

**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.

#### **Christmas Season Schedule (Continued)**

<b>January 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><i>The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord</i></b> Private Confession 6:30 p.m. Divine Service 7:00 p.m.
<b>January 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><i>The Festival of the Baptism of our Lord</i></b> Private Confession 6:30 p.m. Divine Service 7:00 p.m.

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The Vigil of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord  
December 24<sup>th</sup>, 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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*“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy!” St. Luke 2:10b*

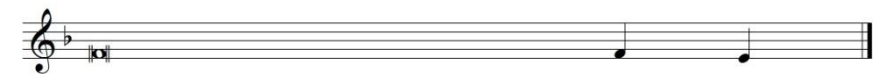
<b>The Order of Divine Service</b>		
<b>The Prelude</b>	<i>“Divinum Mysterium”</i>	Ludwig Lenel
<b>The Ringing of the Bell</b>		
<b>Silent Prayer</b>		
<i>Stand</i>		
	<i>The Lighting of the Christmas Candles</i>	
<b>The Christmas Processional</b>		INSERT
<b>Processional Hymns:</b>		
	<i>“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”</i>	TLH 102
	<i>“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”</i>	TLH 90
<b>The Confiteor</b>	<i>(Candles may be extinguished)</i>	
<b>The Invocation and Address</b>		TLH p. 15
<b>Versicles</b>		TLH p. 15
<b>Confession and Absolution</b>		TLH p. 16
<b>The Introit</b>	<i>(Tone 5)</i>	INSERT
<b>The Kyrie</b>		TLH p. 17
<b>The Gloria in Excelsis</b>	<i>(Bell is rung throughout)</i>	TLH p. 17-19
<b>The Salutation</b>		TLH p. 19
<b>The Collect for the Day</b>		INSERT
<i>Sit</i>		
<b>The Lesson</b>		Isaiah 9:2-7
	<i>After each Lesson: V: This is the Word of the Lord.</i>	
	<i>R: Thanks be to God.</i>	
<b>The Epistle</b>		Titus 2:11-14
<b>The Gradual</b>		INSERT
<b>The Verse</b>		INSERT
<i>Stand</i>		
	<i>The Lighting of the Christmas Candles (during Sequence Hymn)</i>	
<b>The Sequence Hymn</b>	<i>“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”</i>	Δ INSERT
<b>The Holy Gospel</b>		St. Luke 2:1-14
<b>The Nicene Creed (Ancient Chant)</b>		INSERT
<i>Sit</i>	<i>(Candles may be extinguished)</i>	
<b>The Hymn</b>	<i>“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”</i>	TLH 85
<b>The Sermon</b>	<i>She Brought Forth Her Firstborn Son</i>	
<i>Stand</i>		
<b>The Offertory</b>	<i>“Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God”</i>	TLH p. 22-23
<i>Sit *</i>		
<b>The Recitation of the Catechism</b>		The Ten Commandments
<i>Stand</i>		
<b>The General Prayer</b>		TLH p. 23
<i>Sit</i>		
	<i>The Lighting of the Christmas Candles (during the Hymn)</i>	
<b>The Hymn</b>	<i>“All My Heart This Night Rejoices”</i>	TLH 77
<i>Stand</i>		

<b>The Preface</b>		TLH p. 24
<b>The Proper Preface</b>		TLH p. 25
<b>The Sanctus and Benedictus</b>	<i>(Bell is rung throughout)</i>	TLH p. 26
<b>The Lord’s Prayer</b>		TLH p. 27
<b>The Verba Domini</b>		TLH p. 27
<b>The Pax Domini</b>		TLH p. 27
<b>The Agnus Dei</b>		TLH p. 28
<i>Sit</i>		
<b>The Distribution</b>		
<b>Hymns:</b>	<i>“Christ the Lord to Us is Born”</i>	TLH 86
	<i>“O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is”</i>	TLH 81
<i>Stand</i>		
<b>The Post-Communion Canticle</b>	<i>“The Nunc Dimittis”</i>	TLH p. 29-30
<b>The Thanksgiving</b>	<i>(“And His mercy endureth forever”)</i>	TLH p. 30
<b>The Post-Communion Collect</b>		
<i>Sit</i>		
<b>The Hymn</b>	<i>“Behold, a Branch Is Growing”</i>	TLH 645
<i>Stand</i>		
<b>The Salutation</b>		TLH p. 31
<b>The Benedicamus</b>		TLH p. 31
<b>The Benediction</b>		TLH p. 31
<b>Silent Prayer</b>	<i>(Candles may be extinguished)</i>	
<i>Sit</i>		
<b>Announcements</b>		
<b>The Postlude</b>	<i>“Es ist ein’ Ros’—Ia”</i>	Albert Thate
<i>*—An Alms Basin is located next to the bulletins for any Offerings.</i>		
<i>Δ—indicates a hymn ending in a Doxological stanza; please stand.</i>		
<b>Christmas Season Schedule</b>		
<b>December 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord</i>	
	Divine Service 10:00 a.m.	
<b>December 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>The Festival of St. Stephen, Protomartyr and Deacon</i>	
<b>December 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<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.	
<b>December 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Holy Innocents’ Day</i>	
	Divine Service 5:00 p.m. Myrtle Beach, SC	
<b>January 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<i>The Festival of the Circumcision of Our Lord</i>	
	Private Confession 9:30 a.m.	
	Divine Service 10:00 a.m.	
<b>January 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<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	

## Christmas Eve Processional

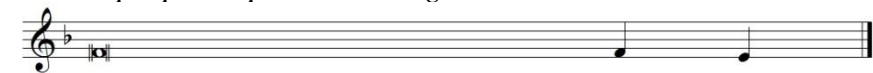
*Prior to the Procession the Laity light their candles from the Torchbearer's candle, tipping their unlit candle to light from the lit candle.*

*The Celebrant chants the Versicle:*



V: Let us go forth in peace.

*And the people respond, chanting:*



R: In the Name of Christ. A-men.

*The Organist introduces the Hymn.*

Hymn: TLH 102, "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

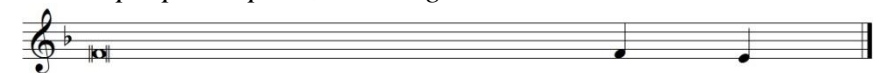
**Station at the Crèche:**

*The Procession stops at the Crèche and the Celebrant chants the Versicle:*



V: Unto us a Child is born. Halle-lu-jah!

*And the people respond, chanting:*



R: Unto us a Son is given. Halle-lu-jah!

*The Celebrant chants the Collect:*

**Collect:** Let us pray. 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 Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

*And the people respond, chanting:*



*The Organist introduces the Hymn:*

Hymn: TLH 90 "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"

**Station before the Altar:**

*The Procession stops before the Altar and the Celebrant chants the Versicle:*



V: The Word was made flesh. Halle-lu-jah!

*And the people respond, chanting:*



R: And dwelt among us. Halle-lu-jah!

*The Celebrant chants the Collect:*

**Collect:** Let us pray. Almighty God, who hast given us Thine only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him, grant that we, being regenerate and made Thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by Thy Holy Spirit; 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.

*And the people respond, chanting:*



*All may extinguish their Candles.*

*The Service continues with the Confiteor.*

**THE VIGIL OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**  
**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020**



**Introit**

P: THE LORD || has said to | Me, | - \*

C: “You are My Son, today I have | be- | got- | ten | You.” (Ps. 2:7b)

P: || The Lord reigns, He is clothed with | *ma-jes*- • | ty; \*

C: The Lord is clothed; He has girded | Him- | self | with | strength.

P: || Surely the world is es- | ta- | blished, \*

C: So that it | can- | not | be | moved.

P: || Your throne is established from of | old; | - \*

C: You are from | ev- | er- | last- | ing.

P: || The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their | voice; | - \*

C: The floods | lift | up | their | waves.

P: || The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many | wa- | ters, \*

C: Than the mighty | waves | of | the | sea.

P: || Your testimonies are very | sure; | - \*

C: Holiness adorns Your house, O | Lord, | for- | ev- | er. (Ps. 93:1-5)

**GLORIA PATRI (From Hymnal)**

P: || The Lord has said to | Me, | - \*

C: “You are My Son, today I have | be- | got- | ten | You.” (Ps. 2:7b)

**Collect**

O God, Who hast made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant, we beseech Thee, that, as we have known on Earth the mysteries of that Light, we may also come to the fullness of its joys in Heaven; 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: || Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your | pow- | er; \*

C: In the beauties of holiness, from the womb | of | the | morn- | ing,

P: || The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right | hand, | - \*

C: Till I make Your ene- | mies | Your | foot- | stool.” (Ps. 110: 3a, 1)

**Verse**

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

C: Al- | — | le- | lu- | ia!

P: || The Lord has said to Me, “You are My | Son, | - \*

C: Today I have begotten You.” | Al- | le- | lu- | ia! (Ps. 2:7b)

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; They rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup> For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For every warrior’s sandal from the noisy battle, and garments rolled in blood, will be used for burning and fuel of fire. <sup>6</sup> For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

**Titus 2:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

**St. Luke 2:1-14**

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be

registered. <sup>2</sup> This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup> So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup> Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

<sup>11</sup> For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

### **TLH 102 “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”**

Unknown, 18<sup>th</sup> Century

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, triumphantly sing;  
Come, see in the manger our Savior and King!  
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;  
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!  
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!
2. True Son of the Father, He comes from the skies;  
To be born of a Virgin He doth not despise.  
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;  
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!  
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!
3. Hark, hark, to the angels all singing in Heaven,  
“To God in the highest all glory be given!”  
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;  
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!  
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!
4. To Thee, then, O Jesus, this day of Thy birth  
Be glory and honor through Heaven and Earth,  
True Godhead incarnate, omnipotent Word!  
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!  
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord! Amen.

### **TLH 90 “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”**

Paul Gerhardt, 1667

1. Come, your hearts and voices raising,  
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
Loudly sing His love amazing,  
Worthy folk of Christendom.
2. Sin and death may well be groaning,  
Satan now may well be moaning;  
We, our full salvation owning,  
Cast our ev’ry care away.
3. See how God, for us providing,  
Gave His Son and life abiding;  
He our weary steps is guiding  
From Earth’s woe to heav’nly joy.
4. Christ, from Heaven to us descending  
And in love our race befriending,  
In our need His help extending,  
Saved us from the wily Foe.
5. Jacob’s Star in all its splendor  
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,  
Forcing Satan to surrender,  
Breaking all the powers of Hell.

6. From the bondage that oppressed us,  
From sin’s fetters that possessed us,  
From the grief that sore distressed us,  
We, the captives, now are free.

7. Oh, the joy beyond expressing  
When by faith we grasp this blessing  
And to Thee we come confessing,  
That our freedom Thou hast wrought!

8. Gracious Child, we pray Thee, hear us,  
From Thy lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us  
Till we join th’ angelic choir. 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 85 “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”**

Martin Luther, 1535

1. “From Heav’n above to Earth I come  
To bear good news to ev’ry home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing:
2. “To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary, chosen Virgin mild;  
This little child, of lowly birth,  
Shall be the joy of all the Earth.
3. “This is the Christ, our God and Lord,  
Who in all need shall aid afford;  
He will Himself your Savior be  
From all your sins to set you free.
4. “He will on you the gifts bestow  
Prepared by God for all below,  
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,  
You may with us His glory share.
5. “These are the tokens ye shall mark:  
The swaddling-clothes and manger dark;  
There ye shall find the Infant laid  
By whom the heavens and Earth were made.”
6. Now let us all with gladsome cheer  
Go with the shepherds and draw near  
To see the precious Gift of God,  
Who hath His own dear Son bestowed.
7. Give heed, my heart, lift up thine eyes!  
What is it in yon manger lies?  
Who is this child, so young and fair?  
The blessèd Christ-child lieth there.
8. Welcome to Earth, Thou noble Guest,  
Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
Thou com’st to share my misery;  
What thanks shall I return to Thee?
9. Ah, Lord, Who hast created all,  
How weak art Thou, how poor and small,  
That Thou dost choose Thine infant bed  
Where humble cattle lately fed!

10. Were Earth a thousand times as fair,  
Beset with gold and jewels rare,  
It yet were far too poor to be  
A narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee.

11. For velvets soft and silken stuff  
Thou hast but hay and straw so rough,  
Whereon Thou, King, so rich and great,  
As ‘twere Thy Heaven, art throned in state.

12. And thus, dear Lord, it pleaseth Thee  
To make this truth quite plain to me,  
That all the world’s wealth, honor, might,  
Are naught and worthless in Thy sight.

13. Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,  
Within my heart, that it may be  
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.

14. My heart for very joy doth leap,  
My lips no more can silence keep;  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
That sweetest ancient cradle-song:

15. Glory to God in highest Heaven,  
Who unto us His Son hath given!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the Earth. Amen.

**TLH 77 “All My Heart This Night Rejoices”**

Paul Gerhardt, 1653

1. All my heart this night rejoices  
As I hear Far and near  
Sweetest angel voices.  
“Christ is born,” their choirs are singing  
Till the air Ev’rywhere  
Now with joy is ringing.

2. Forth today the Conqueror goeth,  
Who the foe, Sin and woe,  
Death and Hell, o’erthroweth.  
God is man, man to deliver;  
His dear Son Now is one  
With our blood forever.

3. Shall we still dread God’s displeasure,  
Who, to save, Freely gave  
His most cherished Treasure?  
To redeem us, He hath given  
His own Son From the throne  
Of His might in Heaven.

4. Should He Who Himself imparted  
Aught withhold From the fold,  
Leave us broken-hearted?  
Should the Son of God not love us,  
Who, to cheer Suff'ers here,  
Left His throne above us?

5. If our blessed Lord and Maker  
Hated men, Would He then  
Be of flesh partaker?  
If He in our woe delighted,  
Would He bear All the care  
Of our race benighted?

6. He becomes the Lamb that taketh  
Sin away And for aye  
Full atonement maketh.  
For our life His own He tenders  
And our race, By His grace,  
Meet for glory renders.

7. Hark! a voice from yonder manger,  
Soft and sweet, Doth entreat:  
"Flee from woe and danger.  
Brethren, from all ills that grieve you  
You are feed; All you need  
I will surely give you."

8. Come, then, banish all your sadness,  
One and all, Great and small;  
Come with songs of gladness.  
Love Him Who with love is glowing;  
Hail the Star, Near and far  
Light and joy bestowing.

9. Ye whose anguish knew no measure,  
Weep no more; See the door  
To celestial pleasure.  
Cling to Him, for He will guide you  
Where no cross, Pain, or loss  
Can again betide you.

10. Hither come, ye heavy-hearted,  
Who for sin, Deep within,  
Long and sore have smarted;  
For the poisoned wound you're feeling  
Help is near, One is here  
Mighty for their healing.

11. Hither come, ye poor and wretched;  
Know His will Is to fill  
Every hand outstretchèd.  
Here are riches without measure;

Here forget All regret,  
Fill your hearts with treasure.

12. Let me in my arms receive Thee;  
On Thy breast Let me rest,  
Savior, ne'er to leave Thee.  
Since Thou hast Thyself presented  
Now to me, I shall be  
Evermore contented.

13. Guilt no longer can distress me;  
Son of God, Thou my load  
Bearest to release me.  
Stain in me Thou findest never;  
I am clean, All my sin  
Is removed forever.

14. I am pure, in Thee believing,  
From Thy store Evermore  
Righteous robes receiving.  
In my heart I will enfold Thee,  
Treasure rare, Let me there,  
Loving, ever hold Thee.

15. Dearest Lord, Thee will I cherish.  
Though my breath Fail in death,  
Yet I shall not perish,  
But with Thee abide forever  
There on high, In that joy  
Which can vanish never. Amen.

**TLH 86 "Christ the Lord to Us is Born"**  
Unknown Bohemian Author, about 1400

1. Christ the Lord to us is born, Hallelujah!  
On this joyous Christmas morn, Hallelujah!  
Of a Virgin lowly,  
He the King most holy,  
Born this day to save us.

2. Prophesied in days of old, Hallelujah!  
God has sent Him as foretold, Hallelujah!  
Of a Virgin lowly,  
He the King most holy,  
Born this day to save us.

3. Our poor human form He took, Hallelujah!  
Realms of Heaven He forsook, Hallelujah!  
Of a Virgin lowly,  
He the King most holy,  
Born this day to save us.

4. Prostrate lies the Evil One, Hallelujah!  
God has saved us through His Son, Hallelujah!

Of a Virgin lowly,  
He the King most holy,  
Born this day to save us.

5. Grace divine, be with us still, Hallelujah!  
Keep us from all harm and ill, Hallelujah!  
Of a Virgin lowly,  
He the King most holy,  
Born this day to save us.

6. Grant us, Lord, a blessed end, Hallelujah!  
To our souls Thy comfort send, Hallelujah!  
Come to us, dear Jesus,  
Born this day to save us,  
Bless us all forever. Amen.

**TLH 81 “O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is”**  
Paul Gerhardt, 1653

1. O Jesus Christ,  
Thy manger is  
My paradise at which my soul reclineth.  
For there, O Lord,  
Doth lie the Word  
Made flesh for us;—herein Thy grace forth shineth.

2. He whom the sea  
And wind obey  
Doth come to serve the sinner in great meekness.  
Thou, God’s own Son,  
With us art one,  
Dost join us and our children in our weakness.

3. Thy light and grace  
Our guilt efface,  
Thy heav’nly riches all our loss retrieving.  
Immanuel,  
Thy birth doth quell  
The pow’r of Hell and Satan’s bold deceiving.

4. Thou Christian heart,  
Whoe’er thou art,  
Be of good cheer and let no sorrow move thee!  
For God’s own Child,  
In mercy mild,  
Joins thee to Him;—how greatly God must love thee!

5. Remember thou  
What glory now  
The Lord prepared thee for all earthly sadness.  
The angel host  
Can never boast  
Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.

6. The world may hold  
Her wealth and gold;  
But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true Treasure.  
To Him hold fast  
Until at last  
A crown be thine and honor in full measure. Amen.

**TLH 645 “Behold, a Branch is Growing”**  
Unknown German author, about 1500

1. Behold, a branch is growing  
Of loveliest form and grace,  
As prophets sung, foreknowing;  
It springs from Jesse’s race  
And bears one little Flow’r  
In midst of coldest winter,  
At deepest midnight hour.

2. Isaiah hath foretold It  
In words of promise sure,  
And Mary’s arms enfold It,  
A Virgin meek and pure.  
Thro’ God’s eternal will  
This Child to her is given  
At midnight calm and still.

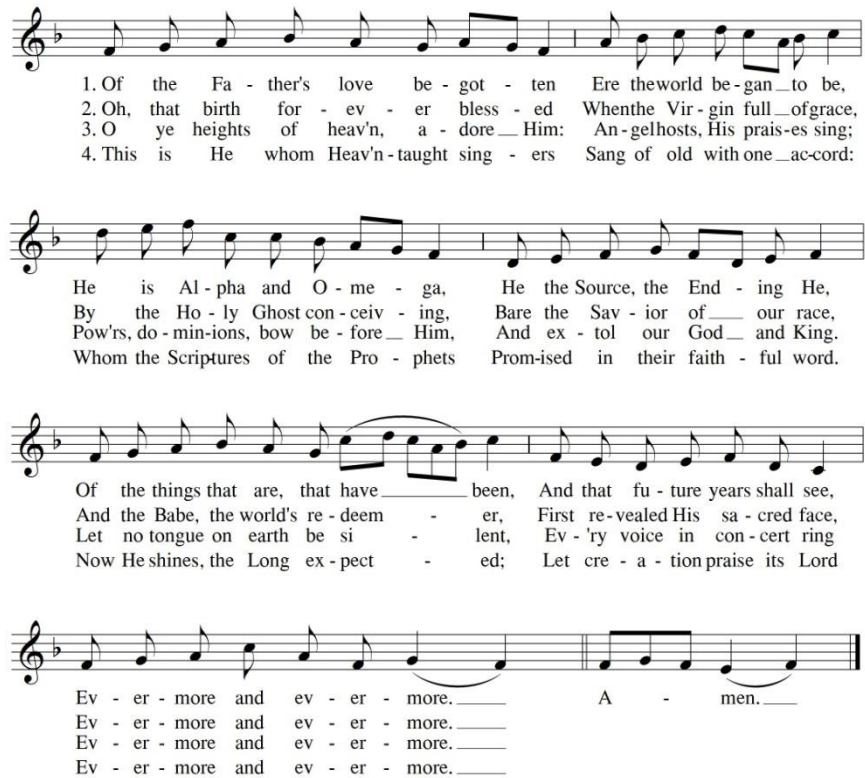
3. The shepherds heard the story,  
Proclaimed by angels bright,  
How Christ, the Lord of Glory,  
Was born on Earth this night.  
To Bethlehem they sped  
And in the manger found him,  
As angel heralds said.

4. This Flower whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor  
The darkness everywhere.  
True Man, yet very God;  
From sin and death He saves us  
And lightens every load.

5. O Savior, Child of Mary,  
Who felt our human woe;  
Savior, King of Glory.  
Who dost our weakness know,  
Bring us at length, we pray,  
To the bright courts of Heaven  
And to the endless day. Amen.



## Sequence Hymn—Of the Father's Love Begotten



1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the world be - gan to be,  
 2. Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed When the Vir - gin full of grace,  
 3. O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him: An - gel hosts, His praises sing;  
 4. This is He whom Heav'n - taught sing - ers Sang of old with one ac - cord:

He is Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the Source, the End - ing He,  
 By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bare the Sav - ior of our race,  
 Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him, And ex - tol our God and King.  
 Whom the Scriptures of the Pro - phets Prom - ised in their faith - ful word.

Of the things that are, that have been, And that fu - ture years shall see,  
 And the Babe, the world's re - deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face,  
 Let no tongue on earth be si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 Now He shines, the Long ex - pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

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.

## 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 + Jesus 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 proceedeth 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.