

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.

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Rorate coeli
December 19th, 2021

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

A Parish Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America

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*“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

The Hymn “Hark, a Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” Δ TLH 60

(The Pastor silently prays Psalm 24 while the congregation joins in silent self-examination and reflection on God’s Commandments. Prayers are located on back cover.)

Stand

The Invocation and Address TLH p. 15

Versicles *(All may kneel)* TLH p. 15

Confession and Absolution TLH p. 16

Stand (if kneeling)

The Introit *(Tone 6)* INSERT

The Kyrie TLH p. 17

The Salutation TLH p. 19

The Collect for the Day INSERT

Collect for the Season of Advent INSERT

Sit

The Epistle Philippians 4:4-7

The Gradual INSERT

The Triple Hallelujah *(First Setting)* TLH p. 20

Stand

The Holy Gospel St. John 1:19-28

The Nicene Creed *(Bow at the words “And was made man.)* TLH p. 22

Sit

The Hymn “O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee?” TLH 58 (2nd Tune)

The Sermon *This Is the Testimony of John*

Stand

The Offertory TLH p. 22-23

The General Prayer LSBH p. 115-116

Sit (An Alms Basin is located next to the bulletins for any Offerings)

The Hymn “Savior of the Nations, Come” Δ TLH 95

Stand

The Exhortation LSBH p. 117

The Lavabo LSBH p. 118

(The Pastor washes his hands while silently praying Psalm 26. The congregation joins in silent prayer reflecting upon the Sacrament they are about to receive. Prayers are located on back cover.)

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 *(All may bow when the Pastor genuflects)* TLH p. 27

The Pax Domini *(All may bow and cross themselves)* TLH p. 27

The Agnus Dei *(All may kneel)* TLH p. 28

Sit

The Distribution *(Prayers are located on back cover.)*

The Hymn “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel” INSERT

Stand

The Post-Communion Canticle TLH p. 29-30

The Thanksgiving TLH p. 30

The Post-Communion Collect TLH p. 31

The Hymn “Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People” TLH 61

The Salutation TLH p. 31

The Benedicamus TLH p. 31

The Benediction TLH p. 31

Sit

Recitation of the Catechism

How One Should Be Taught to Pray & Questions 52-66 (Introduction to the Law, pages 61-63).

Announcements

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

Christmas Season Schedule

December 24th ***The Vigil of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord***
 Private Confession 6:30 p.m.
 Candlelight Divine Service 7:00 p.m.

December 25th ***The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord***
 Divine Service 10:00 a.m.

December 26th ***The First Sunday after Christmas/The Festival of St. Stephen, Protomartyr and Deacon (Commemorated)***
 Divine Service & Bible Class 10:00 a.m. in Simpsonville, SC

December 27th ***The Festival of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist***
 Divine Service 5:00 p.m. Myrtle Beach, SC

December 28th ***Holy Innocents’ Day***
January 1st ***The Festival of the Circumcision of Our Lord***
 Private Confession 9:30 a.m.
 Divine Service 10:00 a.m.

January 2nd ***The Second Sunday after Christmas***
 Divine Service & Bible Class in Simpsonville, SC 10:00 a.m.
 Divine Service & Bible Class in Knoxville, TN 10:00 a.m.
 Divine Service & Bible Class 3:00 p.m. Augusta, GA

January 5th ***The Eve of the Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord***
 Divine Service & Bible Class in Fort Myers, FL (Pastor Stefanski) 7:00 p.m.

January 6th ***The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord***
 Private Confession 6:30 p.m. Divine Service 7:00 p.m.

December 26th—The First Sunday after Christmas/The Festival of St. Stephen, Martyr (Commemorated)

Epistle: Galatians 4:1-7
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.” *From the Church Postil for Rorate coeli, 1520s.*

In Our Prayers:

- For all those who are sick or infirmed, especially, *Peggy Holder, Jo Kope, Betty Ramsey, Brandon Dennie, Nellie Noegel, Katie, Dan, Judy Horn, Patricia Bachand, Mike Miller, Barbara Miller, Matthew Scholten, Barb Eisold, Vince Bost, Janice Heitener, Ray Heitener, Martin Kope, Sally Kope, William Noegel, Bruce Carter, John Burton, Dale Heimbigner, Ed Payne, James Hagen, Doug DiBiase, Paul Meadows, Vito Gerardi, 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, *Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Herrin, IL; and Memphis Lutheran Mission, Lakeland, TN; and their pastors, the Rev. Michael D. Henson and the Rev. Dcn. Gary Harroun.*
- For our seminary, *St. Ignatius Lutheran Theological Seminary.*
- For our seminarians, *Ben Henson and Jacob Henson.*
- For all those who serve in the military, especially, *Nicholas Silva.*
- For those struggling with addiction, especially, *Thomas Allred and John Monahan.*
- For the moral and spiritual support of those involved with our mission in Knoxville, TN, especially, *Ana Heiser, Sherrill Smithey, Bobby Eisold, Barb Eisold, and Bob Eisold.*
- 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

	Morning	Evening
Today	Matt. 7-8; Luke 1:67-80	St. Matthew 9-10; Hebrews 12:15-29
Monday:	Matt. 11-12; Matt. 1:18-25	St. Matthew 13-14; Isaiah 40:1-11
Tuesday:	Matt. 15-16; Luke 1:39-45	St. Matthew 17-18; Malachi 3:1-7
Wednesday:	Matt. 19-20; Luke 1:46-56	St. Matthew 21-22; Malachi 4:1-6
Thursday:	Matt. 23-24; Luke 1:57-66	St. Matthew 25; Isaiah 28:14-19
Friday:	Matt. 26-27; Luke 1:67-80	St. Matthew 28; Isaiah 7:1-17
Saturday:	Romans 1-2; Matt. 1:1-17	Romans 3-4; Micah 5:1-5

Praying the Psalter Daily in Matins and Vespers:

	Morning	Evening
Today:	Psalms 126, 93-95	Psalms 145, 96-100
Monday:	Psalms 126, 101-102	Psalms 145, 103-104
Tuesday:	Psalms 126, 105	Psalms 145, 106
Wednesday:	Psalms 126, 107	Psalms 145, 108-111
Thursday:	Psalms 126, 112-115	Psalms 24, 116-118
Friday:	Psalms 24, 119:1-40	Psalms 24, 119:41-88
Saturday:	Ps. 19, 45, 85, 119:89-128	Ps. 89, 110, 132, 119:129-176

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 Sat.: INSERT—"O Jesus Christ, All Praise to Thee"

Evening Fri./Sat.: TLH 85—"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

Calendar for the Week after Rorate Coeli

Today: Rorate coeli—Violet

O Radix Jesse

10:00 a.m. Divine Service & Bible class in Simpsonville, SC

10:00 a.m. Divine Service & Bible class in Knoxville, TN (Deacon Smithey)

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

Monday: O Clavis David

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

O Oriens

Winter Begins

Wednesday: O Rex Gentium

7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent Vespers

8:00 p.m. Private Confession

8:15 p.m. Decorate Church for Christmas

Thursday: The Festival of St. Thorlak, Bishop and Confessor—

White O Emmanuel

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

6:30 p.m. Private Confession

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Divine Service

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

10:00 a.m. Divine Service

Next Sunday: The First Sunday after Christmas/The Festival of St. Stephen, Martyr (Commemorated)—White

10:00 a.m. Divine Service & Bible class in Simpsonville, SC

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 conclude this Wednesday, December 22nd at 7:00 p.m. We will finish the first chapter of the Evangelist St. Luke's Gospel. Private confession will follow Vespers. We will decorate for Christmas after that.

Poinsettias for Christmas Season

Please consider donating a poinsettia plant to decorate our sanctuary for the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany. You may bring them now through Christmas.

To Read in Preparation for this week's Festivals:

Today—Rorate coeli

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: St. John 1:19-28

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

Epistle: Ephesian 2:19-22

Gospel: St. John 20:24-31

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

Epistle: Hebrews 13:7-17

Gospel: St. Matthew 24:42-27

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

Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-12

Gospel: St. John 1:1-14

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

Epistle: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: St. Luke 2:1-14

RORATE COELI

December 19th, 2021



Introit (Chanted by Pastor)

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

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

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

And bring | forth | **sal**- - | va- | tion.

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

And the firmament shows | His | **hand**- - | i- | work. (*Isaiah 45:8*;
Psalms 19:1, 4-6)

C: GLORIA PATRI (From Hymnal; Sung by Congregation)

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

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

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

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

Collect

Stir up, O Lord, we beseech Thee, Thy power, and come, and with great might, succor us, that by the help of 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 (Chanted by Pastor)

P: || The Lord is near to all who call | up- | on | Him, *

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

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

And all flesh shall bless | His | **ho**- - | ly | name.

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

Do not delay, O my God. | Al- | **le**- - | lu- | ia! (*Psalms 145:18, 21*;
40:17)

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.

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

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.