

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.

Scripture quotations are from the Revised Version of the Holy Bible (1895) with Apocrypha. This work is in the Public Domain.



Oculi Sunday
March 8th, 2026

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

A Parish Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America

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“Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth.” St. Luke 11:17

The Order of Divine Service

The Ringing of the Bell		
The Hymn	<i>“Zion Stands by Hills Surrounded”</i>	ASBH 73
<i>Stand</i>		
Silent Prayer	<i>(Prayers are located on back cover)</i>	ASBH p. 7
The Invocation		ASBH p. 7
The Confession of Sins	<i>(All may kneel)</i>	ASBH p. 8
Versicles		ASBH p. 8
Confession and Absolution		ASBH p. 8-9
<i>Stand (if kneeling)</i>		
The Introit	<i>(Congregation joins Pastor on Gloria Patri)</i>	ASBH p. 72
The Kyrie		ASBH p. 10
The Salutation		ASBH p. 13
The Collect for the Day		ASBH p. 72
The Collect for the Season of Lent		ASBH p. 66
Collect Amen		ASBH p. 14
<i>Sit</i>		
The Epistle		Ephesians 5:1-9
The Gradual		ASBH p. 72
<i>Stand</i>		
The Sentence for the Season of Lent		ASBH p. 41
The Gospel	<i>(Gospel Responses ASBH p. 16)</i>	St. Luke 11:14-28
The Creed	<i>(All may bow at the words “And was made man.)</i>	ASBH p. 17
<i>Sit</i>		
The Hymn	<i>“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”</i>	ASBH 22
The Sermon	<i>When a Stronger Than He Shall Come</i>	
<i>Stand</i>		
The Offertory		ASBH p. 18-19
	<i>(An Alms Basin is located next to the bulletins for any Offerings)</i>	
The General Prayer		ASBH p. 19-20
The Lord’s Prayer		ASBH p. 20
<i>Sit</i>		
The Hymn	<i>“O Thou, Who Dost Accord Us the Highest Prize and Guerdon”</i>	ASBH 75
The Lavabo	<i>(During Hymn)</i>	ASBH p. 21
<i>Stand</i>		
The Exhortation		ASBH p. 21
The Preface		ASBH p. 22
The Proper Preface		ASBH p. 23-27
The Sanctus and Benedictus		ASBH p. 27-28
The Lord’s Prayer		ASBH p. 29
The Verba Domini	<i>(All may bow when the Pastor genuflects)</i>	ASBH p. 30
The Pax Domini	<i>(All may bow and cross themselves)</i>	ASBH p. 31

The Agnus Dei	<i>(All may kneel)</i>	ASBH p. 31-32
<i>Sit</i>		
The Distribution	<i>(Prayers are located on back cover)</i>	
The Hymn	<i>“I Come, O Lord, to Thy Communion”</i>	INSERT
<i>Stand</i>		
The Nunc Dimittis		ASBH p. 33-35
The Thanksgiving and Collect		ASBH p. 35-36
<i>Sit</i>		
The Hymn	<i>“Forsake Us Not—O Lord, Be Near”</i>	INSERT
<i>Stand</i>		
The Salutation		ASBH p. 36
The Benedicamus		ASBH p. 37
The Benediction		ASBH p. 37
The Triple Amen	<i>(Second Setting)</i>	ASBH p. 38
<i>Sit</i>		

Recitation of the Catechism

The Table of Duties (pages 29-34) & Questions 271-281 (Part IV. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism. First, What Baptism Is, pages 125-128).

Announcements

ASBH = Augustana Service Book and Hymnal: 2022 Supplement.

In Our Prayers:

- For all those who are sick or infirmed, especially, *Dan, Katie, Kelly, Vince Bost, Lori Chase, Brandon Dennie, Rachel Epperson, Vito Gerardi, Graham Hardaway, Michelle Harris, Peggy Holder, Judy Horn, Glen Madden, Paul Meadows, Barbara Miller, Mike Miller, Rev. Mark Mueller, Jack Newton, Orlin Palm, Becky Phillips, Vishnu Ramsamy, Betty Ramsey, Rev. Eric Stefanski, Chuck Webber, Gerald Weerts, and Tammy Wilson.*
- For our bishop, the *Rt. Rev. James D. Heiser.*
- For the parishes served by our diocese, and those in our international fellowship, especially, *the Needs of Current Missions, the Planning of Future Missions, and the Remembrance of Previous Missions.*
- That the Lord might send *Faithful Laborers* into His harvest.
- For *St. Ignatius Evangelical Lutheran Seminary* and our seminarians, *Duncan Geldenhuys* and *Jonathan Teo Zin Han.*
- For the moral and spiritual support of those involved with our mission in Knoxville, TN, *Bob, Barbara, and Bobby Eisold,* and *Deacon and Sherrill Smithey.*
- For those struggling with addiction, especially *Thomas Allred* and *John Monahan.*
- For all those who serve in the military.
- For those celebrating birthdays this week.
- For those celebrating an anniversary this week.
- For those traveling this week.

Announcements

Daily Readings for Week after Oculi Sunday

	Morning	Evening
Today	Deut. 29-30; John 8:42-51	Deuteronomy 31-32; Revelation 2:1-7
Monday:	Deut. 33-34; Luke 18:15-30	Joshua 1-2; Numbers 22:2-41
Tuesday:	Josh. 3-4; Luke 19:1-40	Joshua 5-6; Numbers 23:1-30
Wednesday:	Josh. 7-8; Luke 20:1—21:4	Joshua 9-10; Numbers 24:1-13
Thursday:	Josh. 11-12; Lk. 21:37—22:38	Joshua 13-14; Numbers 27:12-23
Friday:	Josh. 15-16; Luke 22:39-71	Joshua 17-18; Deuteronomy 5:1-33
Saturday:	Josh. 19-20; Luke 23:1-25	Joshua 21-22; Deuteronomy 8:1-20

Praying the Psalter Daily in Matins and Vespers:

	Morning	Evening
Today:	Psalms 42-44	Psalms 86, 45-48
Monday:	Psalms 43, 49	Psalms 86, 50-51
Tuesday:	Psalms 43, 52-54	Psalms 86, 55-57
Wednesday:	Psalms 43, 58-59	Psalms 86, 60-63
Thursday:	Psalms 43, 64-65	Psalms 86, 66-68
Friday:	Psalms 43, 69	Psalms 86, 70-72
Saturday:	Psalms 43, 73	Psalms 139, 74-76

Book of Concord Readings for the Week:

Monday: The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Greeting—I.2

Tuesday: The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, II (I).1-14

Wednesday: The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, II (I).15-41

Thursday: The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, II (I).42—III (I).1

Friday: The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, IV (II).1-21

Reciting the Catechism Daily:

Sunday: The Ten Commandments

Monday: The Apostles' Creed

Tuesday: The Lord's Prayer

Wednesday: Holy Baptism, The Office of the Keys and Confession

Thursday: The Sacrament of the Altar

Friday: How One Should Be Taught to Pray

Saturday: The Table of Duties

Hymns for the Week:

Morning: ASBH 22—"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

Evening: ASBH 76—"O Thou Who Dost Accord Us the Highest Prize and Guerdon"

Calendar for the Week after Oculi Sunday

Today: Oculi Sunday—Violet

Daylight Saving Time Begins

10:00 a.m. Divine Service

11:15 a.m. Parish Meeting

Monday: Seminary Spring Quarter Begins

Tuesday: No Events Scheduled

Wednesday: Midweek Lenten Vespers—Violet

5 p.m. Vespers

6 p.m. Private confession

Thursday: No Events Scheduled

Friday: No Events Scheduled

Saturday: No Events Scheduled

Next Sunday: Laetare Sunday—Rose

10:00 a.m. Divine Service and Bible Class in Simpsonville, SC and Knoxville, TN (Deacon Smithey)

Parish Meeting

The next scheduled parish meeting is TODAY after the Divine Service. As was mentioned at our last meeting, we will re-examine our budget to see if we are on track. Please make arrangements to be there. Non-members are welcome to attend in an observatory role.

St. Ignatius of Antioch Evangelical Lutheran Seminary

The Diocesan seminary will begin their Spring Quarter on Monday, March 9th. This Quarter they will have Greek Readings, Creation and Redemption, Reformation, and Isaiah. Please keep the seminary and her students in your prayers.

The Lutheran Herald

The March 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.

An Excerpt from Luther's Writings

"What then were these blasphemers able to say to such clear arguments? They were put to silence, but their hearts were hardened, so that they did not heed His words. A hardened heart will not be instructed, no matter how plainly and clearly the truth is presented; but the faith of the righteous is strengthened when they see that the ground of their faith is right and good. And for the sake of such we must answer those whose hearts are hardened, and put them to silence. Even though they will not be converted nor keep silence still it serves to reveal their hardened hearts, for the longer they talk the more foolish they become, and they are caught in their folly, and their cause is robbed of the appearance of being right and good, as Solomon also says in Prov. 26:5: 'Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.' That is, answer him according to his folly that his folly may be put to shame for the sake of others, that they may not follow him and be deceived, thinking that he is right. Otherwise, where no such condition exists, it is better to keep silent, as Solomon also says in the same chapter, verse 4: 'Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.'" *From Martin Luther's Sermon in the Church Postil for Oculi.*

To Read in Preparation for this week's Festivals:

Today—Oculi Sunday

Epistle:

Ephesians 5:1-9

Gospel:

St. Luke 11:14-28

March 11th—Midweek Lenten Vespers #3

Epistle:

Revelation 2:1-7

Gospel:

St. John 8:42-51

March 15th—Laetare Sunday

Epistle:

Galatians 4:21-31

Gospel:

St. John 6:1-15

186. I Come, O Lord, to Thy Communion

Ich komm' zu deinem Abendmahl
Friedrich C. Heyder, 1710

Ich sterbe täglich
Ms., Municipal Library

Tr., Sts. 1-11, A. T. Bonnet, 1900; Sts. 12-21, composite

Leipzig, 1756

1. I come, O Lord, to Thy Com -
2. Grant that to this, Thy heav'n - ly
3. Be - cause in sin I have been
4. Grant that I curse as dead - ly

mun-ion, For hun - gry, thirs - ty is my soul;
ta - ble, I come in faith and worth - i - ly.
rov - ing, "Un - worth - y" is my right - ful name;
poi - son Un - to my soul, the whole of sin

Thou sat - is - fi'st the hosts of Zi - on, There -
My soul by grace do Thou en - a - ble To
Yet faith - ful Shep - herd, all sheep lov - ing, This
And, lest I come in con - dem - na - tion, Ex -

fore Thy good - ness I'll ex - tol.
think de - vot - ed - ly of Thee.
stray - ing lamb do Thou re - claim.
plore my life, with - out, with - in.

My Je - sus, let Thy Flesh and Blood Be

to my soul its great - est good.

5. Thy heart is filled with loving passion,
Thy longing burns most fervently
To gather sinners with compassion
Therefore, this sinner comes to Thee.

8. Upon Thy Supper I'm bestowing
This name alone, "Love's Testament,"
For easy is it to be knowing
Thy love in this blessed Sacrament.

6. I am so weary and so laden
With sin, and come at Thy request.
By grace receive me, my heart gladden,
Refresh me as Thy welcome guest.

9. It is the best we can inherit;
It is faith's bond, its surest base.
It strengthens heart and mind and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace.

7. For Thou wilt find a heart that lowly
Repenting, falls before Thy feet,
And there bewails its sins, yet solely
Thy merit pleads e'en as 'tis meet.

10. This meal is, for my soul, sweet pasture,
The beggar's wealth, the weak man's pow'r.
'Tis Satan's dread, the angels' rapture;
It quickens in the dying hour.

[hymn continued on next page]

186. I Come, O Lord, to Thy Communion [cont.]

11. The weak-ened faith Thou dost em - pow - er, Thou
 12. E'en as it cri - eth for its mo - ther A
 13. Thou art my Doc - tor, I Thy pa - tient. Thou

sweet, ce - les - tial feast of love. Then art Thou
 hung - ry child's de - sires are met. So dost Je -
 art my Fa - ther, I, Thine heir. Thou art my

tru - ly my strong tow - er When weak-ness me from
 sus as my dear Bro - ther Feed - eth me so I
 ark, to heav'n I sail it, Thro' wind and wave, Thou

Christ would move.
 do not fret. My Je - sus, let Thy Flesh and
 bring'st me there.

Blood Be to my soul its great - est good. A - men.

14. The Body Thou for me hast given,
 The Blood which Thou hast shed for me.
 Gives my soul strength and life and heaven,
 And to my heart grants rest and peace.

18. Thou wilt one day my body quicken
 And bring me out of the dark grave.
 Now me, the grave, can no more frighten
 In Thee it is my resting place.

15. I am with Thee wholly united,
 Thou dwell'st in me and I in Thee,
 Now my soul weeps no more, distressed,
 It laughs wholeheartedly in Thee.

19. My dead flesh will be resurrected,
 E'en though the worms have destroyed it.
 To life again will it be raised
 And in my flesh I shall see Him.

16. Who is it who will now condemn me?
 He who justifies me is here.
 The flames of hell hold no fear for me,
 With Jesus I to heav'n draw near.

20. Thus all life's pain will be discarded
 As my heart tastes the greatest sweets.
 By many griefs was I surrounded,
 But through Jesus I find release.

17. If death should quickly come upon me,
 Nonetheless will I be well-pleased,
 For He who death did long since defeat,
 To Him in faith my heart has cleaved.

21. Now my heart has become a dwelling
 Of the Most Holy Trinity.
 I stand with saints and angels, singing,
 And live in joy eternally.

165. Forsake Us Not—O Lord, Be Near

Ach bleib bei uns, Herr Jesu Christ
 Nikolaus Selnecker, 1611
 Tr., Louis Heyl, 1858

Ach bleib bei uns
 "Geistliche Lieder"
 Leipzig, 1589

1. For - sake us not— O Lord, be near
 2. While sin and death a - round we see,
 3. Dear Sav - ior! help, Thy Church up - hold;
 4. Yes! leave us but Thy Word, we pray;

Thy Church, when low - 'ring clouds — ap - pear;
 O grant that we may con - stant be;
 For we are slug - gish, thought - less, cold;
 The fa - tal wiles of Sa - tan stay;

That heav'n - ly light, Thy Word di - vine,
 And pure re - tain, till life is spent,
 En - due Thy Word with pow'r and grace,
 Oh, smile up - on Thy Church; give grace,

Con - tin - ue in our midst — to shine.
 Thy pre - cious Word and Sac - ra - ment.
 And spread its truth in ev - 'ry place.
 And cou - rage, pat - ience, love, — and peace. A - men.

5. O God! how sin's dread works abound;
 Throughout the earth no rest is found;
 And wide has falsehood's spirit spread,
 And error boldly rears its head.

6. And ever is there something new
 Devised to change Thy doctrine true;
 Lord Jesus! as Thou still dost reign,
 Those vain, presumptuous minds restrain.

7. And as the cause and glory, Lord,
 Are Thine, not ours, do Thou afford
 Us help and strength and constancy,
 And keep us ever true to Thee.

8. Thy Word shall fortify us hence,
 It is Thy Church's sure defense;
 O let us in its pow'r confide,
 That we may seek no other guide.

9. Here on Thy Word in faith we lean,
 There Thou shalt be forever seen;
 And when our journey endeth here,
 Receive us, Lord, in glory there.