

**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.

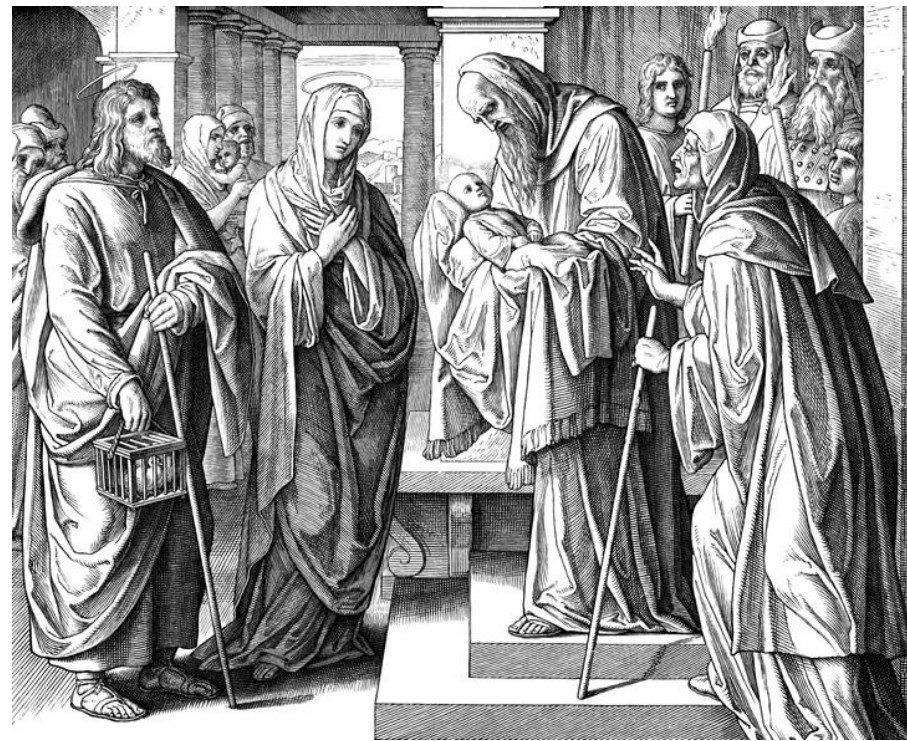
#### **A Prayer after Communion**

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 Sunday within the Octave of Christmas  
December 31<sup>st</sup>, 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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*“Behold, this Child is set for the falling and the rising of many in Israel.” St. Luke 2:34*

## The Order of Divine Service

<b>The Prelude</b>	<i>“Mit Fried’ und Freud”</i>	Dietrich Buxtehude
<b>The Ringing of the Bell</b>		
<i>Stand</i>		
<b>The Hymn</b>	<i>“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”</i>	TLH 91
<b>Silent Prayer</b>	<i>(Prayers are located on back cover)</i>	ASBH p. 7
<b>The Invocation</b>		ASBH p. 7
<b>The Confession of Sins</b>		ASBH p. 8
<b>Versicles</b>	<i>(All may kneel)</i>	ASBH p. 8
<b>Confession and Absolution</b>		ASBH p. 8-9
<i>Stand (if kneeling)</i>		
<b>The Introit</b>	<i>(Congregation joins Pastor on Gloria Patri)</i>	ASBH p. 54
<b>The Kyrie</b>		ASBH p. 10
<b>The Gloria in Excelsis</b>		ASBH p. 10-13
<b>The Salutation</b>		ASBH p. 13
<b>The Collect for the Day</b>		ASBH p. 54
<b>The Collect for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord</b>		ASBH p. 53
<b>Collect Amen</b>		ASBH p. 14
<i>Sit</i>		
<b>The Epistle</b>		Galatians 4:1-7
<b>The Gradual</b>		ASBH p. 54
<b>The Sequence Hymn</b>	<i>“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”</i> Δ	INSERT
<i>Stand</i>		
<b>The Gospel</b>		St. Luke 2:33-40
<b>The Creed</b>	<i>(All may bow at the words “And was made man.”)</i>	ASBH p. 17
<i>Sit</i>		
<b>The Hymn</b>	<i>“To God the Anthem Raising”</i>	ASBH 6
<b>The Sermon</b>	<i>The Things Which Were Spoken</i>	
<i>Stand</i>		
<b>The Offertory</b>		ASBH p. 18-19
	<i>(An Alms Basin is located next to the bulletins for any Offerings)</i>	
<b>The General Prayer</b>		ASBH p. 19-20
<b>The Lord’s Prayer</b>		ASBH p. 20
<i>Sit</i>		
<b>The Hymn</b>	<i>“Thou Light of Gentile Nations”</i>	TLH 138
<i>Stand</i>		
<b>The Exhortation</b>		ASBH p. 21
<b>The Lavabo</b>		ASBH p. 21
<b>Silent Prayer</b>	<i>(Prayers are located on back cover)</i>	ASBH p. 21
<b>The Preface</b>		ASBH p. 22
<b>The Proper Preface</b>		ASBH p. 23-27
<b>The Sanctus and Benedictus</b>		ASBH p. 27-28
<b>The Lord’s Prayer</b>		ASBH p. 29

<b>The Verba Domini</b>	<i>(All may bow when the Pastor genuflects)</i>	ASBH p. 30
<b>The Pax Domini</b>	<i>(All may bow and cross themselves)</i>	ASBH p. 31
<b>The Agnus Dei</b>	<i>(All may kneel)</i>	ASBH p. 31-32
<i>Sit</i>		
<b>The Distribution</b>	<i>(Prayers are located on back cover)</i>	
<b>The Hymn</b>	<i>“Rejoice, Rejoice, This Happy Morn!”</i>	TLH 79
<i>Stand</i>		
<b>The Nunc Dimittis</b>		ASBH p. 33-35
<b>The Thanksgiving and Collect</b>		ASBH p. 35-36
<b>The Hymn</b>	<i>“In Peace and Joy I Now Depart”</i>	ASBH 77
<b>The Salutation</b>		ASBH p. 36
<b>The Benedicamus</b>		ASBH p. 37
<b>The Benediction</b>		ASBH p. 37
<b>The Triple Amen</b>	<i>(First Setting)</i>	ASBH p. 37
<i>Sit</i>		
<b>The Postlude</b>	<i>“Valet will ich dir geben”</i>	Georg Friedrich Kaufmann

### Recitation of the Catechism

The Sacrament of the Altar (pages 25-26) & Questions 184-193 (Part II, The Creed, The Third Article. Of Sanctification. 2. Of the Church, pages 98-101).

### 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

<b>December 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b><i>The Sunday within the Octave of Christmas</i></b> Divine Service and Bible class in Simpsonville 10 a.m. Divine Service in Augusta, GA 3 p.m.
<b>January 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b><i>The Festival of the Circumcision and Name of our Lord</i></b> Private confession 9:30 a.m. Divine Service 10:00 a.m.
<b>January 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><i>The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord</i></b> Private Confession 4:30 p.m. Divine Service 5:00 p.m.

## In Our Prayers:

- For all those who are sick or infirmed, especially, *Peggy Holder, Betty Ramsey, Brandon Dennie, Katie, Dan, Angelo, Kelly, Judy Horn, Mike Miller, Barbara Miller, Rev. Mark Mueller, Rev. Eric Stefanski, Paul Meadows, Vince Bost, Barb Eisold, Becky Phillips, Bill Kope, Martin Kope, Sally Kope, John Burton, Carol Laflay, 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, *St. Boniface Ev. Lutheran Church, Niles, MI*; and her pastor, the *Rev. John Rutowicz.*
- For the moral and spiritual support of those involved with our mission in Knoxville, TN, *Nikolas and Ana Likourentzos; Deacon and Sherrill Smithy; Kenny Earickson; and Bobby, Barb, 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 those celebrating a birthday this week.
- For those celebrating an anniversary this week.
- For those traveling this week.

## Announcements

### Daily Readings for the Week after the First Sunday after Christmas

	Morning	Evening
<b>Today</b>	2 Cor. 1-3; Matt. 2:13-15	2 Corinthians 4-6; Isaiah 55:1-13
<b>Monday:</b>	2 Cor. 7-9; Luke 4:16-21	2 Corinthians 10-11; James 4:13-17
<b>Tuesday:</b>	2 Cor. 12-13; Matt. 2:16-18	Galatians 1-3; Isaiah 42:1-9
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Gal. 4-6; Matt. 2:19-23	Ephesians 1-3; Isaiah 61:1-11
<b>Thursday:</b>	Eph. 4-6; Matt. 3:1-12	Philippians 1; Isaiah 56:1-8
<b>Friday:</b>	Philippians 2; Luke 3:1-9	Philippians 3; Isaiah 12:1-6
<b>Saturday:</b>	Philippians 4; Luke 3:23-38	Colossians 1; Genesis 7:1-24

### Praying the Psalter Daily in Matins and Vespers:

	Morning	Evening
<b>Today:</b>	Psalms 121, 148	Psalms 111, 149-150
<b>Monday:</b>	Psalms 121, 1-4	Psalms 111, 5-8
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Psalms 121, 9-11	Psalms 111, 12-17
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Psalms 121, 18	Psalms 111, 19-22
<b>Thursday:</b>	Psalms 121, 23-25	Psalms 111, 26-30
<b>Friday:</b>	Psalms 121, 31-32	Psalms 111, 33-34
<b>Saturday:</b>	Psalms 121, 35	Psalms 86, 36-37

### Book of Concord Readings for the Week:

**Monday:** The Large Catechism, I.183-198  
**Tuesday:** The Large Catechism, I.199-216  
**Wednesday:** The Large Catechism, I.217-231  
**Thursday:** The Large Catechism, I.230-247  
**Friday:** The Large Catechism, I.248-264

### 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:** How One Should Be Taught to Pray  
**Friday:** The Table of Duties  
**Saturday:** Christian Questions with Their Answers

**Hymns for the Week:**

**Morning:** ASBH 6—"To God the Anthem Raising"

**Evening:** TLH 138—"Thou Light of Gentile Nations"

**Calendar for the Week after the First Sunday after Christmas**

**Today: The Sunday within the Octave of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord—White**

*New Year's Eve*

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

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

**Monday: The Festival of the Circumcision of our Lord—White**

*New Year's Day*

9:30 a.m. Private confession

10:00 a.m. Divine Service

**Tuesday: The Ninth Day of Christmas—White**

**Wednesday: The Tenth Day of Christmas—White**

**Thursday: The Eleventh Day of Christmas—White**

**Friday: The Twelfth Day of Christmas—White**

**Saturday: The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord—White**

4:30 p.m. Private confession

5:00 p.m. Divine Service

**Next Sunday: The First Sunday after the Epiphany—Green**

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

**An Excerpt from Luther's Writings**

"What are those wonderful things spoken concerning Him? They are the things concerning which St. Simeon had spoken immediately before, when in the temple he took the child Jesus upon his arms, saying: 'Now lettest thou thy servant depart, Lord according to thy word, in peace; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.' At these things, St. Luke says, they marveled, namely, that this aged and holy man stood there before them in the temple, took the child in his arms and spoke of Him so exultingly, calling Him the light of the world, a Saviour of all nations, a glory of all the people of Israel;

Simeon himself thinking so highly of Him that he would now fain depart this life after he had seen the child." *From the Church Postil for the First Sunday after Christmas, 1522.*

**The Lutheran Herald**

The January 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](http://eldona.org). There are also printed copies in the back of the nave for your use and distribution.

**To Read in Preparation for this week's Festivals:**

**Today—The Sunday within the Octave of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord**

**Epistle:** Galatians 4:1-7

**Gospel:** St. Luke 2:33-40

**January 1<sup>st</sup>—The Festival of the Circumcision of our Lord**

**Epistle:** Galatians 3:23-29

**Gospel:** St. Luke 2:21

**January 6<sup>th</sup>—The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord**

**Epistle:** Isaiah 60:1-6

**Gospel:** St. Matthew 2:1-12

**January 7<sup>th</sup>—The First Sunday after the Epiphany of our Lord**

**Epistle:** Romans 12:1-5

**Gospel:** St. Luke 2:41-52

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 praisees 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.