

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 13th, 2020

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 Ringing of the Bell		
Silent Prayer		
Hymn	<i>“Once He Came in Blessing”</i>	TLH 74
<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 6)</i>	INSERT
The Kyrie		TLH p. 17
The Salutation		TLH p. 19
The Collect for the Day		INSERT
The Collect for the Season of Advent		
The Collect for the Festival of St. Lucia of Syracuse, Virgin and Martyr		
<i>Sit</i>		
The Lesson		Malachi 3:1-6
<i>After each Lesson:</i>	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
<i>Stand</i>		
The Hallelujah		TLH p. 20
The Holy Gospel		St. Matthew 11:2-10
The Nicene Creed	<i>(Replace “Christian” with “catholic”)</i>	TLH p. 22
<i>Sit</i>		
The Hymn	<i>“God’s Only Son, Our Savior”</i>	INSERT
The Sermon	<i>Are You the Coming One?</i>	
<i>Stand</i>		
The Offertory	<i>“Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God”</i>	TLH p. 22-23
<i>Sit</i>		
The Recitation of the Catechism		The Sacrament of the Altar
<i>Stand</i>		
The General Prayer		TLH p. 23
<i>Sit</i> *		
The Hymn	<i>“The Advent of our King”</i>	Δ TLH 68
<i>Stand</i>		
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

<i>Sit</i>		
The Distribution		
The Hymn	<i>“The Nicene Creed” (Ancient Chant)</i>	INSERT
<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		TLH p. 31
<i>Sit</i>		
The Hymn	<i>“Ye Sons of Men, Oh, Hearken”</i>	TLH 75
<i>Stand</i>		
The Salutation		TLH p. 31
The Benedicamus		TLH p. 31
The Benediction		TLH p. 31

Christmas Season Schedule

December 24th	<i>The Vigil of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord</i> Private Confession 6:30 p.m. Candlelight Divine Service 7:00 p.m.
December 25th	<i>The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord</i> Divine Service 10:00 a.m.
December 26th	<i>The Festival of St. Stephen, Protomartyr and Deacon</i>
December 27th	<i>The First Sunday after Christmas/The Festival of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist (Commemorated)</i> Divine Service 10:00 a.m. Bible Class 11:15 a.m.
December 28th	<i>Holy Innocents' Day</i> Divine Service 5:00 p.m. Myrtle Beach, SC
January 1st	<i>The Festival of the Circumcision of Our Lord</i> Private Confession 9:30 a.m. Divine Service 10:00 a.m.
January 3rd	<i>The Second Sunday after Christmas</i> Divine Service 10:00 a.m. Bible Class 11:15 a.m. Divine Service 3:00 p.m. Augusta, GA
January 6th	<i>The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord</i> Private Confession 6:30 p.m. Divine Service 7:00 p.m.
January 13th	<i>The Festival of the Baptism of our Lord</i> Private Confession 6:30 p.m. Divine Service 7:00 p.m.

In Our Prayers:

- For all those who are sick or infirmed, especially, *Emily Benson, Peggy Holder, Jo Kope, Betty Ramsey, Brandon Dennie, Nellie Noegel, Katie, Dan, Judy Horn, Richard Noegel, Patricia Bachand, Tamara Jack, Mike Miller, Barbara Miller, Matthew Scholten, Vince Bost, Janice Heitener, Ray Heitener, Pat Stefanski, Tonya Turenko, Flora Turenko, Ksenia Turenko, Roman Turenko, Martin Kope, Bill Kope, Sally Kope, Connie Dulas, Edward Dulas, and Rev. Mark Mueller.*
- For our bishop, the Rt. Rev. *James D. Heiser.*
- For the parishes served by our diocese, and those in our international fellowship, especially, *Emmanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, NM; Sts. Peter and Paul Ev. Lutheran Mission, Silver City, NM;* and their pastor, the Rev. *Paul Rydecki.*
- For our seminary, *St. Ignatius Lutheran Theological Seminary.*
- For our seminarians, *Ben Henson, Jacob Henson, John Heiser, and Roman Turenko.*
- For all those who serve in the military, especially, *Nicholas Silva.*
- For those struggling with addiction, especially, *Thomas Allred and John Monahan.*
- For *Silvia DiGregorio* that her faith may be strengthened.
- For the moral and spiritual support of those involved with our mission in Knoxville, TN, especially, *Ana Heiser, Bobby Eisold, Barb Eisold, and Bob Eisold.*
- For those affected by the coronavirus.
- For those who are suffering unemployment.
- For those near death.
- For those celebrating a birthday this week, especially *Bishop 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 49-50; Luke 1:39-56	Isaiah 51-52; Romans 1:16-25
Monday:	Isaiah 53-54; Heb. 10:35-39	Isaiah 55-56; Isaiah 2:1-5
Tuesday:	Isaiah 57-58; Luke 21:5-24	Isaiah 59-60; Isaiah 24:21—25:5
Wednesday:	Isaiah 61-62; Luke 12:35-59	Isaiah 63-64; Isaiah 25:6-10
Thursday:	Isaiah 65-66; James 5:7-11	St. Matthew 1-2; Isaiah 26:1-21
Friday:	Matthew 3-4; Luke 1:1-25	St. Matthew 5-6; Isaiah 51:1-16
Saturday:	Matthew 7-8; Luke 1:26-38	St. Matthew 9-10; Isaiah 52:1-12

Praying the Psalter Daily in Matins and Vespers:

	Morning	Evening
Today:	Psalms 4, 69	Psalms 98, 70-72
Monday:	Psalms 4, 73	Psalms 98, 74-76
Tuesday:	Psalms 4, 77	Psalms 98, 78
Wednesday:	Psalms 4, 79-80	Psalms 98, 81-83
Thursday:	Psalms 4, 84-85	Psalms 98, 86-88
Friday:	Psalms 4, 89	Psalms 98, 90-92
Saturday:	Psalms 4, 93-95	Psalms 145, 96-100

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: The Ten Commandments
Monday: The Apostles' Creed, The Lord's Prayer
Tuesday: Holy Baptism, The Office of the Keys and Confession
Wednesday: The Sacrament of the Altar
Thursday: The Prayers

Friday: The Table of Duties

Saturday: Christian Questions with Their Answers

Hymns for the Week:

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

Evening: TLH 75—"Ye Sons of Men, Oh, Hearken"

Calendar for the Week after Gaudete

Today: Gaudete/The Festival of St. Lucia of Syracuse, Virgin and Martyr (Commemorated)—Violet

10:00 a.m. Divine Service

11:15 a.m. Bible Class

Monday: No Events Scheduled

Tuesday: Bishop Heiser's Birthday

Wednesday: Autumn Ember Day—Violet

7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Vespers

8:00 p.m. Private Confession

Thursday: *O Sapientia*

Friday: Autumn Ember Day—Violet

O Adonai

Saturday: Autumn Ember Day—Violet

O Radix Jesse

Next Sunday: Rorate coeli—Violet

O Clavis David

10:00 a.m. Divine Service

11:15 a.m. Bible Class

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> and on the diocesan website: eldona.org. There are also printed copies in the back of the nave for your use and distribution.

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

Midweek Advent Vespers continue this Wednesday. The readings will take us through the entire first chapter of St. Luke's Gospel. Private confession will follow at 8:00 p.m.

Poinsettias for Christmas

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

To Read in Preparation for this week's Festivals:

Today— Gaudete/The Festival of St. Lucia of Syracuse, Virgin and Martyr (Commemorated)

Old Testament Lesson:

Malachi 3:1-6

Epistle:

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Holy Gospel:

St. Matthew 11:2-10

December 20th—Rorate coeli

Old Testament Lesson:

Isaiah 40:1-8

Epistle:

Philippians 4:4-7

Holy Gospel:

St. John 1:19-28

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.*

GAUDETE

December 13th, 2020



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.’”

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant:

Congregation:

We be - lieve in one God, — Fa - - - ther Al - might - y,

Mak - er of heav - en and earth and of all things vi - si - ble

and in - vi - si - ble. And — in one Lord — + Jes - us Christ, —

the — only begotten - ten — Son of God, — be - got - ten of His Fa - ther

be - - - fore all - - - - worlds, God — of God,

Light — of Light, Ver - y God of Ver - y God,

Be - got - ten, not — made, Be - ing of one Sub - stance with the Fa - ther,

By — whom — all things were made; Who — for — us men,

and — for our sal - va - tion, came down — from heav - en,

+ And was in - car - nate by — the Ho - ly Ghost of — the Vir - gin Mar - y,

And was made — man; + And was cru - ci - fied al - so for us —

un - der Pon - tius Pi - late. He — suf - fered and was bur - ied;

And — the third — day He rose a - gain, ac - cord - ing to the Scrip - tures;

And as - cend - ed in - to heav - en, And sit - teth on the right hand of the Fa - ther;

And — He shall come again with glo - - - - - ry

to — judge both the quick — and the dead; Whose — kingdom shall have — no end.

And — we believe in the Ho - ly Ghost, — The Lord and Giv - er of Life,

Who pro - ceedeth from the Fa - ther and the Son, Who with the Fa - ther and the Son

to - geth - er is + wor - shipped And — glo - - - ri - fied,

Who — spake by — the Pro - phets. And we be - lieve one — Ho - ly cath - o - lic

And — Aposto - lic Church. — We — confess one — Bap - tism

for — the re - mis - - - sion of sins,

And — we look for the re - sur - rec - tion of — the dead;

+ And — the life of — the world — to come. A - - - - - men. —

+ — indicates that the worshippers may make a sign of reverence (bow the head, genuflect, or make the sign of the holy cross) as is appropriate.

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 basso continuo 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, ending 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
fled— 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.

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 68 “The Advent of Our King”

Charles Coffin, 1736

1. The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.

2. The Everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be;
Himself a servant’s form puts on
To set His servants free.

3. O Zion’s Daughter, rise
To meet thy lowly King,
Nor let thy faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.

4. As Judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in Heav’n to reign.

5. Before the dawning day
Let sin’s dark deeds be gone,
The old man all be put away,
The new man all put on.

Δ 6. All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever One,
Through all eternity. Amen.

TLH 75 “Ye Sons of Men, Oh, Hearken”

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 blessèd Adventide.

From stall and manger low

Come Thou to dwell within me;

Loud praises will I sing Thee

And forth glory show. Amen.