

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.



The Vigil of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord
December 24th, 2023

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

A Parish Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America

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*“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among
us” St. John 1:14*

The Order of Divine Service

The Prelude	<i>“Divinum Mysterium”</i>	Ludwig Lenel
The Ringing of the Bell		
<i>Stand</i>		
	<i>The Lighting of the Christmas Candles</i>	
The Processional Hymn	<i>“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”</i>	TLH 90
Silent Prayer	<i>(Prayers are located on back cover)</i>	ASBH p. 7
	<i>All may extinguish their Candles</i>	
The Invocation		ASBH p. 7
The Confession of Sins		ASBH p. 8
Versicles	<i>(All may kneel)</i>	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. 52
The Kyrie		ASBH p. 10
The Gloria in Excelsis		ASBH p. 10-13
The Salutation		ASBH p. 13
The Collect for the Day		ASBH p. 52
Collect Amen		ASBH p. 14
<i>Sit</i>		
The Epistle		Hebrews 1:1-12
The Gradual		ASBH p. 52
	<i>The Lighting of the Christmas Candles</i>	<i>(during Sequence Hymn)</i>
The Sequence Hymn	<i>“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”</i>	Δ INSERT
<i>Stand</i>		
The Gospel		St. John 1:1-14
The Creed	<i>(All may bow at the words “And was made man.”)</i>	INSERT
<i>Sit</i>	<i>(Candles may be extinguished)</i>	
The Hymn	<i>“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”</i>	TLH 85
The Sermon	<i>The Word Became Flesh</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>		
	<i>The Lighting of the Christmas Candles</i>	<i>(during the Hymn)</i>
The Hymn	<i>“All My Heart This Night Rejoices”</i>	TLH 77
<i>Stand</i>		
The Exhortation		ASBH p. 21
The Lavabo		ASBH p. 21
Silent Prayer	<i>(Prayers are located on back cover)</i>	ASBH p. 21
The Preface		ASBH p. 22

The Proper Preface		ASBH p. 23
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 Hymns:	<i>“Christ the Lord to Us is Born”</i>	TLH 86
	<i>“O Jesus! This Thy Manger Is”</i>	INSERT
<i>Stand</i>		
The Nunc Dimittis		ASBH p. 33-35
The Thanksgiving and Collect		ASBH p. 35-36
The Hymn	<i>“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”</i>	TLH 102
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
The Recessional Hymn	<i>“Behold, a Branch Is Growing”</i>	TLH 645
<i>Sit</i>	<i>(Candles may be extinguished)</i>	
The Postlude	<i>“Es ist ein’ Ros’—Ia”</i>	Albert Thate

Announcements

ASBH = Augustana Service Book and Hymnal: 2022 Supplement.

TLH = The Lutheran Hymnal

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> 7 p.m. Divine Service and Bible Class in Fort Myers, FL
December 27th	<i>The Festival of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>
December 28th	<i>The Festival of the Holy Innocents</i>
December 31st	<i>The Sunday within the Octave of Christmas</i> Divine Service and Bible class in Simpsonville 10 a.m. Divine Service in Augusta, GA 3 p.m.
January 1st	<i>The Festival of the Circumcision and Name of our Lord</i> Private confession 9:30 a.m. Divine Service 10:00 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.

Festival of St. Nicholas
66. Of the Father's Love Begotten

Aurelius C. Prudentius, †413, cento
Tr., John M. Neale, 1854, and
Henry W. Baker, 1861

Divinum mysterium
Plain-song tune, 12th century




1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten
2. Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed




Ere the worlds be - gan to be,
When the Vir - gin, full of grace,



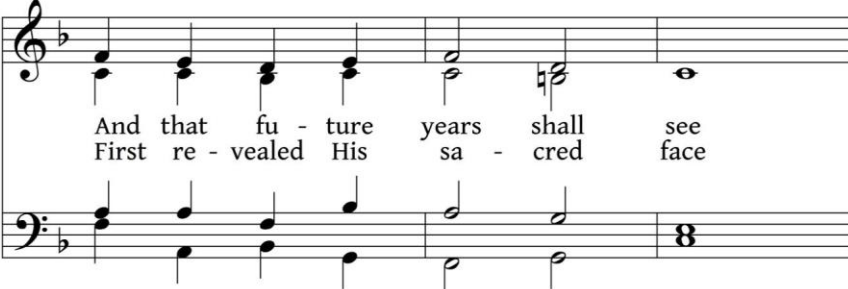
He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,



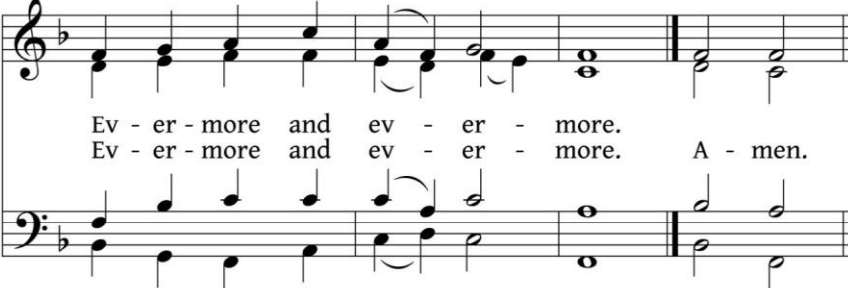
He the Source, the End - ing He,
Bare the Sav - ior of our race,



Of the things that are, that have been,
And the Babe, the world's Re - deem - er,



And that fu - ture years shall see
First re - vealed His sa - cred face



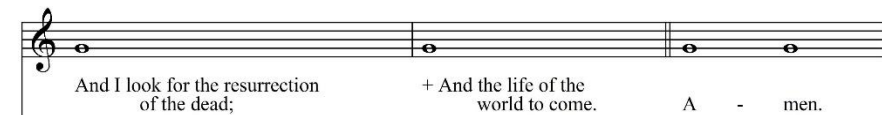
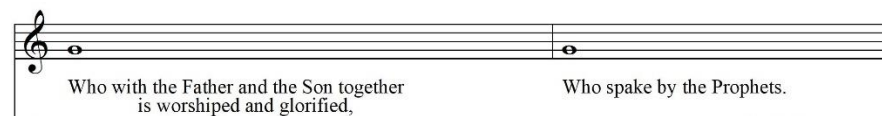
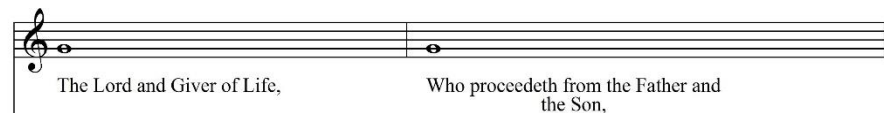
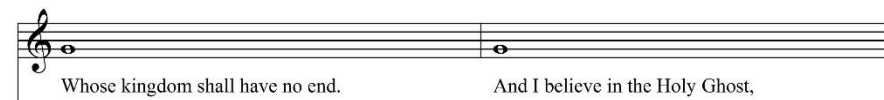
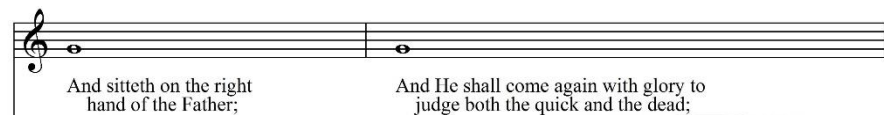
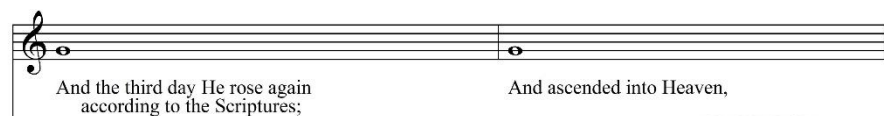
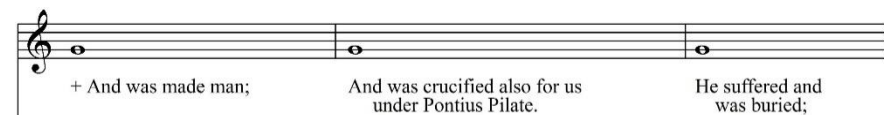
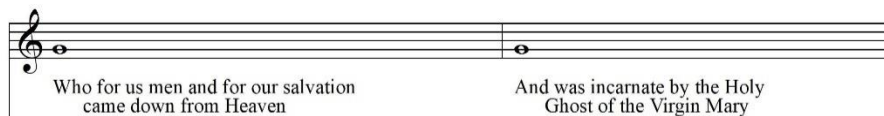
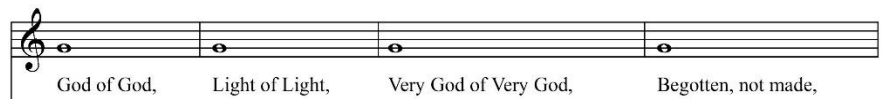
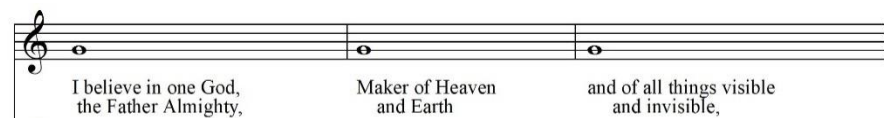
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

3. O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

4. This is He whom Heav'n-taught singers
Sang of old with one accord;
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the Long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

Δ5. Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.

The Nicene Creed



+ — indicates that the worshippers may make a sign of reverence (bow the head, genuflect, or make the sign of the holy cross) as is appropriate.

Christmas

##. O Jesus! This Thy Manger Is

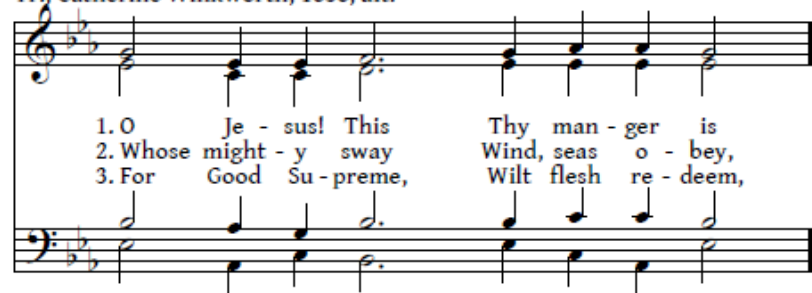
O Jesus, Christ, dein Kripplein ist

O Jesu Christ, dein Kripplein

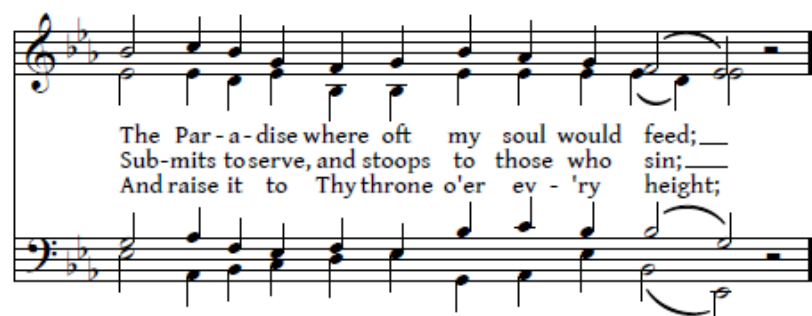
Paul Gerhardt, 1653

Johann Cruger, 1653

Tr., Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt.



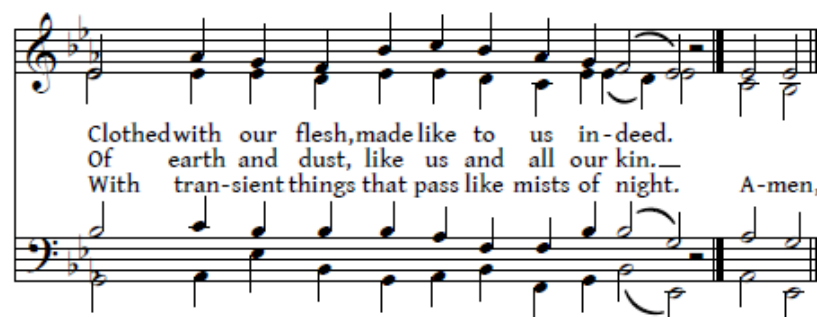
1. O Je - sus! This Thy man - ger is
 2. Whose might - y sway Wind, seas o - bey,
 3. For Good Su - preme, Wilt flesh re - deem,



The Par - a - dise where oft my soul would feed; —
 Sub - mits to serve, and stoops to those who sin; —
 And raise it to Thy throne o'er ev - 'ry height;



Here is my Lord, Th'E - ter - nal Word
 The Son of God Doth bear the load
 E - ter - nal Thou, To us now bow



Clothed with our flesh, made like to us in - deed.
 Of earth and dust, like us and all our kin. —
 With tran - sient things that pass like mists of night. A - men,

4. Thy glory, joy Woe, grief destroy;
 Thou, Heav'nly Treasure, dost all wealth restore!
 Thou Living Well! Immanuel!
 Dost conquer sin and death forevermore!

5. Come, all who art, Of a sad heart,
 Take courage now, let this thy fears dispel:
 His Son most dear God's giv'n thee here,
 It cannot be but God doth love thee well.

6. How oft thou think Thou'll surely sink,
 That hope and comfort are no more for thee;
 Come then and gaze Upon His face,
 And here the love of God Incarnate see.

7. Ah now the door Is ope'd e'er more
 To all the joys of this world and the next;
 This Babe's our Friend, Will make an end
 Of all that faithful hearts long time hath vexed.

8. Earth, we no more Seek thy rich store,
 If but this treasure will be still our own;
 He who holds fast, Till this life's past,
 Our Lord will crown with joy before His throne.