

Communion Practice: We believe that Christ is truly present in Holy Communion and, as we try to be faithful to Christ in the serving of this Sacrament, we ask that people be instructed before receiving Holy Communion. All confirmed members of this parish, who have been regularly examined by the Pastor, are welcome to partake of the Holy Eucharist today. We also welcome the members who are in good standing of any of the parishes served by the Bishops, Pastors, and Deacons of The Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America (ELDoNA), and who have spoken to the Pastor prior to the service. Members of other Lutheran parishes or other denominations are kindly asked to refrain from communing today. The Pastor would be glad to make an appointment with anyone to discuss our teachings and/or our parish.

A Prayer upon Entering Church

Almighty, Ever-Living God, grant that I may gladly hear Thy Word and that all my worship may be acceptable unto Thee; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

A Prayer before Communion

Dear Savior, upon Thy gracious invitation I come to Thine Altar. Let me find favor in Thine eyes that I may approach Thy Table in true faith and receive the Sacrament to the salvation of my soul. Amen.

A Prayer after Communion

O Thou blessed Savior Jesus Christ, Who hast given Thyself to me in this holy Sacrament, keep me in Thy faith and favor; as Thou livest in me, let me also live in Thee. May Thy holy Body and Blood preserve me in the true faith unto everlasting life. Amen.

A Prayer at the Close of the Service

Grant, I beseech Thee, Almighty God, that the Word which I have heard this day may through Thy grace be so engrafted in my heart that I may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

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The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord
December 25th, 2017

Sts. Peter & Paul Ev. Luth. Church, U.A.C.

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“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” St. John 1:14a

The Order of Divine Service

The Prelude	<i>“Antioch”</i>	Hugo Gehrke
The Ringing of the Bell		
Silent Prayer		
The Processional Hymn	<i>“A Great and Mighty Wonder”</i>	TLH 76
<i>Stand</i>		
The Confiteor		
The Invocation and Address		TLH p. 15
Versicles		TLH p. 15
Confession and Absolution		TLH p. 16
The Introit	<i>(Tone 5)</i>	INSERT
The Kyrie		TLH p. 17
The Gloria in Excelsis	<i>(Bell is rung throughout)</i>	TLH p. 17-19
The Salutation		TLH p. 19
The Collect for the Day		INSERT
<i>Sit</i>		
The Lesson		Isaiah 7:10-14
<i>After each Lesson:</i> V: This is the Word of the Lord.		
R: Thanks be to God.		
The Gradual		INSERT
The Epistle		Hebrews 1:1-12
The Verse		INSERT
The Triple Hallelujah	<i>(Second Setting)</i>	TLH p. 20
<i>Stand</i>		
The Sequence Hymn	<i>“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”</i>	Δ INSERT
The Holy Gospel		St. John 1:1-14
The Nicene Creed		TLH p. 22
<i>Sit</i>		
The Hymn	<i>“All Praise to Thee, Eternal God”</i>	TLH 80
The Sermon	<i>The Light Shines in the Darkness</i>	
<i>Stand</i>		
The Offertory	<i>“Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God”</i>	TLH p. 22-23
<i>Sit</i>		
The Offering		
<i>Stand</i>		
The General Prayer		TLH p. 23
<i>Sit</i>		
The Hymn	<i>“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”</i>	TLH 91
<i>Stand</i>		
The Preface		TLH p. 24
The Proper Preface		TLH p. 25
The Sanctus and Benedictus	<i>(Bell is rung throughout)</i>	TLH p. 26

The Lord’s Prayer		TLH p. 27
The Verba Domini		TLH p. 27
The Pax Domini		TLH p. 27
The Agnus Dei		TLH p. 28
<i>Sit</i>		
The Distribution		
Hymns:	<i>“O Lord, We Welcome Thee”</i>	TLH 93
	<i>“Now Praise We Christ, the Holy One”</i>	TLH 104
<i>Stand</i>		
The Post-Communion Canticle	<i>“The Nunc Dimittis”</i>	TLH p. 29-30
The Thanksgiving	<i>(“And His mercy endureth forever”)</i>	TLH p. 30
The Post-Communion Collect		
<i>Sit</i>		
The Hymn	<i>“O Gladsome Light, O Grace”</i>	TLH 101
<i>Stand</i>		
The Salutation		TLH p. 31
The Benedicamus		TLH p. 31
The Benediction		TLH p. 31
Silent Prayer		
<i>Sit</i>		
Announcements		
The Postlude	<i>“Nun danket alle Gott”</i>	Georg Friedrich Kaufmann

Δ—indicates a hymn ending in a Doxological stanza; please stand.

Christmas Season Schedule

December 31st

The First Sunday after Christmas Divine Service 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study 11:15 a.m.

January 1st

The Circumcision of Our Lord

January 6th

The Epiphany of Our Lord Divine Service 7:00 p.m.

January 7th

The First Sunday after Epiphany Divine Service 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study 11:15 a.m.

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 25th, 2017



Introit

P: UN- TO || us a Child is born, unto us a Son is | giv- | en; *

C: And the government will be up- | on | His | shoul- | der.

P: || His name shall be called Wonder *-ful*, (+) Counselor, the Mighty |
God, | - *

C: The Everlasting Father, | the | Prince | of | Peace. (*Isaiah 9:6*)

P: || Oh, sing to the Lord a new | song! | - *

C: For He has done | mar- | ve- | lous | things;

P: || The Lord has made known His sal- | va- | tion; *

C: His righteousness He has revealed in the sight | of | the | na- | tions.

P: || He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of |
Is-ra- · | el; *

C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salva- | tion | of | our | God.

P: || Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the | earth; | - *

C: Break forth in song, rejoice, | and | sing | prais- | es. (*Psalms 98:1-4*)

GLORIA PATRI (From Hymnal)

P: || Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is | giv- | en; *

C: And the government will be up- | on | His | shoul- | der.

P: || His name shall be called Wonder *-ful*, (+) Counselor, the Mighty |
God, | - *

C: The Everlasting Father, | the | Prince | of | Peace. (*Isaiah 9:6*)

Collect

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that the new birth of Thine Only-Begotten Son in the flesh may set us free, who are held in the old bondage under the yoke of sin; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.



Gradual

P: || All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our | God. | - *

C: Shout joyfully to the | Lord, | all | the | earth.

P: || The Lord has made known His sal- | va- | tion; *

C: His righteousness He has revealed in the sight | of | the | na- | tions.
(*Psalms 98:3b, 4a, 2*)

Verse

P: || Alle- | lu- | ia! *

C: Al- | — | le- | lu- | ia!

P: || Oh come, let us sing to the | Lord! | - *

C: Let us worship and bow down before Him. | Al- | le- | lu- | ia!(*Ps. 95:1a,6a,c*)

Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰ Moreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹“Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!” ¹³ Then he said, “Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

Hebrews 1:1-12

¹ God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³ who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. ⁵ For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, today I have begotten You?” And again: “I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son?” ⁶ But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him.” ⁷ And of the angels He says: “Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire.” ⁸ But to the Son He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than

Your companions.” ¹⁰ And: “You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. ¹¹ They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; ¹² Like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.”

St. John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. ⁸ He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. ⁹ That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

TLH 76 “A Great and Mighty Wonder”

St. Germanus, died 734

1. A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The Virgin bears the Infant
With virgin honor pure!
Repeat the hymn again:
“To God on high be glory
And peace on Earth to men!”

2. The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky.
Repeat the hymn again:
“To God on high be glory
And peace on Earth to men!”

3. While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,
Ye oceans, clap your hands.
Repeat the hymn again:
“To God on high be glory
And peace on Earth to men!”

4. Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The Infant born in Bethl’em,
The Savior and the Lord.
Repeat the hymn again:
“To God on high be glory
And peace on Earth to men!”

5. And idol forms shall perish,
And error shall decay,
And Christ shall wield His scepter,
Our Lord and God for aye.
Repeat the hymn again:
“To God on high be glory
And peace on Earth to men!” Amen.

Sequence Hymn

INSERT “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Aurelius C. Prudentius, died 413

1. Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the Source, the Ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

2. Oh, that birth forever blessed
When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bare the Savior of our race,
And the Babe, the world’s Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

3. O ye heights of Heav’n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Pow’rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on Earth be silent,
Ev’ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

4. This is He whom Heav’n-taught singers
Sang of old with one accord;
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the Long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

Δ 5. Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

TLH 80 “All Praise to Thee, Eternal God”

Latin Sequence Hymn, 11th century; German version,
St. 1, Unknown, 1370; Sts. 2-5, Martin Luther, 1524

1. All praise to Thee, eternal God,
Who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood,
Dost take a manger for Thy throne,
While worlds on worlds are Thine alone.
Hallelujah!

2. Once did the skies before Thee bow;
A virgin’s arms contain Thee now,
While angels, who in Thee rejoice,
Now listen for Thine infant voice.
Hallelujah!

3. A little Child, Thou art our Guest
That weary ones in Thee may rest;
Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth
That we may rise to Heav’n from Earth.
Hallelujah!

4. Thou comest in the darksome night
To make us children of the light,
To make us in the realms divine,
Like Thine own angels, round Thee shine.
Hallelujah!

5. All this for us Thy love hath done;
By This to Thee our love is won;
For this our joyful songs we raise
And shout our thanks in ceaseless praise.
Hallelujah! Amen.

TLH 91 “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

Heinrich Held, 1659

1. Let the Earth now praise the Lord.
Who hath truly kept His word
And the sinners’ Help and Friend
Now at last to us doth send.

2. What the fathers most desired,
What the prophets’ heart inspired,
What they longed for many a year,
Stands fulfilled in glory here.

3. Abram’s promised great Reward,
Zion’s Helper, Jacob’s Lord,—
Him of twofold race behold,—
Truly came, as long foretold.

4. Welcome, O my Savior, now!
Hail! My Portion, Lord, art Thou.
Here, too, in my heart, I pray,
Oh, prepare Thyself a way!

5. King of Glory, enter in;
Cleanse it from the filth of sin,
As Thou hast so often done;
It belongs to Thee alone.

6. As Thy coming was in peace,
Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me
That was ever found in Thee.

7. Comfort my desponding heart:
Thou my Strength and Refuge art.
I am weak, and cunningly
Satan lays his snares for me.

8. Bruise for me the Serpent’s head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cleave to Thee in faith,
Safely kept through life and death,

9. And when Thou dost come again
As a glorious King to reign,
I with joy may see Thy face,
Freely ransomed by Thy grace. Amen.

TLH 93 “O Lord, We Welcome Thee”

Caspar Ziegler, 1648

1. O Lord, we welcome Thee,
Our hearts for joy are leaping.
Thou, Jesus, dearest Child,
Thy precious promise keeping,
Art come from Heav’n to Earth
To be our Brother dear;
Thou, gracious Son of God,
Wilt banish all our fear.

2. The mighty Son of God,
His majesty concealing,
Dwells with our fallen race
To give us balm and healing.
The everlasting God
Descends from realms above,
Becomes a winsome Child,
Reveals His Father’s love.

3. Ah, sweet and gentle Name!
Its echoes far are sounding,
It pierces hearts of stone
And tells of love abounding.
O Jesus, dearest Child,
On Thee will we rely,
And, calling on Thy Name,
We die not when we die.

4. To Thee alone we cling,
For Thee all else forsaking;
On Thee alone we build
Tho’ Heav’n and Earth be quaking.
To Thee alone we live,
In Thee alone we die;
O Jesus, dearest Lord,
With Thee we reign on high. Amen.

TLH 104 “Now Praise We Christ, the Holy One”

Coelius Sedulius, about 450; German version, Martin Luther, 1524, abridged

1. Now praise we Christ, the Holy One,
The blessed Virgin Mary’s Son,
Far as the glorious sun doth shine,
E’en to the world’s remote confine.

2. He Who Himself all things did make
A servant's form vouchsafed to take
That He as man mankind might win
And save His creatures from their sin.

3. The grace and pow'r of God the Lord
Upon the mother was outpoured;
A virgin pure and undefiled
In wondrous wise conceived a child.

4. The noble mother bore a Son,—
For so did Gabriel's promise run,—
Whom John confessed and leaped with joy
Ere yet the mother knew her Boy.

5. Upon a manger filled with hay
In poverty content He lay;
With milk was fed the Lord of all,
Who feeds the ravens when they call.

6. The heavenly choirs rejoice and raise
Their voice to God in songs of praise.
To humble shepherds is proclaimed
The Shepherd Who the world hath framed.

7. All honor unto Christ be paid,
Pure Offspring of the favored maid,
With Father and with Holy Ghost,
Till time in endless time be lost. Amen.

TLH 101 "O Gladsome Light, O Grace"
Unknown, about 200

1. O gladsome Light, O Grace
Of God the Father's Face,
Th' eternal splendor wearing;
Celestial, holy, blest,
Our Savior Jesus Christ,
Joyful in Thine appearing!

2. Now, ere day fadeth quite,
We see the evening light,
Our wonted hymn outpouring,
Father of might unknown,
Thee, His incarnate Son,
And Holy Ghost adoring.

3. To Thee of right belongs
All praise of holy songs,
O Son of God, Life-giver;
Thee, therefore, O Most High,
The world doth glorify
And shall exalt forever. Amen.