

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 people be instructed 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 Bishops, 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 New King James edition, copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 Thomas Nelson Publishers, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



The Vigil of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord
December 24th, 2017

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

A Parish Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America

215 N. Main St., Ste. 1-D

Simpsonville, SC 29681

ssp&p@spplc.org

(864) 412-6330

www.spplc.org

Pastor Jerald P Dulas

(864) 832-9005 (home)

pastor@spplc.org

“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy!” St. Luke 2:10b

The Order of Divine Service

The Prelude	<i>“Divinum Mysterium”</i>	Ludwig Lenel
The Ringing of the Bell		
Silent Prayer		
<i>Stand</i>		
	<i>The Lighting of the Christmas Candles</i>	
The Christmas Processional		INSERT
Processional Hymns:		
	<i>“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”</i>	TLH 102
	<i>“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”</i>	TLH 90
The Confiteor	<i>(Candles may be extinguished)</i>	
The Invocation and Address		TLH p. 15
Versicles		TLH p. 15
Confession and Absolution		TLH p. 16
The Introit	<i>(Tone 5)</i>	INSERT
The Kyrie		TLH p. 17
The Gloria in Excelsis	<i>(Bell is rung throughout)</i>	TLH p. 17-19
The Salutation		TLH p. 19
The Collect for the Day		INSERT
<i>Sit</i>		
The Lesson		Isaiah 9:2-7
	<i>After each Lesson: V: This is the Word of the Lord. R: Thanks be to God.</i>	
The Gradual		INSERT
The Epistle		Titus 2:11-14
The Verse		INSERT
The Triple Hallelujah	<i>(Second Setting)</i>	TLH p. 20
<i>Stand</i>		
	<i>The Lighting of the Christmas Candles (during Sequence Hymn)</i>	
The Sequence Hymn	<i>“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”</i>	Δ INSERT
The Holy Gospel		St. Luke 2:1-14
The Nicene Creed		TLH p. 22
<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>Glory to God in the Highest!</i>	
<i>Stand</i>		
The Offertory	<i>“Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God”</i>	TLH p. 22-23
<i>Sit</i>		
The Offering		
<i>Stand</i>		
The General Prayer		TLH p. 23
<i>Sit</i>		
	<i>The Lighting of the Christmas Candles (during the Hymn)</i>	

The Hymn	<i>“All My Heart This Night Rejoices”</i>	TLH 77
<i>Stand</i>		
The Preface		TLH p. 24
The Proper Preface		TLH p. 25
The Sanctus and Benedictus	<i>(Bell is rung throughout)</i>	TLH p. 26
The Lord’s Prayer		TLH p. 27
The Verba Domini		TLH p. 27
The Pax Domini		TLH p. 27
The Agnus Dei		TLH p. 28
<i>Sit</i>		
The Distribution		
Hymns:	<i>“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”</i>	TLH 92
	<i>“O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is”</i>	TLH 81
<i>Stand</i>		
The Post-Communion Canticle	<i>“The Nunc Dimittis”</i>	TLH p. 29-30
The Thanksgiving	<i>(“And His mercy endureth forever”)</i>	TLH p. 30
The Post-Communion Collect		
<i>Sit</i>		
The Hymn	<i>“Behold, a Branch Is Growing”</i>	TLH 645
<i>Stand</i>		
The Salutation		TLH p. 31
The Benedicamus		TLH p. 31
The Benediction		TLH p. 31
Silent Prayer	<i>(Candles may be extinguished)</i>	
<i>Sit</i>		
Announcements		
The Postlude	<i>“Es ist ein’ Ros’—Ia”</i>	Albert Thate

Δ—indicates a hymn ending in a Doxological stanza; please stand.

Christmas Season Schedule

December 25th	
The Nativity of Our Lord	Divine Service 10:00 a.m.
December 31st	
The First Sunday after Christmas	Divine Service 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:15 a.m.
January 1st	
The Circumcision of Our Lord	
January 6th	
The Epiphany of Our Lord	Divine Service 7:00 p.m.
January 7th	
The First Sunday after Epiphany	Divine Service 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:15 a.m.

THE VIGIL OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
December 24th, 2017



Introit

P: THE LORD || has said to | Me, | - *

C: “You are My Son, today I have | be- | got- | ten | You.” (Ps. 2:7b)

P: || The Lord reigns, He is clothed with | *ma-jes-* · | ty; *

C: The Lord is clothed; He has girded | Him- | self | with | strength.

P: || Surely the world is es- | ta- | blished, *

C: So that it | can- | not | be | moved.

P: || Your throne is established from of | old; | - *

C: You are from | ev- | er- | last- | ing.

P: || The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their | voice; | - *

C: The floods | lift | up | their | waves.

P: || The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many | wa- | ters, *

C: Than the mighty | waves | of | the | sea.

P: || Your testimonies are very | sure; | - *

C: Holiness adorns Your house, O | Lord, | for- | ev- | er. (Ps. 93:1-5)

GLORIA PATRI (From Hymnal)

P: || The Lord has said to | Me, | - *

C: “You are My Son, today I have | be- | got- | ten | You.” (Ps. 2:7b)

Collect

O God, Who hast made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant, we beseech Thee, that, as we have known on Earth the mysteries of that Light, we may also come to the fullness of its joys in Heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.



Gradual

P: || Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your | pow- | er; *

C: In the beauties of holiness, from the womb | of | the | morn- | ing,

P: || The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right | hand, | - *

C: Till I make Your ene- | mies | Your | foot- | stool.” (Ps. 110: 3a, 1)

Verse

P: || Alle- | lu- | ia! *

C: Al- | — | le- | lu- | ia!

P: || The Lord has said to Me, “You are My | Son, | - *

C: Today I have begotten You.” | Al- | le- | lu- | ia! (Ps. 2:7b)

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; They rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. ⁴ For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. ⁵ For every warrior’s sandal from the noisy battle, and garments rolled in blood, will be used for burning and fuel of fire. ⁶ For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

St. Luke 2:1-14

¹ And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be

registered. ² This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. ⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. ⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. ⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

TLH 102 “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

Unknown, 18th Century

1. Oh, come, all ye faithful, triumphantly sing;
Come, see in the manger our Savior and King!
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

2. True Son of the Father, He comes from the skies;
To be born of a Virgin He doth not despise.
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

3. Hark, hark, to the angels all singing in Heaven,
“To God in the highest all glory be given!”
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

4. To Thee, then, O Jesus, this day of Thy birth
Be glory and honor through Heaven and Earth,
True Godhead incarnate, omnipotent Word!
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord! Amen.

TLH 90 “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”

Paul Gerhardt, 1667

1. Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.

2. Sin and death may well be groaning,
Satan now may well be moaning;
We, our full salvation owning,
Cast our ev'ry care away.

3. See how God, for us providing,
Gave His Son and life abiding;
He our weary steps is guiding
From Earth's woe to heav'nly joy.

4. Christ, from Heaven to us descending
And in love our race befriending,
In our need His help extending,
Saved us from the wily Foe.

5. Jacob's Star in all its splendor
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender,
Breaking all the powers of Hell.

6. From the bondage that oppressed us,
From sin's fetters that possessed us,
From the grief that sore distressed us,
We, the captives, now are free.

7. Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing
And to Thee we come confessing,
That our freedom Thou hast wrought!

8. Gracious Child, we pray Thee, hear us,
From Thy lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join th' angelic choir. Amen.

Sequence Hymn

INSERT “Of the Father's Love Begotten”

Aurelius C. Prudentius, died 413

1. Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the Source, the Ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

2. Oh, that birth forever blessed
When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bare the Savior of our race,
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

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.

Δ 5. 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. Amen.

TLH 85 “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Martin Luther, 1535

1. “From Heav’n above to Earth I come
To bear good news to ev’ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

2. “To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen Virgin mild;
This little child, of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all the Earth.

3. “This is the Christ, our God and Lord,
Who in all need shall aid afford;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.

4. “He will on you the gifts bestow
Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us His glory share.

5. “These are the tokens ye shall mark:
The swaddling-clothes and manger dark;
There ye shall find the Infant laid
By whom the heavens and Earth were made.”

6. Now let us all with gladsome cheer
Go with the shepherds and draw near
To see the precious Gift of God,
Who hath His own dear Son bestowed.

7. Give heed, my heart, lift up thine eyes!
What is it in yon manger lies?
Who is this child, so young and fair?
The blessèd Christ-child lieth there.

8. Welcome to Earth, Thou noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
Thou com’st to share my misery;
What thanks shall I return to Thee?

9. Ah, Lord, Who hast created all,
How weak art Thou, how poor and small,
That Thou dost choose Thine infant bed
Where humble cattle lately fed!

10. Were Earth a thousand times as fair,
Beset with gold and jewels rare,
It yet were far too poor to be
A narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee.

11. For velvets soft and silken stuff
Thou hast but hay and straw so rough,
Whereon Thou, King, so rich and great,
As ‘twere Thy Heaven, art throned in state.

12. And thus, dear Lord, it pleaseth Thee
To make this truth quite plain to me,
That all the world’s wealth, honor, might,
Are naught and worthless in Thy sight.

13. Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.

14. My heart for very joy doth leap,
My lips no more can silence keep;
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradle-song:

15. Glory to God in highest Heaven,
Who unto us His Son hath given!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the Earth. Amen.

TLH 77 “All My Heart This Night Rejoices”

Paul Gerhardt, 1653

1. All my heart this night rejoices
As I hear Far and near
Sweetest angel voices.
“Christ is born,” their choirs are singing
Till the air Ev’rywhere
Now with joy is ringing.

2. Forth today the Conqueror goeth,
Who the foe, Sin and woe,
Death and Hell, o’erthroweth.
God is man, man to deliver;
His dear Son Now is one
With our blood forever.

3. Shall we still dread God’s displeasure,
Who, to save, Freely gave
His most cherished Treasure?
To redeem us, He hath given
His own Son From the throne
Of His might in Heaven.

4. Should He Who Himself imparted
Aught withhold From the fold,
Leave us broken-hearted?
Should the Son of God not love us,
Who, to cheer Suff'ers here,
Left His throne above us?

5. If our blessed Lord and Maker
Hated men, Would He then
Be of flesh partaker?
If He in our woe delighted,
Would He bear All the care
Of our race benighted?

6. He becomes the Lamb that taketh
Sin away And for aye
Full atonement maketh.
For our life His own He tenders
And our race, By His grace,
Meet for glory renders.

7. Hark! a voice from yonder manger,
Soft and sweet, Doth entreat:
"Flee from woe and danger.
Brethren, from all ills that grieve you
You are feed; All you need
I will surely give you."

8. Come, then, banish all your sadness,
One and all, Great and small;
Come with songs of gladness.
Love Him Who with love is glowing;
Hail the Star, Near and far
Light and joy bestowing.

9. Ye whose anguish knew no measure,
Weep no more; See the door
To celestial pleasure.
Cling to Him, for He will guide you
Where no cross, Pain, or loss
Can again betide you.

10. Hither come, ye heavy-hearted,
Who for sin, Deep within,
Long and sore have smarted;
For the poisoned wound you're feeling
Help is near, One is here
Mighty for their healing.

11. Hither come, ye poor and wretched;
Know His will Is to fill
Every hand outstretchèd.
Here are riches without measure;

Here forget All regret,
Fill your hearts with treasure.

12. Let me in my arms receive Thee;
On Thy breast Let me rest,
Savior, ne'er to leave Thee.
Since Thou hast Thyself presented
Now to me, I shall be
Evermore contented.

13. Guilt no longer can distress me;
Son of God, Thou my load
Bearest to release me.
Stain in me Thou findest never;
I am clean, All my sin
Is removed forever.

14. I am pure, in Thee believing,
From Thy store Evermore
Righteous robes receiving.
In my heart I will enfold Thee,
Treasure rare, Let me there,
Loving, ever hold Thee.

15. Dearest Lord, Thee will I cherish.
Though my breath Fail in death,
Yet I shall not perish,
But with Thee abide forever
There on high, In that joy
Which can vanish never. Amen.

TLH 92 "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"
Unknown, about 1300

1. Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to Heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!

2. Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to Thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Thro' Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee!
Draw me unto Thee!

3. Now thro' His Son doth shine
The Father's grace divine.

Death o'er us had reignèd
Thro' sin and vanity;
He for us obtainèd
Eternal joy on high.
May we praise Him there!
May we praise Him there!

4. Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing
In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there!
Oh, that we were there! Amen.

TLH 81 "O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is"

Paul Gerhardt, 1653

1. O Jesus Christ,
Thy manger is
My paradise at which my soul reclineth.
For there, O Lord,
Doth lie the Word
Made flesh for us;—herein Thy grace forth shineth.

2. He whom the sea
And wind obey
Doth come to serve the sinner in great meekness.
Thou, God's own Son,
With us art one,
Dost join us and our children in our weakness.

3. Thy light and grace
Our guilt efface,
Thy heav'nly riches all our loss retrieving.
Immanuel,
Thy birth doth quell
The pow'r of Hell and Satan's bold deceiving.

4. Thou Christian heart,
Whoe'er thou art,
Be of good cheer and let no sorrow move thee!
For God's own Child,
In mercy mild,
Joins thee to Him;—how greatly God must love thee!

5. Remember thou
What glory now
The Lord prepared thee for all earthly sadness.
The angel host
Can never boast
Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.

6. The world may hold
Her wealth and gold;
But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true Treasure.
To Him hold fast
Until at last
A crown be thine and honor in full measure. Amen.

TLH 645 "Behold, a Branch is Growing"

Unknown German author, about 1500

1. Behold, a branch is growing
Of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sung, foreknowing;
It springs from Jesse's race
And bears one little Flow'r
In midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.

2. Isaiah hath foretold It
In words of promise sure,
And Mary's arms enfold It,
A Virgin meek and pure.
Thro' God's eternal will
This Child to her is given
At midnight calm and still.

3. The shepherds heard the story,
Proclaimed by angels bright,
How Christ, the Lord of Glory,
Was born on Earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped
And in the manger found him,
As angel heralds said.

4. This Flower whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True Man, yet very God;
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens every load.

5. O Savior, Child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
Savior, King of Glory.
Who dost our weakness know,
Bring us at length, we pray,
To the bright courts of Heaven
And to the endless day. Amen.