

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

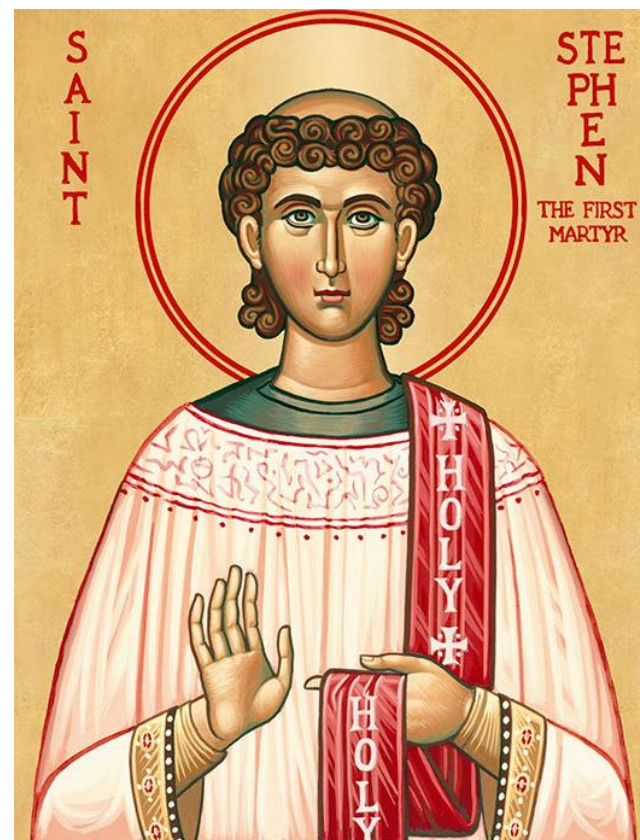
Dear Savior, upon Thy gracious invitation I come to Thine Altar. Let me find favor in Thine eyes that I may approach Thy Table in true faith and receive the Sacrament to the salvation of my soul. Amen.

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.



The Festival of St. Stephen, Martyr
December 26th, 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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“Some of them shall ye kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city:” St. Matthew 23:34

The Order of Divine Service

The Prelude	<i>“St. George”</i>	Hugo Gehrke
The Ringing of the Bell		
<i>Stand</i>		
The Processional Hymn	<i>“Oh, Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly”</i>	TLH 96
Silent Prayer	<i>(Prayers are located on back cover)</i>	ASBH p. 7
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. 131
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. 131
The Collect for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord		ASBH p. 53
Collect Amen		ASBH p. 14
<i>Sit</i>		
The Epistle		Acts 6:8—7:60
The Gradual		ASBH p. 53
The Sequence Hymn	<i>“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”</i>	Δ INSERT
<i>Stand</i>		
The Gospel		St. Matthew 23:34-39
The Creed	<i>(All may bow at the words “And was made man.”)</i>	INSERT
<i>Sit</i>		
The Hymn	<i>“Who Are These in Bright Array?”</i>	INSERT
The Sermon	<i>I Send unto You Prophets</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>“Flung to the Heedless Winds”</i>	TLH 259
<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. 23-27
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>“Now Are the Days Fulfilled”</i>	TLH 99
<i>Stand</i>		
The Nunc Dimittis		ASBH p. 33-35
The Thanksgiving and Collect		ASBH p. 35-36
The Hymn	<i>“This Night a Wondrous Revelation”</i>	TLH 88
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
Recessional Hymn	<i>“To Shepherds as They Watched by Night”</i>	TLH 103
<i>Sit</i>		
The Postlude	<i>“Puer nobis nascetur”</i>	Nicolas Lebègue

Recitation of the Catechism

The Office Keys and Confession (pages 21-25) & Questions 180-183 (Part II, The Creed, The Third Article. Of Sanctification. 1. Of the Holy Ghost, pages 96-98).

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 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,



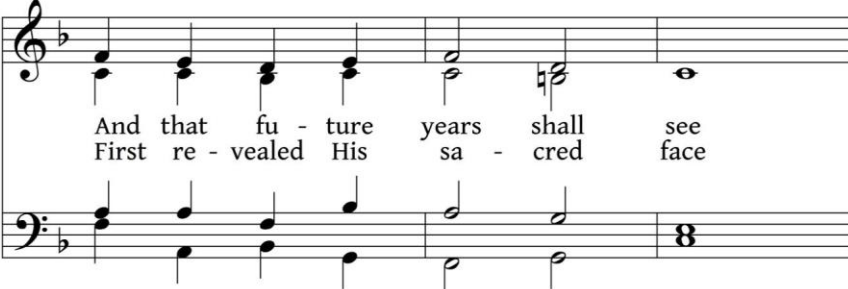
He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,



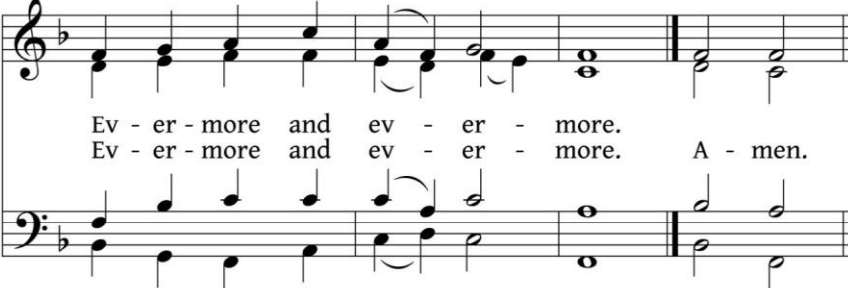
He the Source, the End - ing He,
Bare the Sav - ior of our race,



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



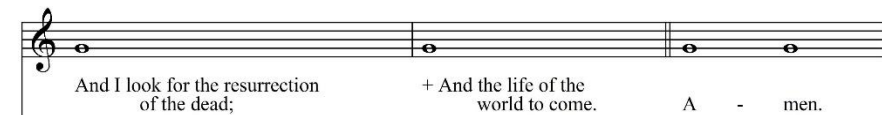
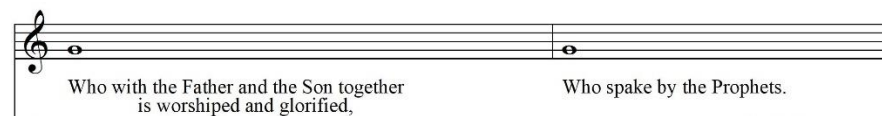
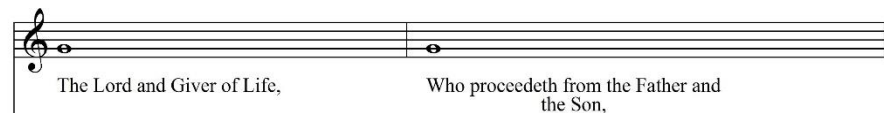
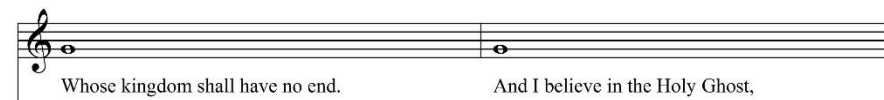
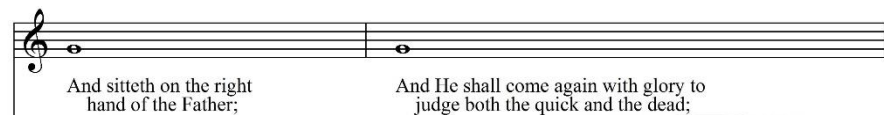
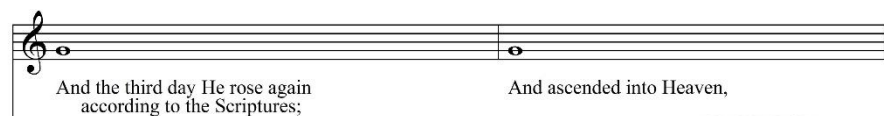
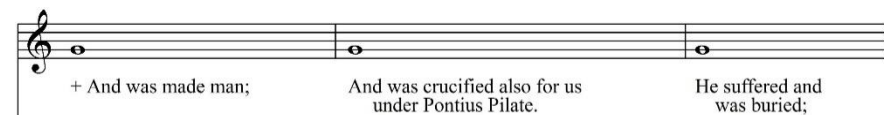
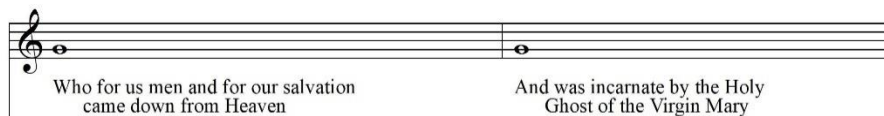
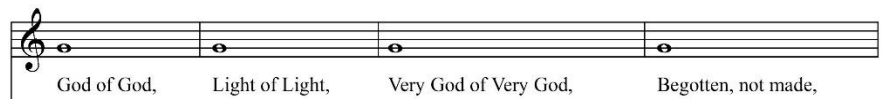
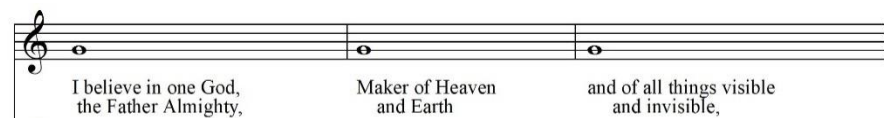
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

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.

Festival of St. Stephen

70. Who Are These in Bright Array?

James Montgomery, 1819

St. George's, Windsor.
George Job Elvey, 1858

1. Who are these in bright ar - ray,
2. These through fier - y tri - als trod,
3. Hun - ger, thirst, dis - ease un - known,

This in - nu - mer - a - ble throng,
These from great af - flic - tion came;
On im - mor - tal fruits they feed;

Round the al - tar, night and day,
Now, be - fore the throne of God,
Then the Lamb a - midst the throne

Hymn - ing one tri - um - phant song?
Sealed with His al - migh - ty Name,
Shall to liv - ing fount - ains lead;

"Wer - thy is the Lamb, once slain, Bless - ing, hon - or,
Clad in rai - ment pure and white, Vic - tor - palms in
Joy and glad - ness ban - ish sighs; Per - fect love dis -

gle - ry, pow'r, Wis - dom, rich - es to ob - tain,
ev - 'ry hand, Through their great Re - deem - er's might,
pels all fears; And for - ev - er from their eyes

New do - min - ion ev - 'ry hour."
More than con - quer - ors they stand.
God shall wipe a - way the tears. A - men.