

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.



Rorate coeli
December 20th, 2020

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

A Parish Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America

215 N. Main St., Ste. 1-D

Simpsonville, SC 29681

(864) 412-6330

www.spplc.org

Pastor Jerald P Dulas

(864) 832-9005 (home)

pastor@spplc.org

Deacon Floyd P Smithey, Jr.

(865) 232-7109 (cell)

deacon@spplc.org

*“I am ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
“Make straight the way of the LORD.””*

St. John 1:23

The Order of Divine Service

The Ringing of the Bell	
Silent Prayer	
Hymn	“Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding” Δ TLH 60
<i>Stand</i>	
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
<i>Sit</i>	
The Lesson	Isaiah 40:1-8
<i>After each Lesson:</i> V: This is the Word of the Lord.	
R: Thanks be to God.	
The Epistle	Philippians 4:4-7
The Gradual	INSERT
The Verse	INSERT
<i>Stand</i>	
The Hallelujah	TLH p. 20
The Holy Gospel	St. John 1:19-28
The Nicene Creed	(Replace “Christian” with “catholic”) TLH p. 22
<i>Sit</i>	
The Hymn	“O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee?” TLH 58 (2 nd Tune)
The Sermon	<i>It Is He, Who Coming After Me, Is Preferred</i>
<i>Stand</i>	
The Offertory	“Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God” TLH p. 22-23
<i>Sit</i>	
The Recitation of the Catechism	The Table of Duties
<i>Stand</i>	
The General Prayer	TLH p. 23
<i>Sit</i> *	
The Hymn	“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel” INSERT
<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
The Agnus Dei	TLH p. 28

<i>Sit</i>	
The Distribution	
The Hymn	“The Nicene Creed” (Ancient Chant) INSERT
<i>Stand</i>	
The Post-Communion Canticle	“The Nunc Dimittis” TLH p. 29-30
The Thanksgiving	(“And His mercy endureth forever”) TLH p. 30
The Post-Communion Collect	TLH p. 31
<i>Sit</i>	
The Hymn	“Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People” TLH 61
<i>Stand</i>	
The Salutation	TLH p. 31
The Benedicamus	TLH p. 31
The Benediction	TLH p. 31
Silent Prayer	
<i>Sit</i>	
Announcements	
*—An Alms Basin is located next to the bulletins for any Offerings.	
Δ—indicates a hymn ending in a Doxological stanza; please stand.	

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.

Gospel:

St. Luke 2:33-40

An Excerpt from Luther's Writings

“John likewise directs the people away from himself to Christ. And although this is a higher and greater office than that of a prophet, yet it is not so on account of his merit, but on account of the presence of his Master. And in praising John for being more than a prophet, not his worthiness but that of his Master, Who is present, is extolled.” *From the Church Postil for Rorate coeli, 1520s.*

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, 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, *Christ Ev. Lutheran Church, Richmond, MO;* and her pastor, the *Rev. Josiah Scheck.*
- 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.
- For those celebrating an anniversary this week.
- For those traveling this week.

Announcements**Daily Readings for the Week after Rorate coeli & Christmas**

	Morning	Evening
Today	Matt. 11-12; Luke 1:67-80	St. Matthew 13-14; Hebrews 12:15-29
Monday:	Matt. 15-16; Matt. 1:18-25	St. Matthew 17-18; Isaiah 40:1-11
Tuesday:	Matt. 19-20; Luke 1:39-45	St. Matthew 21-22; Malachi 3:1-7
Wednesday:	Matt. 23-24; Luke 1:46-56	St. Matthew 25; Malachi 4:1-6
Thursday:	Matt. 26-27; Luke 1:57-66	St. Matthew 28; Isaiah 28:14-19
Friday:	Romans 1-3; Luke 1:67-80	Romans 4-6; Isaiah 7:1-17
Saturday:	Romans 7-9; Matt. 1:1-17	Romans 10-12; Micah 5:1-5

Praying the Psalter Daily in Matins and Vespers:

	Morning	Evening
Today:	Psalms 5, 101-102	Psalms 145, 103-104
Monday:	Psalms 5, 105	Psalms 145, 106
Tuesday:	Psalms 5, 107	Psalms 145, 108-111
Wednesday:	Psalms 5, 112-115	Psalms 145, 116-118
Thursday:	Psalms 5, 119:1-40	Ps. 89, 110, 132, 119:41-88
Friday:	Ps. 19, 45, 85, 119:89-128	Ps. 89, 110, 132, 119:129-176
Saturday:	Psalms 19, 45, 85, 120-125	Psalms 111, 126-132

Book of Concord Readings for the Week:

Monday:	The Large Catechism, I.103-116
Tuesday:	The Large Catechism, I.117-133
Wednesday:	The Large Catechism, I.134-148
Thursday:	The Large Catechism, I.149-165
Friday:	The Large Catechism, I.166-182

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: TLH 58—"O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee?" (2nd Tune)

Evening: INSERT—"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

Morning Fri. & Sat.: TLH 80—"All Praise to Thee Eternal God"

Evening Thurs. & Fri.: TLH 85—"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

Calendar for the Week after Rorate coeli & Christmas

Today: 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

Monday: The Festival of St. Thomas, Apostle—Red

O Oriens

Tuesday: *O Rex Gentium*

Wednesday: The Festival of St. Thorlak Thorhallson of Iceland, Bishop and Confessor—White

7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Vespers

8:00 p.m. Private Confession

8:15 p.m. Decorate Church for Christmas

O Emmanuel

Thursday: The Vigil of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord—White

6:30 p.m. Private confession

7:00 p.m. Divine Service

Friday: The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord—White

10:00 a.m. Divine Service

Sat.: The Festival of St. Stephen, Deacon and Protomartyr—Red

Next Sunday: The First Sunday after the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord/The Festival of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist (Commemorated)—White

10:00 a.m. Divine Service

11:15 a.m. Bible Class

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

The last Midweek Advent Vespers is this Wednesday. Private confession will follow at 8:00 p.m. We will decorate for Christmas after that.

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.

To Read in Preparation for this week's Festivals:

Today—Rorate coeli

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-8

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

Holy Gospel: St. John 1:19-28

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

Old Testament Lesson: Judges 6:36-40

Epistle: Ephesians 1:3-6

Gospel: St. John 20:24-31

December 23rd—The Festival of St. Thorlak Thorhallson of Iceland, Bishop and Confessor

Epistle: Hebrews 13:7-17

Gospel: St. Matthew 24:42-47

December 24th—The Vigil of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Epistle: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: St. Luke 2:1-14

December 25th—The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-14

Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-12

Gospel: St. John 1:1-14

December 26th—The Festival of St. Stephen, Deacon and Protomartyr

Old Testament Lesson: 2 Chronicles 24:17-22

Epistle: Acts 6:8-15; 7:54-60

Gospel: St. Matthew 23:34-39

December 27th—The First Sunday after Christmas/The Festival of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist (Commemorated)

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-5

Epistle: Galatians 4:1-7

RORATE COELI

December 20th, 2020



Introit

P: RAIN **DOWN**, - || you heavens, | from | a- | bove, *

C: And let the skies pour | down | **right-** - | eous- | ness;

P: || Let the earth o- | pen | her | womb, *

C: And bring | forth | **sal-** - | va- | tion. (*Isaiah 45:8*)

P: || The heavens declare the glo- | ry | of | God; *

C: And the firmament shows | His | **hand-** - | i- | work.

P: || Their line is gone out into | all | the | earth, *

C: And their words to the | end | **of** - | the | world.

P: || In the heavens He has set a tabernacle | for | the | sun, *

C: Which is like a bridegroom coming out | of | **his** - | cham- | ber.

P: || Its rising is from one end of | the | heav- | en, *

C: And its circuit to | the | **oth-** - | er | end. (*Psalms 19:1, 4-6*)

GLORIA PATRI (From Hymnal)

P: || Rain down, you heavens, | from | a- | bove, *

C: And let the skies pour | down | **right-** - | eous- | ness;

P: || Let the earth o- | pen | her | womb, *

C: And bring | forth | **sal-** - | va- | tion. (*Isaiah 45:8*)

Collect

Stir up, O Lord, we beseech Thee, Thy power, and come and help us with Thy great might, that by Thy grace whatsoever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished through Thy mercy and satisfaction; 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: || The Lord is near to all who call | up- | on | Him, *

C: To all who call up- | on | **Him** - | in | truth.

P: || My mouth shall speak the praise | of | the | Lord, *

C: And all flesh shall bless | His | **ho-** - | ly | name. (*Psalms 145:18, 21*)

Verse

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

C: Al- | — | le- - | lu- | ia!

P: || You are my help and my de- | liv- | er- | er; *

C: Do not delay, O my God. | Al- | le- - | lu- | ia! (*Psalms 40:17*)

Isaiah 40:1-8

¹ “Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” says your God. ² “Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.” ³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; ⁵ The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” ⁶ The voice said, “Cry out!” and he said, “What shall I cry?” “All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.”

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your

hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

St. John 1:19-28

¹⁹ Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²² Then they said to him, “Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?” ²³ He said: “I am ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of the LORD,”’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” ²⁴ Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. ²⁵ And they asked him, saying, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them, saying, “I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. ²⁷ It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.” ²⁸ These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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.

TLH 60 “Hark, a Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

Unknown Latin author, about 900

1. Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding!
“Christ is nigh!” we hear it say;
“Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day!”

2. Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

3. Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from Heaven.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiven,

4. That, when next He comes with glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He may shield us with His mercy
And with words of love draw near.

Δ 5. Honor, glory, might, dominion,
To the Father and the Son,
With the everlasting Spirit,
While eternal ages run! 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 blessèd 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.

INSERT "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" (Tune TLH 62)

Unknown Latin author, about 1100

1. Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of Hell Thy people save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

3. Oh, come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

5. Oh, come, oh, come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

6. Oh, come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, by Thy might;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

7. Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease;

And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel. Amen.

TLH 61 "Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"
Johann G. Olearius, 1671

1. Comfort, comfort, ye My people,
Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over.

2. Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.

3. Hark, the Herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Bidding all men to repentance
Since the Kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

4. Make ye straight what long was crooked,
Make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er Earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken. Amen.