

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 everyone be examined and instructed by the Pastor 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 Bishop, 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.



Gaudete
December 15th, 2019

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

A Parish Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America

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“Blessed is he who takes no offense at Me”

St. Matthew 11:6

The Order of Divine Service

The Ringing of the Bell

Silent Prayer

The Hymn "Once He Came in Blessing" TLH 74

Stand

The Confiteor

The Invocation and Address TLH p. 15

Versicles TLH p. 15

Confession and Absolution TLH p. 16

The Introit (Tone 6) INSERT

The Kyrie TLH p. 17

The Salutation TLH p. 19

The Collect for the Day INSERT

The Collect for the Season of Advent INSERT

Sit

The Lesson Malachi 3:1-6

After each Lesson: V: This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

The Epistle 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

The Gradual INSERT

The Verse INSERT

Stand

The Holy Gospel St. Matthew 11:2-10

The Nicene Creed TLH p. 22

Sit

The Hymn "God's Only Son, Our Savior" INSERT

The Sermon *I Send My Messenger Before Your Face*

Stand

The Offertory "Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God" TLH p. 22-23

Sit

The Recitation of the Catechism The Office of the Keys and Confession

The Offering

Stand

The General Prayer TLH p. 23

Sit

The Hymn "O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee" TLH 58 (Second Tune)

Stand

The Preface TLH p. 24

The Proper Preface TLH p. 25

The Sanctus and Benedictus 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

Sit

The Distribution

Stand

The Canticle "The Nunc Dimittis" TLH p. 29-30

The Thanksgiving ("And His mercy endureth forever") TLH p. 30

The Post-Communion Collect

Sit

The Hymn "Ye Sons of Men, Oh, Hearken" TLH 75

Stand

The Salutation TLH p. 31

The Benedicamus TLH p. 31

The Benediction TLH p. 31

Silent Prayer

Sit

Announcements

Christmas Season Schedule

December 24th

The Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord Private Confession 6:30 p.m.

Divine Service 7:00 p.m.

December 25th

The Nativity of Our Lord Divine Service 10:00 a.m.

December 26th

St. Stephen, Protomartyr and Deacon

December 27th

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

December 28th

Holy Innocents' Day

December 29th

The First Sunday after Christmas Divine Service 10:00 a.m.

Bible Class 11:15 a.m.

January 1st

The Circumcision of Our Lord Private Confession 9:30 a.m.

Divine Service 10:00 a.m.

January 5th

The Second Sunday after Christmas Divine Service 10:00 a.m.

Bible Class 11:15 a.m.

Divine Service 3:00 p.m. Augusta, GA

Bible Class 4:15 p.m. Augusta, GA

January 6th

The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord Private Confession 6:30 p.m.

Divine Service 7:00 p.m.

An Excerpt from Luther's Writings

“Christ answered John...in a twofold way...Here Christ first points them to the works, and then also to the words saying ‘And blessed is he, whosoever shall find no occasion of stumbling in me.’ With these words He does not only confess that He is the Christ, but also warns them against finding occasion of stumbling in Him....For one can dispense with all the saints, but Christ is the only One that no man can dispense with.” *From the Church Postil for Gaudete.*

In Our Prayers:

- For all those who are sick or infirmed, especially, *Emily Benson, Peggy Holder, Jo Kope, Betty Ramsey, Brandon Dennie, Nellie Noegel, Judy Horn, Richard Noegel, Tamara Jack, Mike Miller, Doris Armstrong, Barbara Miller, Matthew Scholten, Vince Bost, Rev. Donald Hunter, and Rev. Mark Mueller.*
- For *Silvia diGregorio* that her faith may be strengthened.
- For our bishop, the *Rt. Rev. James D. Heiser.*
- For the parishes served by our diocese, especially, *St. Boniface Ev. Lutheran Church, Niles, MI*; and her pastor, the *Rev. John Rutowicz.*
- For our seminary, *St. Ignatius Evangelical Theological Lutheran Seminary.*
- For all those who serve in the military, especially, *Nicholas Silva.*
- For those struggling with addiction, especially, *Thomas Allred and John Monahan.*
- For those near death.
- For those celebrating a birthday this week, especially *Rt. Rev. James D. Heiser.*
- For those celebrating an anniversary this week.
- For those traveling this week.

Announcements

Daily Readings for the Week after Gaudete

	Morning	Evening
Today	Isaiah 57-58; Luke 1:39-56	Isaiah 59-60; Romans 1:16-25
Monday:	Isaiah 61-62; Heb. 10:35-39	Isaiah 63-64; Isaiah 2:1-5
Tuesday:	Isaiah 65-66; Luke 21:5-24	St. Matthew 1-2; Isaiah 24:21—25:5
Wednesday:	Matt. 3-4; Luke 12:35-59	St. Matthew 5-6; Isaiah 25:6-10
Thursday:	Matt. 7-8; James 5:7-11	St. Matthew 9-10; Isaiah 26:1-21
Friday:	Matt. 11-12; Luke 1:1-25	St. Matthew 13-14; Isaiah 51:1-16
Saturday:	Matt. 15-16; Luke 1:26-38	St. Matthew 17-18; Isaiah 52:1-12

Praying the Psalter Daily in Matins and Vespers:

	Morning	Evening
Today:	Psalms 4, 77	Psalms 98, 78
Monday:	Psalms 4, 79-80	Psalms 98, 81-83
Tuesday:	Psalms 4, 84-85	Psalms 98, 86-88
Wednesday:	Psalms 4, 89	Psalms 98, 90-92
Thursday:	Psalms 4, 93-95	Psalms 96-100
Friday:	Psalms 4, 101-102	Psalms 98, 103-104
Saturday:	Psalms 4, 105	Psalms 145, 106

Book of Concord Readings for the Week:

Monday: The Large Catechism, I.30-48
Tuesday: The Large Catechism, I.49-60
Wednesday: The Large Catechism, I.61-74
Thursday: The Large Catechism, I.75-87
Friday: The Large Catechism, I.88-102

Reciting the Catechism Daily:

Sunday: Ten Commandments
Monday: Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer
Tuesday: Baptism, Lord's Supper
Wednesday: Prayers

Thursday: Table of Duties

Friday: Office of Keys and Confession

Saturday: Christian Questions with Their Answers

Hymns for the Week:

Morning: INSERT—"God's Only Son, Our Savior"

Evening: TLH 58 (Second Tune)—"O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee"

Calendar for the Week after Gaudete

Today: Gaudete—Violet

10:00 a.m. Divine Service

11:15 a.m. Bible class

Bishop Heiser's Birthday

Monday: No Events Scheduled

Tuesday: *O Sapientia*

Wednesday: Autumn Ember Day—Violet

O Adonai

7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Vespers

8:00 p.m. Private Confession

Thursday: *O Radix Jesse*

Friday: Autumn Ember Day—Violet

O Clavis David

Saturday: The Festival of St. Thomas, Apostle/Autumn Ember Day—Red

Winter Begins

O Oriens

Next Sunday: Rorate coeli—Violet

O Rex Gentium

10:00 a.m. Divine Service

11:15 a.m. Bible Class

Noon – Decorate Church for Christmas

3:00 p.m. Divine Service in Augusta, GA

4:15 p.m. Bible class in Augusta, GA

The Lutheran Herald

The December issue of "The Lutheran Herald," the devotional booklet of the ELDoNA, is now available. It can be found on Facebook at: <http://tinyurl.com/LutheranHerald>. There are also printed copies in the back of the nave.

Needs for the McCall Hospice House

There is need at the hospice house for the following items: Hard Candy (individually wrapped) any kind, mints included; Chips, individual size, any kind; Ponytail Holders; Notebooks and notepads; Men's deodorant; Hair brushes; Q-Tips; Toothpaste, in regular and travel size; and Individual teeth flossers.

Other needs for in-home patients: XL Twin Sheet Sets; Ensure, any kind; and Baby wipes and adult wipes. Please give all collected items to Mike Miller.

Ask the Pastor

The Rev. Joshua Sullivan of Holy Cross Ev. Luth. Church, Kerrville, TX puts out weekly videos dealing with a wide range of theological topics. Please check them out and subscribe to be notified when a new one is published at <http://www.youtube.com/user/ATPHolyCross>.

Midweek Advent Vespers

The last of this year's Midweek Advent Vespers will be this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Private Confession will be offered after the Office.

Poinsettias for Christmas

We are asking all members to please consider donating a poinsettia plant to decorate our sanctuary for the season of Christmas. You may start bringing them next Sunday.

To Read in Preparation for this week's Festivals:

Today—Gaudete

Old Testament Lesson:

Malachi 3:1-6

Epistle:

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Holy Gospel:

St. Matthew 11:2-10

December 21st—The Festival of St. Thomas, Apostle

Old Testament Lesson:

Judges 6:36-40

Epistle:

Ephesians 1:3-6

Holy Gospel:

St. John 20:24-31

December 22nd—Rorate coeli

Old Testament Lesson:

Isaiah 40:1-8

Epistle:

Philippians 4:4-7

Holy Gospel:

St. John 1:19-28

GAUDETE

December 15th, 2019



Introit

P: RE- **JOICE** - || in the | Lord | al- | ways. *

C: Again will | I | **say**, - | re- | joice!

P: || Let your gentleness be known | to | all | men. *

C: The | Lord | **is** - | at | hand.

P: || Be anxious | for | no- | thing, *

C: But in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be | made | **known** - | to | God. (*Philippians 4:4-6*)

P: || Lord, You have been favorable | to | Your | land; *

C: You have brought back the captivi- | ty | **of** - | Ja- | cob.

P: || You have forgiven the iniquity of | Your | peo- | ple; *

C: You have co- | vered | **all** - | their | sin.

P: || Will You not revive | us | a- | gain, *

C: That Your people may | re- | **joice** - | in | You?

P: || I will hear what God the | Lord | will | speak, *

C: For He will speak peace | to | **His** - | peo- | ple. (*Psalms 85:1-2, 6, 8*)

GLORIA PATRI (From Hymnal)

P: || Rejoice in the | Lord | al- | ways. *

C: Again will | I | **say**, - | re- | joice!

P: || Let your gentleness be known | to | all | men. *

C: The | Lord | **is** - | at | hand.

P: || Be anxious | for | no- | thing, *

C: But in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be | made | **known** - | to | God. (*Philippians 4:4-6*)

Collect

Lord, we beseech Thee, give ear to our prayers and lighten the darkness of our hearts by Thy gracious visitation; Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

Collect for the Season of Advent

Stir up, we beseech Thee, Thy power, O Lord, and come, that by Thy protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Thy mighty deliverance; Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.



Gradual

P: || You who dwell between the cheru- | bim, | shine | forth! *

C: Stir up | Your | **strength** - | and | come!

P: || Give ear, O Shepherd | of | Is- | *ra-el*, • *

C: You who lead Jo- | seph | **like** - | a | flock. (*Psalms 80:1b, 1a*)

Verse

P: || Al- | le- | lu- | ia! *

C: Al- | — | **le** - | lu- | ia!

P: || Stir | up | Your | strength, *

C: And come and save us! | Al- | **le** - | lu- | ia! (*Psalms 80:2b*)

Malachi 3:1-6

¹ “Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” says the LORD of hosts. ² “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like launderer’s soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the LORD, as in the days of old, as in former years. ⁵ And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness against sorcerers, against adulterers, against perjurers, against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, and against those who turn away an alien—because they do not fear Me,” says the LORD of hosts. ⁶ “For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.”

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

¹ Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. ³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. ⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who

will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God.

St. Matthew 11:2-10

² And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples ³ and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: ⁵ ‘The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.’” ⁷ As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ For this is he of whom it is written: ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.’”

TLH 74 “Once He Came in Blessing”

Johann Roh, 1544

1. Once He came in blessing,
All our ills redressing;
Came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us,
Hope and freedom gave us.

2. Still He comes within us,
Still His voice would win us
From the sins that hurt us;
Would to Truth convert us
From our foolish errors
Ere He comes in terrors.

3. Thus, if thou hast known Him,
Not ashamed to own Him,
But wilt trust Him boldly
Nor dost love Him coldly,
He will then receive thee,
Heal thee, and forgive thee.

4. He who thus endureth
Bright reward secureth.
Come, then, O Lord Jesus,
From our sins release us;
Let us here confess Thee
Till in Heav’n we bless Thee. Amen.

INSERT “God’s Only Son, Our Savior”

Elisabeth Cruciger, 1524, translated by Rev. Paul Rydecki, 2018

1. God’s only Son, our Savior,
From God’s own bosom came,
Eternally begotten,
In essence e’er the same.
True Light from Light proceeding,
His brightness ne’er receding,
He is the Morning Star.

2. Born of a Virgin Mother—
Pure, chaste, and undefiled—
He came in time, our Brother,
A precious human Child.
Grim death for us enduring,
Our heav’nly home securing,
He now hath life restored.

3. May we, in Thee abiding,
In faith and love increase,
That we, in Thee confiding,

May serve in joy and peace,
That e’en here in our weakness
We yet may taste Thy sweetness
And ever thirst for Thee.

4. O Thou of all Creator,
By Thine own pow’r and might,
Reign mightily o’er all things,
As pleasing in Thy sight;
Turn Thou our hearts from sinning,
Remove sin’s first beginning,
Lest we from Thee should stray.

5. Lord, kill us by Thy kindness,
And raise us up by grace;
Destroy the Old Man’s vigor,
That we may life embrace.
And while below we wander
Help us Thy love to ponder
That we may love Thee more. Amen.

TLH 58 (Second Tune) “O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee”

Paul Gerhardt, 1653

1. O Lord, how shall I meet Thee,
How welcome Thee aright?
Thy people long to greet Thee,
My Hope, my heart’s Delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord, most holy,
Thy lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please Thee best.

2. Thy Zion strews before Thee
Green boughs and fairest palms,
And I, too, will adore Thee
With joyous songs and psalms.
My heart shall bloom forever
For Thee with praises new
And from Thy Name shall never
Withhold the honor due.

3. I lay in fetters, groaning,
Thou com’st to set me free;
I stood, my shame bemoaning,
Thou com’st to honor me;
A glory Thou dost give me,
A treasure safe on high,
That will not fail or leave me
As earthly riches fly.

4. Love caused Thy incarnation,
Love brought Thee down to me;

Thy thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling,
That led Thee to embrace,
In love all love excelling,
Our lost and fallen race!

5. Rejoice, then, ye sad-hearted,
Who sit in deepest gloom,
Who mourn o'er joys departed
And tremble at your doom.
Despair not, He is near you,
Yea, standing at the door,
Who best can help and cheer you
And bids you weep no more.

6. Ye need not toil nor languish
Nor ponder day and night
How in the midst of anguish
Ye draw Him by your might.
He comes, He comes all willing,
Moved by His love alone,
Your woes and troubles stilling;
For all to Him are known.

7. Sin's debt, that fearful burden,
Let not your souls distress;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon
And cover by His grace.
He comes, for men procuring
The peace of sin forgiven,
For all God's sons securing
Their heritage in Heaven.

8. What though the foes be raging,
Heed not their craft and spite;
Your Lord, the battle waging,
Will scatter all their might.
He comes, a King most glorious,
And all His earthly foes
In vain His course victorious
Endeavor to oppose.

9. He comes to judge the nations,
A terror to His foes,
A Light of consolations
And blessed Hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing.
O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth Thy beams so cheering,
And guide us safely home. Amen.

TLH 75 "Ye Sons of Men, Oh, Harken"
Valentine Thilo, Jr., 1659

1. Ye sons of men, oh, hearken:
Your heart and mind prepare;
To hail th' Almighty Savior,
O sinners, be your care.
He who of grace alone
Our Life and Light was given,
The promised Lord from Heaven,
Unto our world is shown.

2. Prepare the way before Him;
Prepare for Him the best.
Cast out whate'er offendeth
This great, this heav'nly Guest
Make straight, make plain, the way:
The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing,
His path all even lay.

3. The humble heart and lowly
God lifteth up on high;
Beneath His feet in anguish
The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart, sincere and right,
That heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation,
It is the Lord's delight.

4. Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus,
Turn not from me aside,
And grant that I receive Thee
This blessed Adventide.
From stall and manger low
Come Thou to dwell within me;
Loud praises will I sing Thee
And forth glory show. Amen.

God's Only Son, Our Savior

Elisabeth Cruciger, 1524
Tr. Paul Rydecki, 2018

HERR CHRIST, DER EINIG GOTTS SOHN

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The score begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The first system contains the first three verses of the hymn. The second system contains the fourth and fifth verses. The third system contains the sixth and seventh verses. The fourth system contains the eighth and ninth verses. The fifth system contains the tenth and eleventh verses. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat signs.

1 God's on - ly Son, our Sav - ior, From God's own bo - som
2 Born of a vir - gin - mo - ther— Pure, chaste, and un - de -
3 May we, in Thee a - bid - ing, In faith and love in -

came, E - ter - nal - ly be - got - ten, In es - sence e'er the
fied— He came in time, our Broth - er, A pre - cious hu - man
crease, That we, in Thee con - fid - ing, May serve in joy and

same. True Light from Light pro - ceed - ing, His bright - ness ne'er re -
Child. Grim death for us en - dur - ing, Our heav'n - ly home se -
peace, That e'en here in our weak - ness We yet may taste Thy

ce - ding, He is the Mor - ning Star.
cur - ing, He now hath life re - stored.
sweet - ness And ev - er thirst for Thee. A - men.

4 O Thou of all Creator,
By Thine own pow'r and might,
Reign mightily o'er all things,
As pleasing in Thy sight;
Turn Thou our hearts from sinning,
Remove sin's first beginning,
Lest we from Thee should stray.

5 Lord, kill us by Thy kindness,
And raise us up by grace;
Destroy the Old Man's vigor,
That we may life embrace.
And while below we wander
Help us Thy love to ponder
That we may love Thee more.