

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.



Gaudete Sunday
December 14th, 2025

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

A Parish Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America

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*“Blessed is he, whosoever shall find none
occasion of stumbling in me.” St. Matthew 11:6*

The Order of Divine Service

The Ringing of the Bell		
The Hymn	<i>“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”</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. 47
The Kyrie		ASBH p. 10
The Salutation		ASBH p. 13
The Collect for the Day		ASBH p. 47
The Collect for the Season of Advent		ASBH p. 45
Collect Amen		ASBH p. 14
<i>Sit</i>		
The Epistle		1 Corinthians 4:1-5
The Gradual		ASBH p. 47
<i>Stand</i>		
The Sentence for the Season of Advent		ASBH p. 41
The Gospel	<i>(Gospel Responses ASBH p. 16)</i>	St. Matthew 11:2-10
The Creed	<i>(All may bow at the words “And was made man.)</i>	ASBH p. 17
<i>Sit</i>		
The Hymn	<i>“The Only Son from Heaven”</i>	ASBH 3
The Sermon	<i>Art Thou He That Cometh?</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>“Rejoice, All Ye Believers”</i>	ASBH 67
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>“Hark, A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”</i>	Δ 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>“Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”</i>	INSERT
<i>Stand</i>		
The Salutation		ASBH p. 36
The Benedicamus		ASBH p. 37
The Benediction		ASBH p. 37
The Triple Amen	<i>(First Setting)</i>	ASBH p. 37
<i>Sit</i>		

Recitation of the Catechism

The Ten Commandments (pages 9-12) & Questions 171-183 (Part II. The Creed. The Third Article. Of the Holy Ghost, page 94-98).

Announcements

ASBH = Augustana Service Book and Hymnal: 2022 Supplement.

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 4:30 p.m. Candlelight Divine Service 5:00 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, Martyr</i>
December 27th	<i>The Festival of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>
December 28th	<i>The Sunday Within the Octave of Christmas/The Festival of the Holy Innocents</i> Divine Service 10:00 a.m. Bible Class 11:15 a.m. Divine Service in Augusta, GA 3:00 p.m.
January 1st	<i>The Festival of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus</i> Private confession 9:30 a.m. Divine Service 10:00 a.m.
January 4th	<i>The Second Sunday after Christmas</i> Divine Service 10:00 a.m. Bible Class 11:15 a.m.
January 6th	<i>The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord</i> Private Confession 4:30 p.m. Divine Service 5:00 p.m.

Gospel:

St. Luke 3:1-6

Announcements**December 21st—Rorate coeli Sunday/The Festival of St. Thomas, Apostle****Epistle:** Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel: St. John 1:19-28**In Our Prayers:**

- For all those who are sick or infirmed, especially, *Dan, Katie, Kelly, Vince Bost, 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, Becky Phillips, 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, *Lamb of God Ev. Lutheran Church, Rogers, AR;* and her pastor, the *Rev. Martin Jackson.*
- 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, especially *Bishop Heiser.*
- For those celebrating an anniversary this week.
- For those traveling this week.

Daily Readings for the Week after Gaudete Sunday

	Morning	Evening
Today	Isaiah 53-54; Luke 1:39-56	Isaiah 55-56; Romans 1:16-25
Monday:	Isaiah 57-58; Heb. 10:35-39	Isaiah 59-60; 2:1-5
Tuesday:	Isaiah 61-62; Luke 21:5-24	Isaiah 63-64; 24:21—25:5
Wednesday:	Isaiah 65-66; Luke 12:35-59	St. Matthew 1-2; Isaiah 25:6-10
Thursday:	Matt. 3-4; James 5:7-11	St. Matthew 5-6; Isaiah 26:1-21
Friday:	Matt. 7-8; Luke 1:1-25	St. Matthew 9-10; Isaiah 51:1-16
Saturday:	Matt. 11-12; Luke 1:26-38	St. Matthew 13-14; Isaiah 52:1-12

Praying the Psalter Daily in Matins and Vespers:

	Morning	Evening
Today:	Psalms 132, 73	Psalms 98, 74-76
Monday:	Psalms 132, 77	Psalms 98, 78
Tuesday:	Psalms 132, 79-80	Psalms 98, 81-83
Wednesday:	Psalms 132, 84-85	Psalms 98, 86-88
Thursday:	Psalms 132, 89	Psalms 98, 90-92
Friday:	Psalms 132, 93-95	Psalms 96-100
Saturday:	Psalms 132, 101-102	Psalms 145, 103-104

Book of Concord Readings for the Week:

Monday: The Large Catechism, I.30-48
Tuesday: The Large Catechism, I.49-60
Wednesday: The Large Catechism, I.61-74
Thursday: The Large Catechism, I.75-87
Friday: The Large Catechism, I.88-102

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 3—"The Only Son from Heaven"

Evening: ASBH 68—"Rejoice, All Ye Believers"

Calendar for the Week after Gaudete Sunday

Today: Gaudete Sunday—Rose

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

11:15 a.m. Parish Meeting

Monday: Bishop Heiser's Birthday

Tuesday: 6:00 p.m. Pastor teaches Psalms Class

Wednesday: Midweek Advent Vespers/The Ember Wednesday in Advent—Violet

O Sapientia

5:00 p.m. Vespers

6:00 p.m. Private Confession

Thursday: 6:00 p.m. Pastor teaches Psalms Class

O Adonai

Friday: The Ember Friday in Advent—Violet

O Radix Jesse

Saturday: The Ember Saturday in Advent—Violet

O Clavis David

Seminary Christmas Break Begins

Next Sunday: Rorate coeli Sunday/The Festival of St. Thomas, Apostle—Violet

Winter Begins

O Oriens

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

12:15 p.m. Decorate for Christmas

St. Ignatius of Antioch Evangelical Lutheran Seminary

The Diocesan seminary has begun the Winter Quarter. I am teaching a class on the Psalms on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Please keep the seminary and her students in your prayers.

Midweek Advent Services

Midweek Advent Vespers continues this Wednesday, December 17th at 5:00 p.m. Private confession will be offered after the Office.

Parish Meeting

Our next parish meeting is TODAY after the Divine Service. We will discuss next year's budget and the slate of officers for next year. Non-members are welcome to attend in an observatory role.

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.

Poinsettias for Christmas and Epiphany Seasons

Please consider donating a poinsettia plant to decorate our sanctuary for the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany. You may start bringing them on *Rorate coeli* Sunday, Sunday, December 21st.

An Excerpt from Luther's Writings

"As though John would say to his disciples: 'There you hear of His works, such as I never accomplished, nor anyone else before Him. Now go to Him and ask Him, whether or not He is the one that cometh. Put away the gross worldly deception that He would ride on steeds in armor. He is increasing, but I must now decrease; my work must cease, but His must continue; you must leave me and cling to Him.'" *From the Church Postil for Gaudete.*

To Read in Preparation for this week's Festivals:

Today—Gaudete Sunday

Epistle:

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Gospel:

St. Matthew 11:2-10

December 17th—The Ember Wednesday in Advent

Epistle:

Isaiah 2:2-5

Gospel:

St. Luke 1:26-38

December 19th—The Ember Friday in Advent

Epistle:

Isaiah 11:1-5

Gospel:

St. Luke 1:39-47

December 20th—The Ember Saturday in Advent

Epistle:

2 Thessalonians 2:1-8


##. Hail to the Lord's Anointed

James Montgomery, 1821

Freut euch, ihr lieben
Leonhart Schröter, 1587




1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, Great
2. He comes with suc - cor speed - y To
3. He shall come down like show - ers Up -
4. A - ra - bia's des - ert ran - ger To



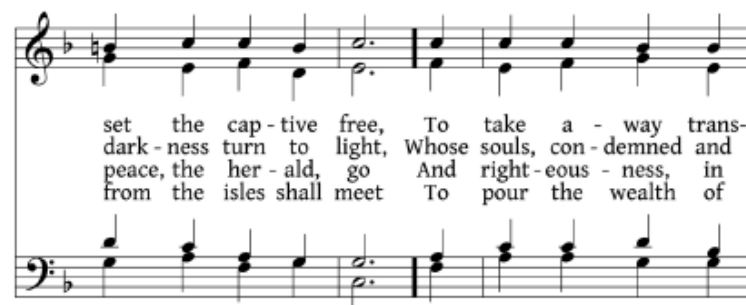
Da - vid's great - er Son! Hail, in the time ap -
those who suf - fer wrong; To help the poor and
on the fruit - ful earth, And joy and hope, like
Him shall bow the knee, The E - thi - o - pian



point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!
need - y And bid the weak be strong;
flow - ers, Spring in His path to birth.
stran - ger His glo - ry come to see;



He comes to break op - pres - sion, To
To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their
Be - fore Him on the moun - tains Shall
With of - frings of de - vo - tion Ships



set the cap - tive free, To take a - way trans -
dark - ness turn to light, Whose souls, con - demned and
peace, the her - ald, go And right - eous - ness, in
from the isles shall meet To pour the wealth of



gres - sion, And rule in e - qui - ty.
dy - ing, Were pre - cious in His sight.
foun - tains, From hill to val - ley flow.
o - cean In tri - bute at His feet. A - men.

5. Kings shall bow down before Him
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him,
His praise all peoples sing;
To Him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend,
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.

6. O'er every foe victorious,
He on His throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever—
That name to us is Love.

##. Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding

Vox clara ecce intonat
Latin, c. 900
Tr., Edward Caswall, 1849

O der alles
"Neues geistreiches Gesangbuch"
Halle, 1705

1. Hark, a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing!

"Christ is nigh!" we hear it say;

"Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,

O ye chil - dren of the day!" A - men.

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 heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiv'n.

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

Δ5. Honor, glory, might, dominion,
To the Father and the Son.
With the everlasting Spirit,
While eternal ages run!

##. Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

Philip Doddridge, 1735, cento

Chesterfield
Thomas Haweis, 1792

1. Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior
2. He comes the pris - 'ners to re -
3. He comes, from thick - est films of
4. He comes the bro - ken heart to

comes, The Sav - ior prom - ised long;
lease, In Sa - tan's bond - age held.
vice To clear the men - tal ray
bind, The bleed - ing soul to cure,

Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
The gates of brass be - fore Him
And on the eye - balls of the
And with the trea - sures of His

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song,
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
blind To pour ce - les - tial day.
grace T'en - rich the hum - ble poor. A - men.

5. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.