

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.



Rorate coeli
December 18th, 2022

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

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

Epistle: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: St. Luke 2:1-14

In Our Prayers:

- For all those who are sick or infirmed, especially, *Peggy Holder, Jo Kope, Betty Ramsey, Brandon Dennie, Nellie Noegel, Katie, Dan, Angelo, Kelly, Judy Horn, Mike Miller, Barbara Miller, Rev. Mark Mueller, Paul Meadows, Vince Bost, Bill Kope, Barb Eisold, Ray Heilener, Martin Kope, Sally Kope, Bruce Carter, and Vito Gerardi.*
- For our bishop, the *Rt. Rev. James D. Heiser.*
- For the parishes served by our diocese, and those in our international fellowship, especially, *Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cambridge, MN;* and her pastor, the *Rev. Mark Mueller.*
- For our seminary, *St. Ignatius Lutheran Theological Seminary.*
- For our seminarians, *Ben Henson and Jacob Henson.*
- For our catechumens, especially *Nikolas Likourentzos.*
- For the moral and spiritual support of those involved with our mission in Knoxville, TN, especially, *Ana Heiser, Nikolas Likourentzos, Deacon Smithey, Sherrill Smithey, Bobby Eisold, Barb Eisold, and Bob Eisold.*
- For those struggling with addiction, especially, *Thomas Allred, Brennan David, and John Monahan.*
- For all those who serve in the military, especially, *Nicholas Silva.*
- For *Nikolas Likourentzos* and *Ana Heiser* who announced their engagement to be married.
- 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 Rorate coeli

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

Praying the Psalter Daily in Matins and Vespers:

	Morning	Evening
Today:	Psalms 126, 89	Psalms 145, 90-92
Monday:	Psalms 126, 93-95	Psalms 145, 96-100
Tuesday:	Psalms 126, 101-102	Psalms 145, 103-104
Wednesday:	Psalms 126, 105	Psalms 145, 106
Thursday:	Psalms 126, 107	Psalms 145, 108-111
Friday:	Psalms 126, 112-115	Psalms 145, 116-118
Saturday:	Psalms 24, 119:1-40	Ps. 89, 110, 132, 119:41-88

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: ASBH 4—"To Jordan Came Our Lord, the Christ"

Evening: TLH 58—"O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee?" (Second Tune)

Calendar for Rorate coeli

Today: Rorate coeli—Violet

O Adonai

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

11:15 a.m. Parish Meeting

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

Monday: *O Radix Jesse*

Tuesday: *O Clavis David*

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

O Oriens

4:30 p.m. Private confession

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

6:15 p.m. Decorate for Christmas

Thursday: *O Rex Gentium*

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

O Emmanuel

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

4:30 p.m. Private confession

5:00 p.m. Candlelight Divine Service

Next Sunday: The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord—White

10:00 a.m. Divine Service 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.

Midweek Advent Services

This year's Midweek Advent Services conclude this Wednesday at

5:00 p.m. Private confession will be offered before the Service at 4:30 p.m. We will decorate for Christmas after the Service.

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.

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 this week.

An Excerpt from Luther's Writings

"Christ answered John...in a twofold way...Here Christ first points them to the works, and then also to the words saying 'And blessed is he, whosoever shall find no occasion of stumbling in me.' With these words He does not only confess that He is the Christ, but also warns them against finding occasion of stumbling in Him...For one can dispense with all the saints, but Christ is the only One that no man can dispense with." *From the Church Postil for Gaudete.*

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: Ephesians 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 24:42-47

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

Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-12

Gospel: St. John 1:1-14

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.