

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.



Laetare Sunday
March 15th, 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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“Jesus therefore took the loaves; and having given thanks, He distributed to them that were set down; likewise also of the fishes as much as they would.”

St. John 6:11

The Order of Divine Service

The Ringing of the Bell		
The Hymn	<i>“Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness”</i>	INSERT
<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. 73
The Kyrie		ASBH p. 10
The Salutation		ASBH p. 13
The Collect for the Day		ASBH p. 73
The Collect for the Season of Lent		ASBH p. 66
Collect Amen		ASBH p. 14
<i>Sit</i>		
The Epistle		Galatians 4:21-31
The Gradual		ASBH p. 73
<i>Stand</i>		
The Sentence for the Season of Lent		ASBH p. 41
The Gospel	<i>(Gospel Responses ASBH p. 16)</i>	St. John 6:1-15
The Creed	<i>(All may bow at the words “And was made man.”)</i>	ASBH p. 17
<i>Sit</i>		
The Hymn	<i>“Christ, the Life of All the Living”</i>	INSERT
The Sermon	<i>This Is of a Truth the Prophet</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>“Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Living Bread”</i>	INSERT
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>“Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior”</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>“May God Be Praised Henceforth”</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 Ten Commandments (pages 9-12) & Questions 288-291 (Part IV. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Third, What the Power of Baptism Is, pages 130-131).

Announcements

ASBH = Augustana Service Book and Hymnal: 2022 Supplement.

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

March 29 th —	Palmarum: 10:00 am. Divine Service
March 30 th —	Holy Monday: 4:30 p.m. Private Confession 5:00 p.m. Divine Service
March 31 st —	Holy Tuesday: 4:30 p.m. Private Confession 5:00 p.m. Divine Service
April 1 st —	Holy Wednesday: 4:30 p.m. Private Confession 5:00 p.m. Divine Service
April 2 nd —	Maundy Thursday: 4:30 p.m. Private Confession 5:00 p.m. Divine Service
April 3 rd —	Good Friday: 4:30 p.m. Private Confession 5:00 p.m. Divine Service
April 4 th —	The Vigil of the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord: 4:30 p.m. Private Confession 5:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Divine Service
April 5 th —	The Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord: 10:00 a.m. Divine Service
April 6 th —	Easter Monday: 4:30 p.m. Private Confession 5:00 p.m. Divine Service

March 22nd—Judica (*Passion*) Sunday

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-15
Gospel: St. John 8:46-59

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, *St. James the Elder Ev. Lutheran Mission, Knoxville, TN;* and her pastor, the *Rev. Dcn. Floyd P. Smithye, Jr.*
- 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 Laetare Sunday

	Morning	Evening
Today	Joshua 23-24; John 6:36-51	Judges 1-2; 2 Peter 1:2-11
Monday:	Judges 3-4; Luke 23:26-56	Judges 5-6; Deuteronomy 9:1-29
Tuesday:	Judges 7-8; Matt. 26:1-35	Judges 9-10; Deuteronomy 10:1-22
Wednesday:	Judges 11-12; Mt. 26:36-75	Judges 13-14; Deuteronomy 11:1-32
Thursday:	Judges 15-16; Matt. 27:1-38	Judges 17-18; Deuteronomy 28:1-14
Friday:	Judges 19-20; Mt. 27:39-66	Judges 21; Deuteronomy 28:15-68
Saturday:	Ruth 1-2; Mark 14:1-31	Ruth 3-4; Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Praying the Psalter Daily in Matins and Vespers:

	Morning	Evening
Today:	Psalms 46, 77	Psalms 139, 78
Monday:	Psalms 46, 79-80	Psalms 139, 81-83
Tuesday:	Psalms 46, 84-85	Psalms 139, 86-88
Wednesday:	Psalms 46, 89	Psalms 139, 90-92
Thursday:	Psalms 89, 93-95	Psalms 89, 96-100
Friday:	Psalms 46, 101-102	Psalms 139, 103-104
Saturday:	Psalms 46, 105	Psalms 27, 106

Book of Concord Readings for the Week:

Monday: The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, IV (II).22-47
Tuesday: The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, IV (II).48-74
Wednesday: The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, IV (II).75-85
Thursday: The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, IV (II).86-102
Friday: The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, IV (II).103-121

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 23—"Christ, the Life of All the Living"

Evening: INSERT—"Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Living Bread"

Calendar for the Week after Laetare Sunday

Today: Laetare Sunday—Rose

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

Monday: No Events Scheduled

Tuesday: The Festival of St. Patrick, Bishop and Confessor—White
St. Patrick's Day

Wednesday: Midweek Lenten Vespers—Violet

5 p.m. Vespers

6 p.m. Private confession

Thursday: The Festival of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin
Mary and Guardian of our Lord—White

Friday: *Spring Begins*

Saturday: No Events Scheduled

Next Sunday: Judica (Passion) Sunday—Violet

10:00 a.m. Divine Service and Bible Class in Simpsonville,
SC and Fort Myers, FL (Pastor Warr)

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

Easter Lilies

Please consider donating an Easter lily (or two) to help decorate our sanctuary for the Easter season. Easter lilies may be brought to the church during Holy Week. We will keep them in the back until the Easter Vigil.

St. Ignatius of Antioch Evangelical Lutheran Seminary

The Diocesan seminary has begun their Spring Quarter. This Quarter they are taking 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

"In today's Gospel Christ gives us another lesson in faith, that we should not be overanxious about our daily bread and our temporal existence, and stirs us up by means of a miracle; as though to say by His act what he says by his words in Matthew 6:33: 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.' For here we see, since the people followed Christ for the sake of God's Word and the signs, and thus sought the Kingdom of God, He did not forsake them but richly fed them. He hereby also shows that, rather than those who seek the Kingdom of God should suffer need, the grass in the desert would become wheat, or a crumb of bread would be turned into a thousand loaves; or a morsel of bread would feed as many people and just as satisfactorily as a thousand loaves; in order that the words in Matthew 4:4 might stand firm, that 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.' And to confirm these words Christ is the first to be concerned about the people, as to what they should eat, and asks Philip, before they complain or ask Him; so that we may indeed let him care for us, remembering that He cares more and sooner for us than we do for ourselves." *From Martin Luther's Sermon in the Church Postil for Laetare.*

To Read in Preparation for this week's Festivals:

Today—Laetare Sunday

Epistle:

Galatians 4:21-31

Gospel:

St. John 6:1-15

March 17th—The Festival of St. Patrick, Bishop and Confessor

Epistle:

Hebrews 7:23-37

Gospel:

St. Matthew 25:14-23

March 18th—Midweek Lenten Vespers #3

Epistle:

2 Peter 1:2-11

Gospel:

St. John 6:36-51

March 19th—The Festival of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin
Mary and Guardian of our Lord

Epistle:

2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16

Gospel:

St. Matthew 1:18-21

160. Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele

Johann Franck, 1649

Tr., Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.

Schmücke dich

Johann Crüger, 1649

1. Deck thy - self, my soul, with glad - ness,
 2. Hast - en as a bride to meet Him,
 3. He who cost - ly goods de - sir - eth
 4. Ah! how hun - gers all my spir - it

Leave the gloom - y_ haunts of sad - ness,
 And with lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him,
 To ob - tain, much gold re - quir - eth;
 For the love I_ do not mer - it!

Come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,
 For with words of life im - mor - tal
 But to free - ly give the trea - sure
 Oft have I, with sighs fast throng - ing,

There with joy thy prais - es ren - der
 Now He knock - eth at thy por - tal;
 Of Thy love is Thy good plea - sure,
 Thought up - on this food with long - ing,

Un - to Him whose grace un - bound - ed
 Haste to ope the gates be - fore Him,
 For on earth there is no cof - fer
 In the bat - tle well - nigh worst - ed,

Hath this won - drous Ban - quet found - ed;
 Say - ing, while thou dost a - dore Him,
 Which as pay - ment we might of - fer
 For this Cup of life have thirst - ed,

[stanza continued on next page]

160. Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness [cont.]

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

High o'er all the heav'ns He reign - eth,
 "Suf - fer, Lord, that I re - ceive Thee,
 For this Cup Thy blood con - tain - ing,
 For the Friend, who here in - vites us,

Yet to dwell with thee He deign - eth.
 And I nev - er more will leave Thee."
 And this man - na, on us rain - ing.
 And to God Him - self u - nites us. A - men.

5. Now I sink before Thee lowly,
 Filled with joy most deep and holy,
 As with trembling awe and wonder
 On Thy mighty work I ponder,
 How, by mystery surrounded,
 Depths no man hath ever sounded,
 None may dare to pierce unbidden,
 Secrets that with Thee are hidden.

6. Nay, though reason here doth ponder,
 It can never reach this wonder,
 That this bread is never lessened,
 Though it nourish thousands present,
 And that Christ His blood is giving
 With the wine we are receiving.
 O, these mysteries unsounded
 Are by God alone expounded!

7. Sun, who all my life doth brighten,
 Light, who dost my soul enlighten,
 Joy, the sweetest man e'er knoweth,
 Fount, whence all my being floweth,—
 At Thy feet I cry, my Maker,
 Let me be a fit partaker
 Of this blessed food from heaven,
 For our good, Thy glory, given.

8. Lord, Thy fervent love hath driven
 Thee to leave Thy throne in heaven,
 For us on the cross to languish,
 And to die in bitter anguish,
 To forgo all joy and gladness,
 And to shed Thy blood in sadness,
 Which we drink now; grant that never
 We forget Thy love, dear Savior!

9. Jesus, Bread of Life, I pray Thee,
 Let me gladly here obey Thee,
 Never to my hurt invited,
 Be Thy love with love requited;
 From this Banquet let me measure,
 Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure;
 Thro' the gifts Thou here dost give me
 As Thy guest in heaven receive me.

Laetare - 4th Sunday in Lent
 23. Christ, the Life of All the Living

Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1659
 Tr., Catherine Winkworth, 1851

Jesu, meines Lebens Leben
 Wolfgang Wessnitzer, 1661

1. Christ, the Life of all the liv - ing,
 2. Thou, ah! Thou, hast ta - ken on Thee

Christ, the Death of death our foe, Who, Thy - self for
 Bonds and stripes, a cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were

me once giv - ing To the dark - est depths of woe,
 heaped up - on Thee, O Thou sin - less Son of God!

Ma - dest rec - on - cil - i - a - tion, And didst save me
 Thus didst Thou my soul de - liv - er From the bonds of

from dam - na - tion; Thou - sand, thou - sand
 sin for - ev - er. Thou - sand, thou - sand

thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee.
 thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to Thee. A - men.

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>3. Thou hast borne the smiting only
 That my wounds might all be whole;
 Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,
 Rest to give my weary soul;
 Yea, the curse of God enduring,
 Blessing unto me securing.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.</p> | <p>5. Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,
 That from pain I might be free;
 Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee—
 Thence I gain security;
 Comfortless once Thou didst languish,
 Me to comfort in my anguish.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.</p> |
| <p>4. Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,
 Treating Thee with cruel scorn,
 And with piercing thorns
 they crowned Thee;
 All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,
 That as Thine Thou mightest own me,
 And with heav'nly glory crown me.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.</p> | <p>6. Thou hast suffered great affliction,
 And hast borne it patiently,
 Even death by crucifixion,
 Fully to atone for me;
 Thou didst choose to be tormented,
 That my doom should be prevented.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.</p> |
7. Then for all that wrought our pardon,
 For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
 For Thine anguish in the garden,
 I will thank Thee evermore;
 Thank Thee with my latest breath
 For Thy sad and cruel death,
 For that last most bitter cry,
 And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

226. Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Living Bread

Du Lebensbrot, Herr Jesu Christ
 Johann Rist, 1654, cento
 Tr., Arthur T. Russell, 1851, alt.

Herr, wie du willst
 "Deutsch Kirchenamt"
 Strassburg, 1525

1. Lord Je - sus Christ, Thou liv - ing Bread,
 2. Thou me to pas - tures green dost guide,
 3. O Bread of Heav'n, my soul's De - light,
 4. I mer - it not Thy fa - vor, Lord,

May I for mine pos - sess Thee.
 To qui - et wat - ers lead me;
 For full and free re - mis - sion
 Sin now up - on me li - eth;

I would with heav'n - ly food be fed;
 Thy Ta - ble Thou dost well pro - vide
 With pray'r I come be - fore Thy sight,
 Be - neath my bur - den, self - ab - horred,

De - scend, re - fresh, and bless me.
 And from Thy hand dost feed me.
 In sor - row and con - tri - tion.
 To Thee my spir - it cri - eth.

Now make me meet for Thee, O Lord;
 Sin, weak - ness, and in - fir - mi - ty
 With faith a - dorn my soul that I
 In all my grief this com - forts me,

Now, hum - bly by my heart im - plored,
 Am I; O Sav - ior, give to me
 May to Thy Ta - ble now draw nigh
 That Thou on sin - ners gra - cious - ly,

Grant me Thy grace and mer - cy.
 The Cup of Thy sal - va - tion.
 With Thine own prep - a - ra - tion.
 Lord Je - sus, hast com - pas - sion. A - men.

207. Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

Jesus Christus, unser Heiland
Martin Luther, 1524
Tr., unknown

Jesus Christus, unser Heiland
"Geistliches Lieder"
Wittenberg, 1535

1. Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior,
2. To re - mind us that, to save us,
3. Who - so to this board re - pair - eth,
4. Praise the Fa - ther, God in heav - en,

Turned a - way God's wrath for - ev - er;
He hath died, His flesh He gave us
Take good heed how he pre - par - eth;
Who such pre - cious food hath giv - en,

Suff - 'ring pains no tongue can tell,
With this bread, a quick - 'ning food,
Death in - stead of life will he
And for sins which thou hast done

He saved us from the pains of hell.
And with this wine, His pre - cious blood.
Re - ceive who comes un - worth - i - ly.
Hath caused to die His on - ly Son. A - men.

5. Thou shalt hold with faith unshaken,
That this food is to be taken
By the sick who are distressed,
By those whose heart is sin-oppressed.

6. To such grace and mercy turneth
Ev'ry soul that truly mourneth;—
Art thou well? —Avoid this board,
Lest thou receive an ill reward.

7. Christ says: "Come, ye heavy-laden,
I your weary hearts will gladden;
They that are yet strong and well,
Despise the best physician's skill.

8. "Couldst thou earn thine own salvation,
Useless were My death and Passion;
This feast is not spread for thee,
If thine own helper thou wilt be."

9. If thou this believest truly,
And confession makest duly,
Thou a welcome guest art here,
This heav'nly food thy soul shall cheer.

10. But the fruits must not be missing,
Love thy neighbor without ceasing,
That true love let him receive,
Which here to thee thy God doth give.

236. May God Be Praised Henceforth

Gott sei gelobet und gebenedeiet
 St. 1, author unknown, c. 1400
 St. 2, 3, Martin Luther, 1524
 Tr., Richard Massie, 1854, alt.

Gott sei gelobet
 Johann Walther, 1524

1. May God be praised hence - forth and blest for - ev - er,

Who, Him-self both Gift and Giv - er, With His own flesh and

blood our souls doth nour - ish; May they grow there -

by and flour - ish! O Lord, have mer - cy! By Thy ho - ly

bod - y, the self - same Which from Thine own moth - er Ma - ry

came, By the drops Thou didst bleed, Help us in the

hour of need! O Lord, have mer - cy! A - men.

2. Thou hast to death Thy holy body given,
 Life to win for us in heaven;
 By stronger love, dear Lord, Thou couldst not bind us,
 Whereof this should well remind us.

O Lord, have mercy!
 Lord, Thy love constrained Thee for our good
 Mighty things to do by Thy dear blood,
 Thou hast paid all we owed,
 Thou hast made our peace with God.

O Lord, have mercy!

3. May God bestow on us His grace and blessing,
 That, His holy footsteps tracing,
 We walk as brethren dear in love and union,
 Nor repent this sweet communion.

O Lord, have mercy!
 Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us,
 Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
 That Thy poor Church may see
 Days of peace and unity.

O Lord, have mercy!