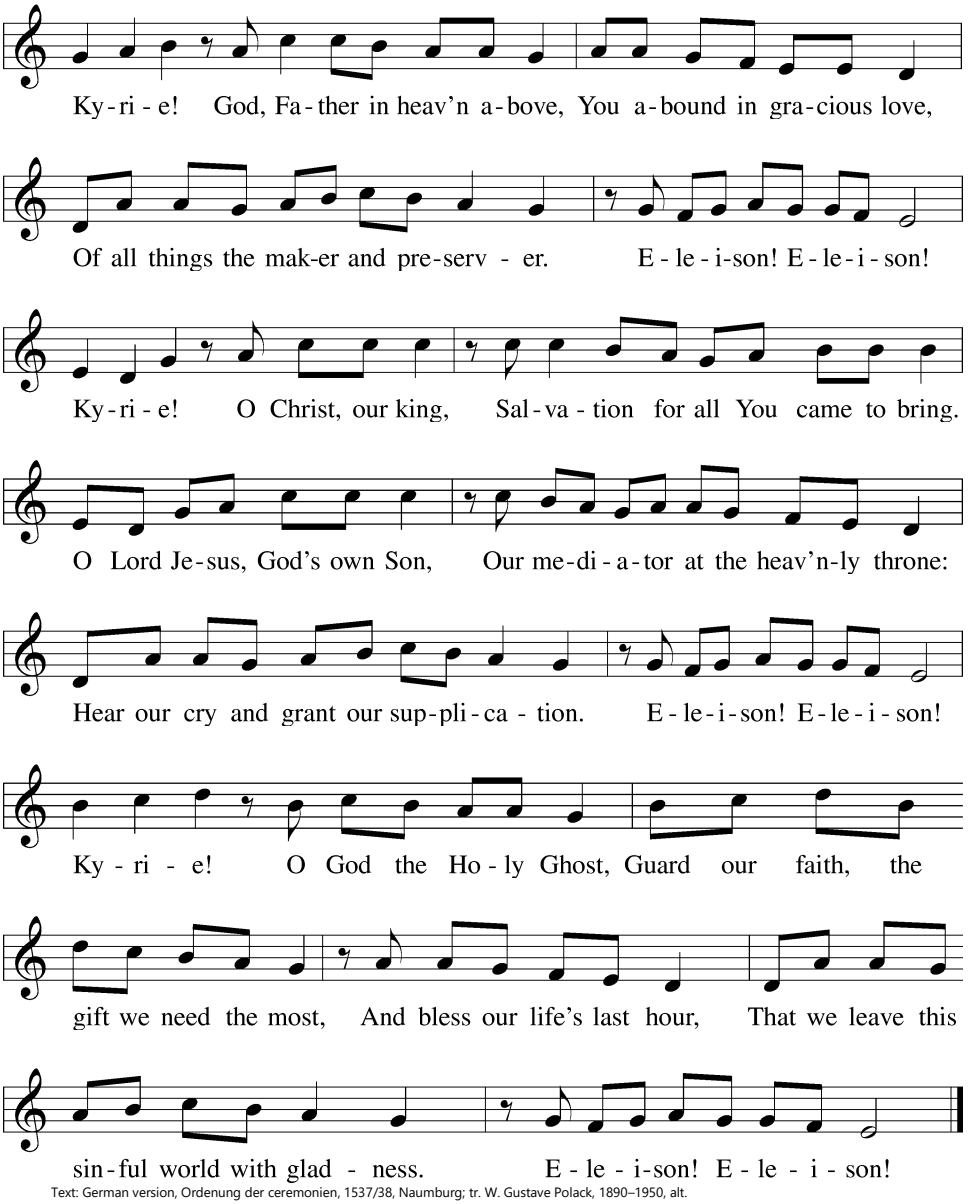
P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

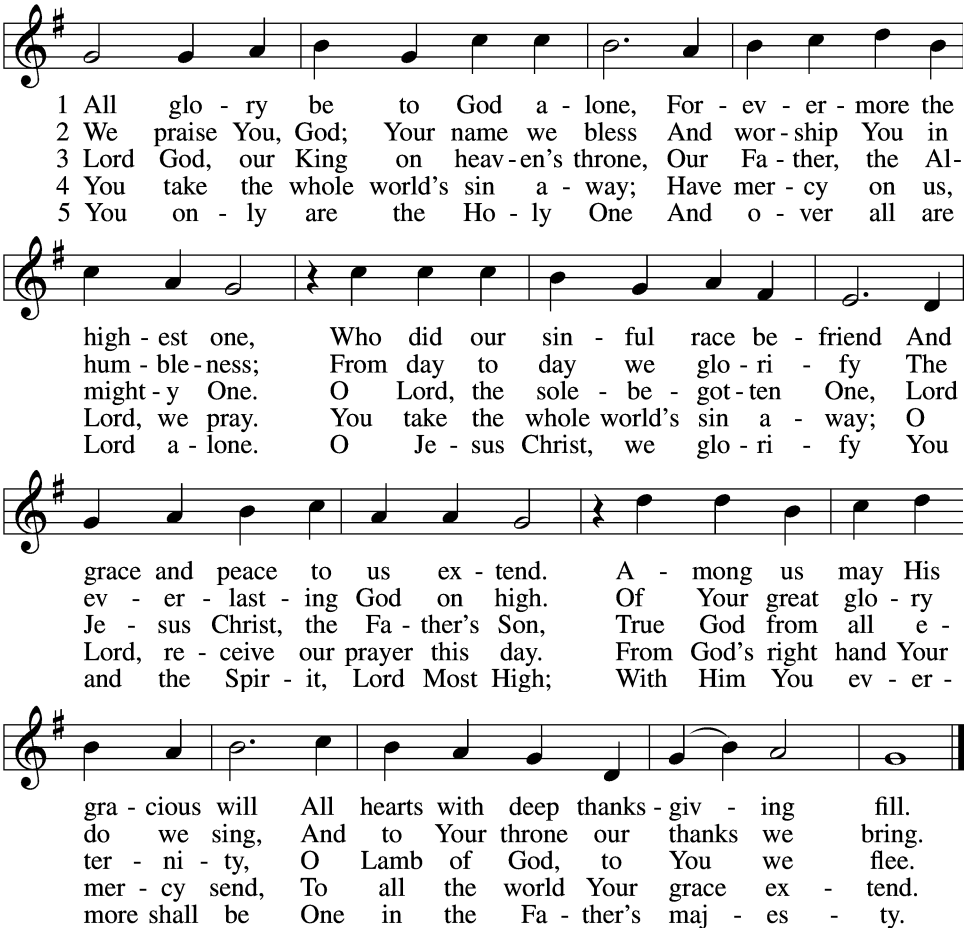
Entrance Hymn

LSB 656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Kyrie

LSB 942 Kyrie! God, Father

Text: German version, Ordenung der ceremonien, 1537/38, Naumburg; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.
Text and tune: Latin, 9th cent.
Tune: adapt. Kirchen ampt Deutsch, 1525, Erfurt
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001148
Tune: Public domain

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 948 All Glory Be to God Alone

Text: attr. Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.
Tune: Gesangbuch . . . Psalmen, Geistliche Lieder, 1541, Strassburg, alt.
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001148
Tune: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day

℗ The Lord be with you.

ℂ **And also with you.**

℗ Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ℂ **Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Revelation 14:6–7

6Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who
dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. 7And he said with a loud voice, "Fear
God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made
heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 46

1God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
2Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
3though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.
4There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
5God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.
6The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
7The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
8Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
9He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.
10"Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"
11The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Epistle

Romans 3:19–28

19Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every
mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20For by works of the law
no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

[21]But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— [22]the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: [23]for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24]and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25]whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. [26]It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

[27]Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. [28]For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn of the Day

LSB 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Stand

Holy Gospel

John 8:31–36

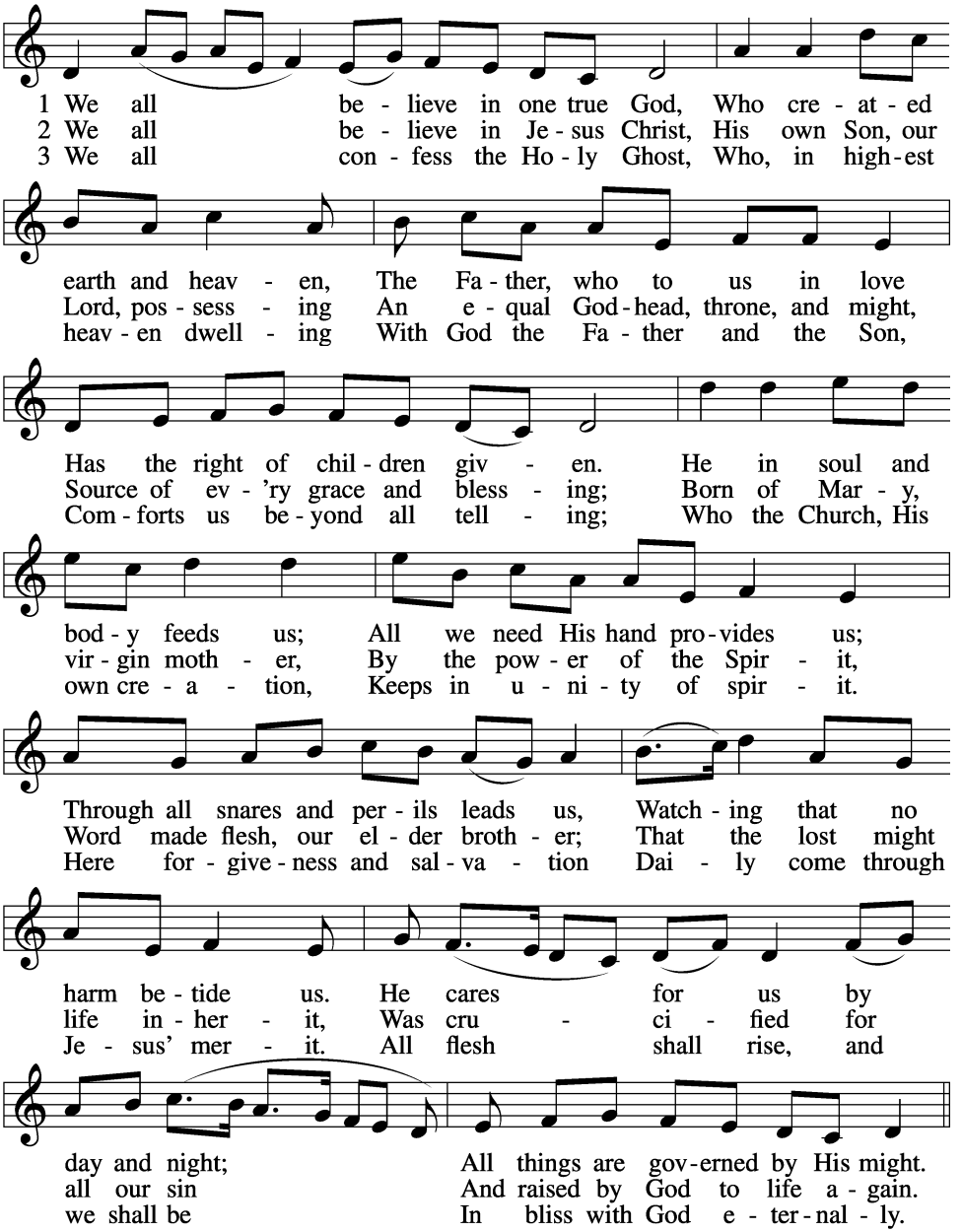
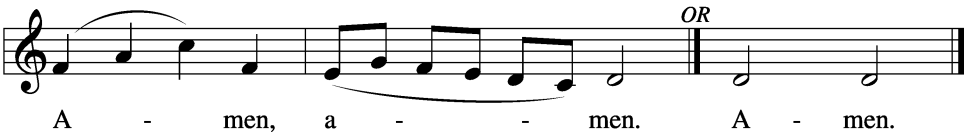
P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[31]So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, [32]and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." [33]They answered him, "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free'?"

[34]Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. [35]The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. [36]So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

1 We all believe in one true God, Who cre - at - ed
earth and heav - en, The Fa - ther, who to us in love
Has the right of chil - dren giv - en. He in soul and
bod - y feeds us; All we need His hand pro - vides us;
Through all snares and per - ils leads us, Watch - ing that no
harm be - tide us. He cares for us by
day and night; All things are gov - erned by His might.
2 We all believe in Je - sus Christ, His own Son, our
Lord, pos - sess - ing An e - qual God - head, throne, and might,
Source of ev - 'ry grace and bless - ing; Born of Mar - y,
vir - gin moth - er, By the pow - er of the Spir - it,
Word made flesh, our el - der broth - er; That the lost might
life in - her - it, Was cru - ci - fied for
all our sin And raised by God to life a - gain.
3 We all con - fess the Ho - ly Ghost, Who, in high - est
heav - en dwell - ing With God the Fa - ther and the Son,
Com - forts us be - yond all tell - ing; Who the Church, His
own cre - a - tion, Keeps in u - ni - ty of spir - it.
Here for - give - ness and sal - va - tion Dai - ly come through
Je - sus' mer - it. All flesh shall rise, and
we shall be In bliss with God e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Latin, 14th cent., adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Sit

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

℗ Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

Each petition concludes:

℗ Lord, in Your mercy,
℃ **hear our prayer.**

The Prayer of the Church concludes:

℗ We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
℃ **Amen.**

Sit

Offering

The Offering is collected in the offering plates. Please assist our ushers by passing the offering plates down the pew and then returning them to the center aisle. You can also make a one-time or recurring gift through our online giving page by navigating to www.stjohnschicago.org/give, or by scanning the code to the right with your phone.

Please also make sure to sign our Record of Fellowship register in the pews so that we can keep accurate records of membership and attendance. If you are sharing a pew with other worshipers, please pass the folder down and take a moment to greet each other.

A Word Concerning Holy Communion

In Holy Communion, we joyfully receive Christ's body & blood for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. By partaking in this Sacrament, we also publicly confess our unity in Christ's Body and a harmony of teaching and practice. For this reason, congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have promised to practice close communion.

Because St. Paul admonishes those who commune to eat the bread and drink the cup in a worthy manner by discerning the body (1 Corinthians 11:27–29), communicants should not only perceive by faith the body and blood of Christ present in the bread and wine, but also the mystical body of Christ gathered around the altar.

Those who have not been instructed in the Lutheran confession of the Christian faith are invited to further exploration in our adult catechumenate, which is the path that leads to fellowship at this altar. If you are not a member of a congregation in fellowship with our Synod, you are invited to kneel at the altar with your arms crossed over your chest to indicate your desire to receive a blessing.

To prepare your heart to receive the Lord's body and blood, you may also wish to review Luther's "Christian Questions with Their Answers," on pp. 329-330 in Lutheran Service Book, and refer to the "Before communing" prayer inside the front cover of LSB.

For those who are sensitive to wine, the center cups in the tray are filled with a drop of wine diluted with water.

Service of the Sacrament

Stand

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

℗ The Lord be with you.
℃ And also with you.
℗ Lift up your hearts.
℃ We lift them to the Lord.
℗ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
℃ It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

℗ It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin,

death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

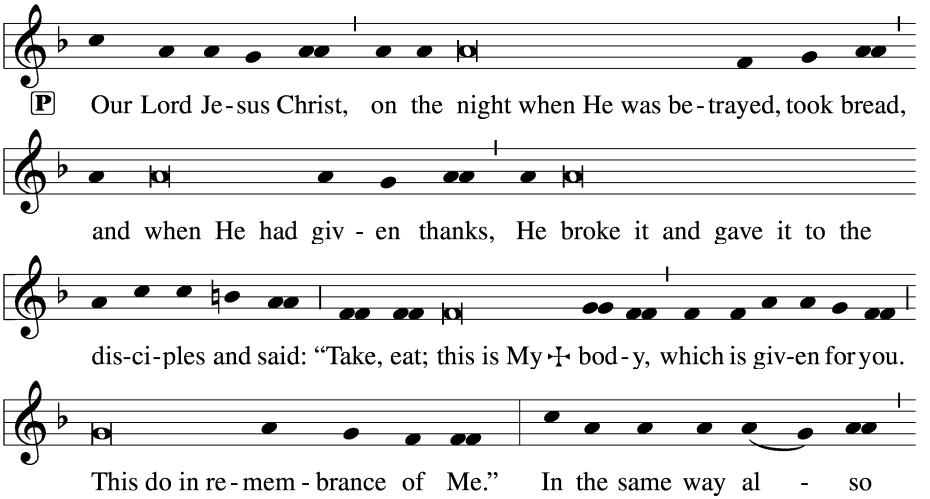
Lord's Prayer

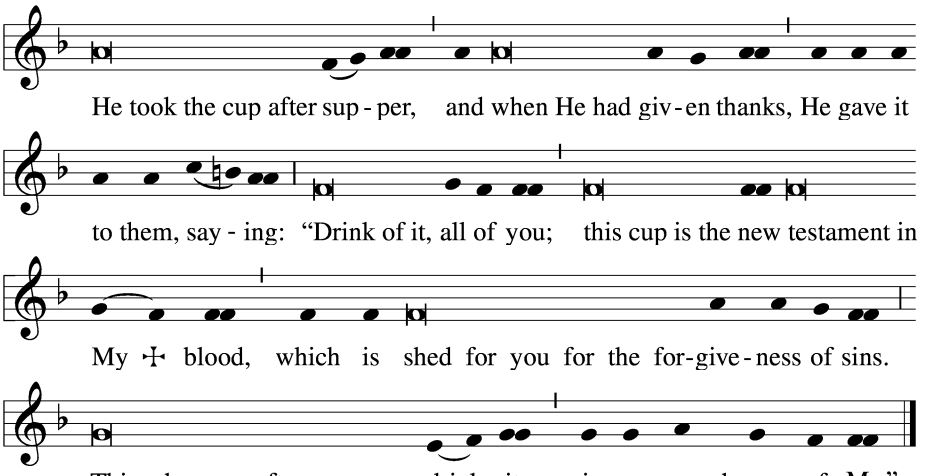
C **Our Father who art in heaven,**
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is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

P In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

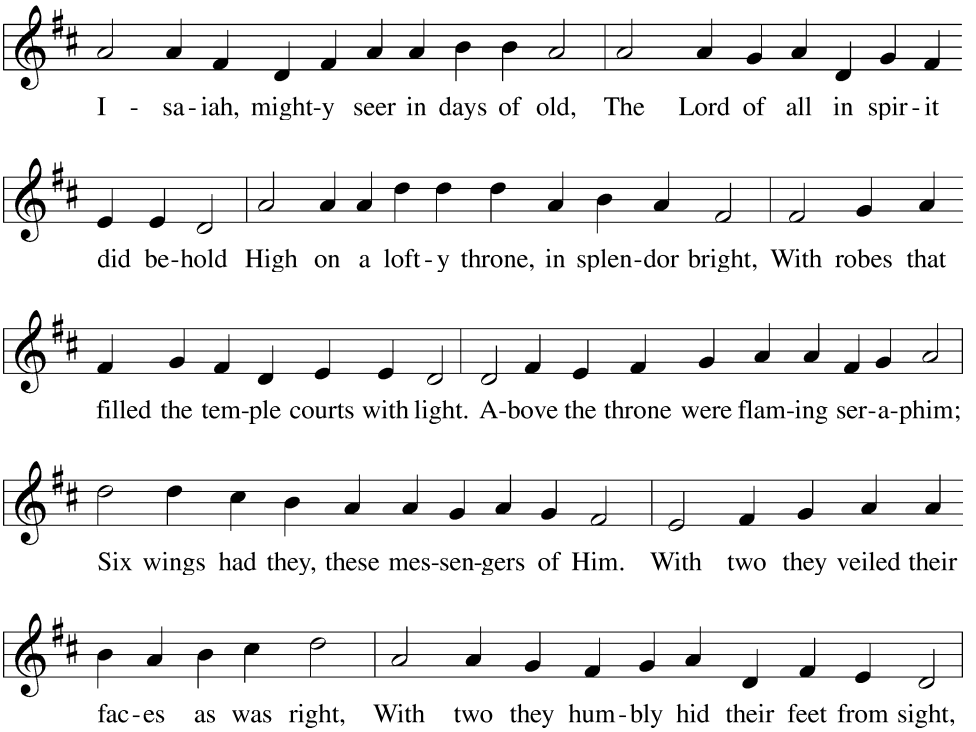
The Words of Our Lord

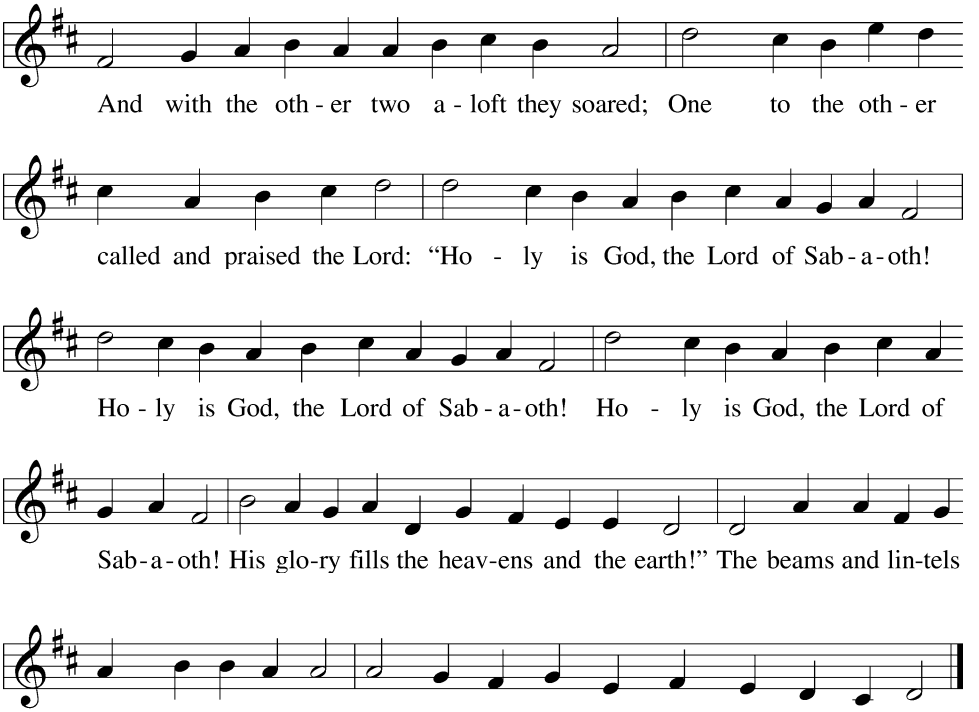
Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25





Sanctus *LSB 960 Isaiah, Mighty Seer in Days of Old*



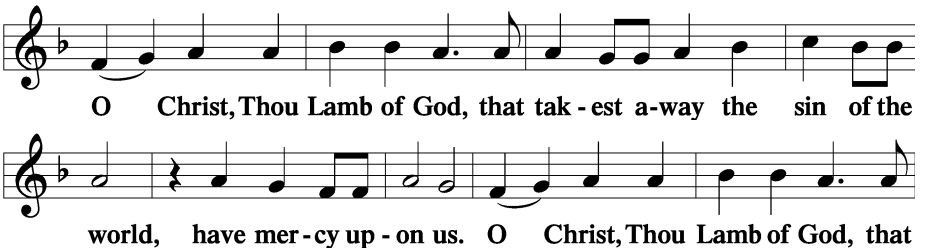
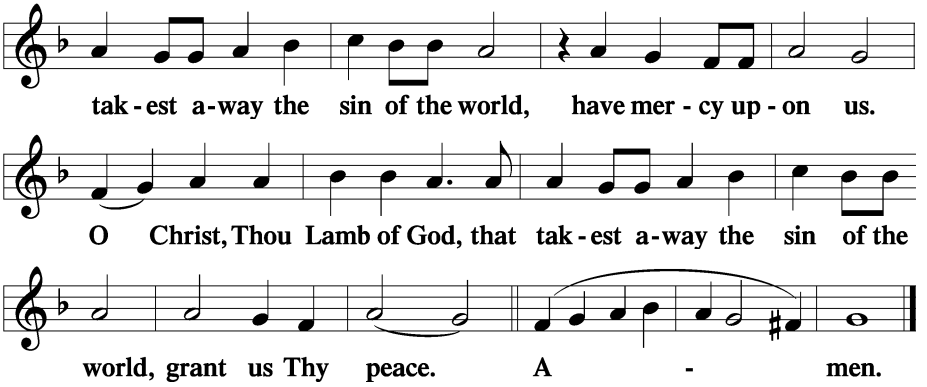


Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Text and tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001148
Tune: Public domain

Pax Domini

℗ The peace of the Lord be with you always.
℃ Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



Sit

Distribution

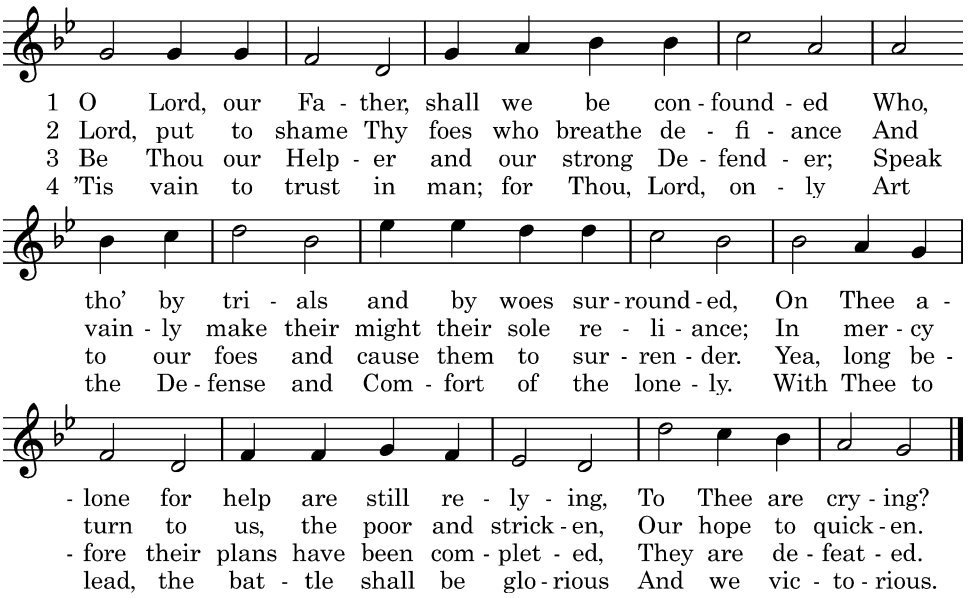
Guests are asked to please read our "Word Concerning Holy Communion" above.
Catechumens and those preparing to receive the Lord's Supper may meditate on the texts of the Small Catechism found on p. 321–330 in Lutheran Service Book.
The Lord's Supper is distributed at the altar rail. Each table is dismissed with the following blessing:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✣ in peace.

C **Amen.**

Distribution Hymn

TLH 269 O Lord, Our Father, Shall We Be Confounded



5 Thou art our Hero, all our foes subduing;
Save Thou Thy little flock they are pursuing.
We seek Thy help; for Jesus' sake be near us.
Great Helper, hear us!

Text: Johann Heermann, 1630; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1869, alt.; Johann Heermann, 1630; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1869, alt.
Tune: Johann Crueger, 1640; Johann Crueger, 1640
Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymns

LSB 582 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage
LSB 617 O Lord, We Praise Thee sts. 1–2

Stand

Post-Communion Hymn

LSB 617 O Lord, We Praise Thee st. 3

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.
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.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

A Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Hymn to Depart

LSB 865 Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain

Daily Prayers

Reformation Day (Observed October 25)

The order of Daily Prayer for Individuals and Families can be found in Lutheran Service Book, p. 294–298. Choose the order specific to the time of day for your devotions.

Psalmody

	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
Morning	103	5	42	89:1–18	97	51	104
Evening	117; 139	84; 29	102; 133	1; 33	16; 62	142; 65	118; 111

Daily Readings

25 Oct.	Deut. 27:1–26
	Matt. 17:14–27
26 Oct.	Deut. 28:1–22
	Matt. 18:1–20
27 Oct.	Deut. 29:1–29
	Matt. 18:21–35
28 Oct.	Deut. 30:1–20
	Matt. 19:1–15
29 Oct.	Deut. 31:1–29
	Matt. 19:16–30
30 Oct.	Deut. 31:30–32:27
	Matt. 20:1–16
31 Oct.	Deut. 32:28–52
	Deut. 33:1–29
	Matt. 20:17–34

Hymn of the Week

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Catechism

The Eighth, Ninth, & Tenth Commandments

Ages 0–7: Primary text only
Ages 7–12: Primary text with explanation
Ages 12+: Primary text and explanation. Read Large Catechism 1 254–310

Preparing for Next Week

All Saints' Day

Setting:	Divine Service, Setting 2 | Remembrance of the Faithful Departed
Psalm:	149
First Reading:	Revelation 7:27
Epistle:	1 John 3:1–3
Holy Gospel:	Matthew 5:1–12
Hymn of the Day:	*677 For All the Saints*
Additional Hymns:	*670 Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*
	679 O, How Blest Are They
	949 Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship
	821 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
	676 Behold a Host, Arrayed in White

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Reformation Day (Observed October 25)

Sick, suffering, hospitalized, those in need

Cheryl H. – recovery
Bob Hardy – end stage Parkinsons
Phil – mini strokes, pancreatic cancer
Fred and George Kurash - NICU
Ruth D. – heart & lung issues
Rich – Auto Immune Disease
Anita Roderich – hospice
Rosalie, heart failure
Kent Faust - homebound

Teachers at St. John's School

Ms. Frannie Jensen, 2nd Grade

Expectant Mothers

Rachael Franklin

Praise and Thanksgiving

*Alyssa Smith is back home safe with her family.
*Marriage of Tom Meyers and Charlotte LaFleur.

Schools, Colleges, Universities, & Seminaries of our Synod

St. John's Lutheran School
Stirred to Love Partner – Immanuel, Batavia
Walther Academy
Concordia Universities
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne

Civic Servants

Donald Trump – U.S. President
Jay Pritzker – Illinois Governor
Brandon Johnson – Chicago Mayor
James Gardiner – Ward 45th Alderman
Tammy Duckworth – Illinois Senator
Dick Durbin – Illinois Senator
Mike Quigley – U.S. Representative
Judges and magistrates
Police, firefighters, first responders
Military – Joel Reyes, John Zion, Landon Patino

Chronic illness

Damaris Cami - cancer
Linda W. – breast cancer
Mary Slattery – Rehab
Hans Roderich - Leukemia
Peggy Banks – bladder cancer
Karen Reber - cancer
Nancy – breast cancer
Tom – colon cancer
Connor – brain cancer
Leonard – cancer
Gage – cancer
Kathie - cancer
Vincent – pancreatic cancer
Lisa – breast cancer
K.D.D. – bone cancer
Joe Scifo - cancer
Roger Burhite - cancer
Becky – lung cancer
Janet C. – cancer setback
Janet S. – incurable cancer
Liz N. - cancer
Tamara Hoppe - cancer
Joseph E. Amante – blood cancer
Maritza Cortese - cancer
Rev. Ryan Beffrey - cancer
Lori M – lung cancer
Cheryl K. – breast cancer
Liz - cancer has returned
Kathy – shingles
Kristin Warnock, Anne King – MS
Mike, Carol **Runge**, Cathy: Parkinsons

Synod, District, and Circuit

Matthew Harrison – Synod President
Allan Buss – District President
Henry Biar – Circuit Visitor

School Families to Pray for

Cantu Family
Ledford Family
Suchite Family

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calendar

Sunday	October 25	9:00am	Divine Worship
		10:15am	Fellowship & Family Bible Hour – Fellowship Room
		1:30pm	Gym Rental - Ordiales
		6:00pm	Divine Worship
Monday	October 26	6:30pm	Gym Rental - Fall Play Practice
		7:00pm	LCC Rehearsal
Tuesday	October 27	8:00am	4th-8th Grade Children's Choir
		6:00pm	Music Room Rental – Eggert
		6:30pm	Gym Rental – Fall Play Practice
Wednesday	October 28	8:45am	Children's Chapel
		3:30am	Children's Handbells
Thursday	October 29	8:00am	4th-8th Grade Children's Choir
		4:00pm	5th & 6th Home Basketball Game vs. St. James
		6:30pm	Gym Rental – Fall Play Practice
Friday	October 30	8:35am	HSP Devotions
		9:00am	Ellinger Hall – Band
		3:30pm	Robotics – Maker's Space
Saturday	October 31		
Sunday	November 1	9:00am	Divine Worship
	All Saints Day	10:15am	Fellowship & Family Bible Hour – Fellowship Room
		1:00pm	Bowling Alley Rental – Velez
			High School Prep Course
		6:00pm	Divine Worship

News

Thought Of The Week.. To be the best, you must be able to handle the worst.

Don't Forget.. to join the Class of 2027 as they are hosting a Trivia Night on Saturday, November 7th right here at St. John's. Doors open at 6:30pm with trivia starting at 7:00pm! Spots are filling up fast so please RSVP by November 2nd. Sign up using the following link- https://forms.gle/8416Va4n41Av4QCK9

All Saints.. St. John's will be remembering those who died in 2026 on Sunday, November 1st at all services. If you have someone dear to you who was not a member of St. John's and would like their name to be remembered in prayer on that day, please call the office at 773-736-1112 or email Denise at dzanders@stjohnschicago.org.

The Joined Hands Food Pantry.. Is excited to announce that we will once again be hosting a Thanksgiving meal here at St. John's on Thanksgiving Day, Nov 26th from 12-4 PM. This is one of their favorite times of the year, as they reflect on the year as it winds down and express gratitude for our wonderful community. Whether you have been with them for one day or one decade, young or old, a client, volunteer, neighbor, or friend, this is for you. Please join them for delicious food, lively fellowship, and special entertainment.

School News.. Mark your calendar for St. John's performance of "One Stoplight Town" by Tracy Wells. Please plan on joining us on Friday, November 6th at 7pm.

InfoShare Meeting.. about Israel journey to be held November 1st. If you are interested in learning about a journey to Israel, Egypt, and Jordan in July of 2027 being led by Rev. Dr. Kirk Clayton of Concordia University Chicago, then feel free to come to an InfoShare Meeting on Sunday, November 1, 2026 to find out more and ask any questions you may have. The InfoShare Meeting will be held at St. John Lutheran Church (305 Circle Ave, Forest Park, IL) starting at noon on Nov. 1. A free Mediterranean-style meal will be provided at the church starting at 11:30 AM for any who are interested. Attending the meeting does not commit you to joining the journey, but it is a great chance to learn more about it, explore the itinerary, and ask any questions you might have. You are invited! For more information see https://purposefuljourneys.org/journeys/journey-of-fellowship/. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Dr. Kirk Clayton at Kirk.Clayton@CUCHicago.edu. Join the journey!

Halloween Candy For The Veterans.. Alderman Gardiner's office will be collecting your extra Halloween candy from November 2nd through the 13th at his office which is located at 5460 N. Milwaukee. Please donate sealed, wrapped candy only. Your donations will bring smiles to those who have bravely served our country.

Support Our 8th Graders.. by clearing out your closets, garage & basement for the "Stuff the Truck!" Fundrive.

St. John's Lutheran School is hosting a donation drive to raise money for the 8th Grade Trip. The donation truck will be stationed in the St. John's Lutheran School parking lot (4940 W. Montrose Ave., Chicago, IL 60641) on Friday, November 6th from 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM and Saturday, November 7th from 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM. The school earns money for every pound donated, so every bag counts! They are collecting the following items:

- Soft Goods (20¢/lb): Clothing, shoes, bedding, towels, purses, and belts.
- Hard Goods (10¢/lb): Toys, kitchenware, electronics, and sporting goods.
- Media (5¢/lb): Books, CDs, and DVDs.

How you can help: Please scan the QR code on the flyer or visit the school's fundraiser webpage to pledge your donation. For any questions, please contact Jeremy Benedict at jbenedict@stjohnschicago.org.

SERVING YOU IN TODAY'S WORSHIP..

Preacher: Pastor Jacob Ehrhard (9:00am & 6:00pm)
Organist: Mark Eggert (9:00am)
The Altar Guild: Laura Weith
Worship Assistant: (9:00am)
Timothy Eischen (6:00pm)
The Trustee: Ron Byall

Our Weekly Attendance in the Lord's House

Sunday, October 18, 2026

9:00 a.m.	61
6:00 p.m.	20