

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.

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Laetare
March 11th, 2018

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 Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.”

St. John 6:11

In Our Prayers:

- For all those who are sick or infirmed, especially, *Rev. Ned Brockwell, Lynne Smith, Doug Schultz, Denise Heiser, Rev. Donald Hunter, Emily Benson, Donna Dorgelo, Nancy, Pat, Caroline, Rev. Mark Mueller, Eleanor Smolen, Jo Kope, Rev. Eric Stefanski, Marie Scheck, Paul Meadows, Vera Davis, Nellie Noegel, and Vince Bost.*
- For our bishop, the *Rt. Rev. James D. Heiser.*
- For the parishes served by our diocese, especially, *Charity Ev. Lutheran Church, Burseson, TX; and her pastor, the Rev. Dr. Kent A. Heimbigner.*
- For our seminary, *St. Ignatius Evangelical Theological Lutheran Seminary,* and her seminarian, *Josiah Scheck.*
- For our catechumens.
- For all those who serve in the military, especially, *Luke Sekula and Nicholas Silva.*
- For those struggling with addiction, especially, *Thomas Allred.*
- For those near death.
- For those celebrating a birthday this week, especially *David Benson.*
- For those celebrating an anniversary this week.
- For those traveling this week.

Passiontide, Holy Week, and Easter Schedule

March 18th—**Judica:** 10:00 a.m. Divine Service
11:15 a.m. Bible Study

March 25th—**Palmarum:** 10:00 a.m. Divine Service
11:15 a.m. Divine Service

March 29th—**Maundy Thursday:** 7:00 p.m. Divine Service

March 30th—**Good Friday:** 7:00 p.m. Divine Service

April 1st—**The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord**
10:00 a.m. Divine Service
11:15 a.m. Bible Study

April 4th—**The Festival of the Annunciation of Our Lord**
7:00 p.m. Divine Service

Announcements

Daily Readings for the Week after Laetare

	Morning	Evening
Today	Joshua 23-24; John 6:36-51	Judges 1-2; 2 Peter 1:2-11
Monday:	Judges 3-4; Luke 23:26-56	Judges 5-6; Deuteronomy 9:1-29
Tuesday:	Judges 7-8; Matt. 26:1-35	Judges 9-10; Deuteronomy 10:1-22
Wednesday:	Judges 11-12; Matt. 26:36-75	Judges 13-14; Deuteronomy 11:1-32
Thursday:	Judges 15-16; Matt. 27:1-38	Judges 17-18; Deuteronomy 28:1-14
Friday:	Judges 19-20; Matt. 27:39-66	Judges 21; Deuteronomy 28:15-68
Saturday:	Ruth 1-2; Mark 14:1-31	Ruth 3-4; Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Praying the Psalter Daily in Matins and Vespers:

	Morning	Evening
Today:	Psalms 46, 58-59	Psalms 139, 60-63
Monday:	Psalms 46, 64-65	Psalms 139, 66-68
Tuesday:	Psalms 46, 69	Psalms 139, 70-72
Wednesday:	Psalms 46, 73	Psalms 139, 74-76
Thursday:	Psalms 46, 77	Psalms 139, 78
Friday:	Psalms 46, 79-80	Psalms 139, 81-83
Saturday:	Psalms 46, 84-85	Psalms 27, 86-88

Book of Concord Readings for the Week:

Monday: The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Greeting.1—I.2
Tuesday: The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, II.1-14
Wednesday: The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, II.15-41
Thursday: The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, II.42-52
Friday: The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, IV.1-21

Reciting the Catechism Daily:

Sunday: Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer
Monday: Baptism, Confession, Lord's Supper
Tuesday: Morning & Evening Prayer; Prayers Before & After Meals

Wednesday: Table of Duties I—Bishops, Pastors, & Preachers; What the Hearers Owe Their Pastors; Of Civil Government; Of Subjects

Thursday: Table of Duties II—To Husbands; To Wives; To Parents; To Children; To Servants, Hired Men & Employees; To Employers; To the Young in General; To Widows; To All in Common

Friday: How One Should Be Taught to Confess

Saturday: Christian Questions with Their Answers

Hymns for the Week:

Morning: TLH 305—“Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness”

Evening: TLH 312—“Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Living Bread”

Calendar for the Week after Laetare

Today: Laetare—Violet

Daylight Saving Time Begins

10:00 a.m. Divine Service

11:15 a.m. Bible Study

Monday: Communion Visit to Myrtle Beach, SC

Tuesday: Communion Visit to Myrtle Beach, SC

Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten Vespers

Thursday: David Benson’s Birthday

Friday: No Events Scheduled

Saturday: *St. Patrick’s Day*

Next Sunday: Judica (Passion Sunday)—Violet

10:00 a.m. Divine Service

11:15 a.m. Bible Study

The Lutheran Herald

The March 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>. There are also printed copies in the back of the nave.

St. Ignatius Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary

The winter quarter of our seminarian’s last year continues. Please keep the seminary and the seminarian in your prayers.

Needs for the McCall Hospice House

There is an urgent need at the hospice house for the following items: Hard Candy (individually wrapped) any kind, mints included; Chips, individual size, any kind; Ponytail Holders; Notebooks and notepads;

Men’s deodorant; Hair brushes; Q-Tips; Toothpaste, in regular and travel size; and Individual teeth flossers.

Other needs for in-home patients: XL Twin Sheet Sets; Ensure, any kind; and Baby wipes and adult wipes. Please give all collected items to Mike Miller.

To Read in Observance for this week’s Festivals:

Today—Laetare

Old Testament Lesson:

Isaiah 49:8-13

Epistle:

Galatians 4:21-31

Gospel:

St. John 6:1-15

March 18th—Judica

Old Testament Lesson:

Genesis 12:1-3

Epistle:

Hebrews 9:11-15

Gospel:

St. John 8:46-59

An Excerpt from Luther’s Writings

“In today’s Gospel Christ gives us another lesson in faith, that we should not be overanxious about our daily bread and our temporal existence, and stirs us up by means of a miracle; as though to say by His act what He says by His words in Matthew 6:33, “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.” For here we see, since the people followed Christ for the sake of God’s Word and the signs, and thus sought the Kingdom of God, He did not forsake them but richly fed them. He hereby also shows that, rather than those who seek the Kingdom of God should suffer need, the grass in the desert would become wheat, or a crumb of bread would be turned into a thousand loaves; or a morsel of bread would feed as many people and just as satisfactorily as a thousand loaves; in order that the words in Matthew 4:4 might stand firm, that “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” And to confirm these words Christ is the first to be concerned about the people, as to what they should eat, and asks Philip, before they complain or ask Him; so that we may indeed let Him care for us, remembering that He cares more and sooner for us than we do for ourselves.” *From Martin Luther’s Sermon in the Church Postil for Laetare.*

**Introit**

P: **RE-** JOICE - || with Jerusalem, and | be | glad | with | her, *

C: All | you | who | love | **her**; -

P: || Rejoice | for | joy | with | her, *

C: All you | who | mourn | for | **her**. - (*Isaiah 66:10*)

P: || I was glad when | they | said | to | me, *

C: “Let us go into the | house | of | the | **Lord**.” -

P: || Our feet | have | been | stand- | ing *

C: Within your gates, O | Je- | ru- | sa- | **lem!** -

P: || Pray for the peace of | Je- | ru- | sa- | lem: *

C: “May they pros- | per | who | love | **you**.” -

P: || For the sake of my brethren and companions, | I | will | now | say, *

C: “Peace | be | with- | in | **you**.” - (*Psalms 122:1, 2, 6, and 8*)

GLORIA PATRI (From Hymnal)

P: || Rejoice with Jerusalem, and | be | glad | with | her, *

C: All | you | who | love | **her**; -

P: || Rejoice | for | joy | with | her, *

C: All you | who | mourn | for | **her**. - (*Isaiah 66:10*)

Collect

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of Thy grace may mercifully be relieved; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

Collect for the Season of Lent

Almighty and Everlasting God, our Father, Who hatest nothing that Thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent, create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of Thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with the Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

**Gradual**

P: || I was glad when | they | said | to | me, *

C: “Let us go into the | house | of | the | **Lord**.” -

P: || Peace be | with- | in | your | walls, *

C: Prosperity within | your | pa- | la- | **ces**. - (*Psalms 122:1, 7*)

Tract (From Septuagesima to Holy Saturday, the Tract replaces the Verse)

P: || Those who trust in the Lord are | like | Mount | Zi- | on, *

C: Which cannot be moved, but a- | bides | for- | ev- | **er**. -

P: || As the mountains surround | Je- | ru- | sa- | lem, *

C: So the Lord surrounds His people from this time forth | and | for- | ev- | **er**. - (*Psalms 125:1-2*)

Isaiah 49:8-13

⁸ Thus says the LORD: “In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You; I will preserve You and give You as a covenant to the people, to restore the earth, to cause them to inherit the desolate heritages; ⁹ That You may say to the prisoners, ‘Go forth,’ to those who are in darkness, ‘Show yourselves.’ They shall feed along the roads, and their pastures shall be on all desolate heights. ¹⁰ They shall neither hunger nor thirst, neither heat nor sun shall strike them; For He who has mercy on them will lead them, even by the springs of water He will guide them. ¹¹ I will make each of My mountains a road, and My highways shall be elevated. ¹² Surely these shall come from afar; Look! Those from the north and the west, and these from the land of Sinim.” ¹³ Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And break out in singing, O mountains! For the LORD has comforted His people, and will have mercy on His afflicted.

Galatians 4:21-31

²¹ Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. ²³ But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, ²⁴ which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar—²⁵ for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children—²⁶ but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. ²⁷ For it is written: “Rejoice, O barren, you who do not bear! Break forth and shout, you who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children than she who has a husband.” ²⁸ Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. ²⁹ But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. ³⁰ Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the

bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.” ³¹ So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

St. John 6:1-15

¹ After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ² Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. ³ And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. ⁵ Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?” ⁶ But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. ⁷ Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little.” ⁸ One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him, ⁹ “There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. ¹¹ And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹² So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, “Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.” ¹³ Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.” ¹⁵ Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

TLH 387 “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice”

Martin Luther, 1524

1. Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
With exultation springing,
And, with united heart and voice
And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God hath done,
How His right arm the vict'ry won;
Right dearly it hath cost Him.

2. Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay,
Death brooded darkly o'er me,
Sin was my torment night and day,
In sin my mother bore me;
Yea, deep and deeper still I fell,
Life had become a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.

3. My own good works availed me naught,
No merit they attaining;
Free will against God's judgment fought,
Dead to all good remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair
Left naught but death to be my share;
The pangs of Hell I suffered.

4. But God beheld my wretched state
Before the world's foundation,
And, mindful of His mercies great,
He planned my soul's salvation.
A father's heart He turned to me,
Sought my redemption fervently:
He gave His dearest Treasure.

5. He spoke to His beloved Son:
'Tis time to have compassion.
Then go, bright Jewel of My crown,
And bring to man salvation;
From sin and sorrow set him free,
Slay bitter death for him that he
May live with Thee forever.

6. This Son obeyed His Father's will,
Was born of virgin mother,
And God's good pleasure to fulfill,
He came to be my Brother.
No garb of pomp or power He wore,
A servant's form, like mine, He bore,
To lead the devil captive.

7. To me He spake: Hold fast to Me,
I am thy Rock and Castle;
Thy Ransom I Myself will be,

For thee I strive and wrestle;
For I am with thee, I am thine,
And evermore thou shalt be Mine;
The Foe shall not divide us.

8. The Foe shall shed My precious blood,
Me of My life bereaving.
All this I suffer for thy good;
Be steadfast and believing.
Life shall from death the victory win,
My innocence shall bear thy sin;
So art thou blest forever.

9. Now to My Father I depart,
The Holy Spirit sending
And, heavenly wisdom to impart,
My help to thee extending.
He shall in trouble comfort thee,
Teach thee to know and follow Me,
And in all truth shall guide thee.

10. What I have done and taught, teach thou,
My ways forsake thou never;
So shall My kingdom flourish now
And God be praised forever.
Take heed lest men with base alloy
The heavenly treasure should destroy;
This counsel I bequeath thee. Amen.

TLH 305 “Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness”

Johann Franck, 1649

1. Soul, adorn thyself with gladness,
Leave behind all gloom and sadness;
Come into the daylight's splendor,
There with joy thy praises render
Unto Him whose grace unbounded
Hath this wondrous supper founded.
High o'er all the heav'ns He reigneth,
Yet to dwell with thee He deigneth.

2. Hasten as a bride to meet Him
And with loving reverence greet Him;
For with words of life immortal
Now He knocketh at thy portal.
Haste to open the gates before Him,
Saying, while thou dost adore Him,
“Suffer, Lord, that I receive Thee,
And I nevermore will leave Thee.”

3. He who craves a precious treasure
Neither cost nor pain will measure;
But the priceless gifts of Heaven
God to us hath freely given.

Tho' the wealth of Earth were proffered,
Naught would buy the fits here offered:
Christ's true body, for thee riven,
And His blood, for thee once given.

4. Ah, how hungers all my spirit
For the love I do not merit!
Oft have I, with sighs fast thronging,
Thought upon this food with longing,
In the battle well-nigh worsted,
For this cup of life have thirsted,
For the Friend Who here invites us
And to God Himself unites us.

5. In my heart I find ascending
Holy awe, with rapture blending,
As this mystery I ponder,
Filling all my soul with wonder,
Bearing witness at this hour
Of the greatness of God's power;
Far beyond all human telling
Is the power within Him dwelling.

6. Human reason, though it ponder,
Cannot fathom this great wonder
That Christ's Body e'er remaineth
Though it countless souls sustaineth,
And that He His Blood is giving
With the wine we are receiving.
These great mysteries unsounded
Are by God alone expounded.

7. Jesus, Sun of Life, my Splendor,
Jesus, Thou my Friend most tender,
Jesus, Joy of my desiring,
Fount of life, my soul inspiring,—
At Thy feet I cry, my Maker,
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from Heaven,
For our good, Thy glory, given.

8. Lord, by love and mercy driven
Thou hast left Thy throne in Heaven
On the cross for us to languish
And to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness
And to shed Thy blood in sadness.
By this blood, redeemed and living,
Lord, I praise Thee with thanksgiving.

9. Jesus, Bread of Life, I pray Thee,
Let me gladly here obey Thee.
By Thy love I am invited,
Be Thy love with love required;

From this Supper let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Though the gifts Thou here dost give me
As Thy guest in Heaven receive me. Amen.

TLH 312 "Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Living Bread"
Johann Rist, 1654

1. Lord Jesus Christ, Thou living Bread,
May I for mine possess Thee.
I would with heav'nly food be fed;
Descend, refresh, and bless me.
Now make me meet for Thee, O Lord;
Now, humbly by my heart implored,
Grant me Thy grace and mercy.

2. Thou me to pastures green dost guide,
To quiet waters lead me;
Thy Table Thou dost well provide
And from Thy hand dost feed me.
Sin, weakness, and infirmity
Am I; O Savior, give to me
The cup of Thy salvation.

3. O Bread of Heav'n, my soul's Delight,
For full and free remission
With prayer I come before Thy sight,
In sorrow and contrition.
With faith adorn my soul that I
May to Thy Table now draw nigh
With Thine own preparation.

4. I merit not Thy favor, Lord,
Sin now upon me lieth;
Beneath my burden, self-aborred,
To Thee my spirit crieth.
In all my grief this comforts me,
That Thou on sinners graciously,
Lord Jesus, hast compassion. Amen.

TLH 313 "O Lord, We Praise Thee"
Stanza 1, Unknown, Sts. 2-3, Martin Luther, 1524

1. O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy Body and Thy Blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish:
O Lord, have mercy!
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need:
O Lord, have mercy!

2. Thy holy Body into death was given,
Life to win for us in Heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast thereof remind us!
O Lord, have mercy!
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy Blood should bless and sustain me.
All our debt Thou hast paid;
Peace with God once more is made:
O Lord, have mercy!

3. May God bestow on us His grace and favor
To please Him with our behavior
And live as brethren here in love and union
Nor repent this blest Communion!
O Lord, have mercy!
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
Days of peace and unity:
O Lord, have mercy! Amen.