

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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Rorate coeli
December 24th, 2017

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

A Parish Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America

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*“I am ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Make straight the way of the LORD, ’”*

St. John 1:23

The Order of Divine Service

Gather Outside

| | | |
|--|--|-------------------|
| The Ringing of the Bell | | |
| The Dedication Hymn | <i>“God the Father, Son, and Spirit”</i> | TLH 640 |
| The Rite of Dedication of a Church Building | | |
| The Hymn | <i>“Hark, a Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”</i> | Δ TLH 60 |
| The Confiteor | | |
| The Invocation and Address | | TLH p. 15 |
| Versicles | | TLH p. 15 |
| Confession and Absolution | | TLH p. 16 |
| The Introit | <i>(Tone 6)</i> | INSERT |
| The Kyrie | | TLH p. 17 |
| The Salutation | | TLH p. 19 |
| The Collect for the Day | | INSERT |
| The Collect for the Season of Advent | | INSERT |
| The Collect for the Dedication of a Church Building | | |
| <i>Sit</i> | | |
| The Lesson | | Isaiah 40:1-8 |
| | <i>After each Lesson: V: This is the Word of the Lord.</i> | |
| | <i>R: Thanks be to God.</i> | |
| The Gradual | | INSERT |
| The Epistle | | Philippians 4:4-7 |
| The Verse | | INSERT |
| The Hallelujah | | TLH p. 20 |
| <i>Stand</i> | | |
| The Holy Gospel | | St. John 1:19-28 |
| The Nicene Creed | | TLH p. 22 |
| <i>Sit</i> | | |
| The Hymn | <i>“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”</i> | INSERT |
| The Sermon | <i>Who Are You?</i> | |
| <i>Stand</i> | | |
| The Offertory | <i>“Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God”</i> | TLH p. 22-23 |
| <i>Sit</i> | | |
| The Recitation of the Catechism | How One Should Be Taught to Pray | |
| The Rite of Dedication of a Church Building | <i>(Continued)</i> | |
| The Offering | | |
| <i>Stand</i> | | |
| The General Prayer | | TLH p. 23 |
| <i>Sit</i> | | |
| The Hymn | <i>“Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People”</i> | TLH 61 |
| <i>Stand</i> | | |
| The Preface | | TLH p. 24 |
| The Proper Preface | | TLH p. 25 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| The Sanctus and Benedictus | | 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 | | |
| <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>“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”</i> | TLH 72 |
| <i>Stand</i> | | |
| The Salutation | | TLH p. 31 |
| The Benedicamus | | TLH p. 31 |
| The Benediction | | TLH p. 31 |
| Silent Prayer | | |
| Announcements | | |

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

Christmas Season Schedule

| | |
|--|---|
| The Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord | Divine Service 7:00 p.m. |
| <i>December 25th</i> | |
| The Nativity of Our Lord | Divine Service 10:00 a.m. |
| <i>December 26th</i> | |
| St. Stephen, Protomartyr and Deacon | |
| <i>December 27th</i> | |
| St. John, Apostle and Evangelist | |
| <i>December 28th</i> | |
| Holy Innocents’ Day | |
| <i>December 31st</i> | |
| The First Sunday after Christmas | Divine Service 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:15 a.m. |
| <i>January 1st</i> | |
| The Circumcision of Our Lord | |
| <i>January 6th</i> | |
| The Epiphany of Our Lord | Divine Service 7:00 p.m. |
| <i>January 7th</i> | |
| The First Sunday after Epiphany | Divine Service 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:15 a.m. |

December 28th—The Festival of the Holy Innocents

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 31:15-17
Epistle: Revelation 14:1-5
Gospel: St. Matthew 2:13-18

December 31st—The First Sunday after Christmas

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-5
Epistle: Galatians 4:1-7
Gospel: St. Luke 2:33-40

An Excerpt from Martin Luther's Sermons

“John likewise directs the people away from himself to Christ. And although this is a higher and greater office than that of a prophet, yet it is not so on account of his merit, but on account of the presence of his Master. And in praising John for being more than a prophet, not his worthiness but that of his Master, Who is present, is extolled.” *From the Church Postil for Rorate coeli, 1520s.*

In Our Prayers:

- For all those who are sick or infirmed, especially, *Rev. Ned Brockwell, Lynne Smith, Ben Smith, Doug Schultz, Denise Heiser, Rev. Donald Hunter, Emily Benson, Orlin Palm, Donna Dorgelo, Nancy, Pat, Caroline, Rev. Mark Mueller, Eleanor Smolen, Jo Kope, Mike Miller, Rev. Eric Stefanski, Marie Scheck, Paul Meadows, David Benson, Vera Davis, Cindy's Granddaughter, Diana Eliason, and Vince Bost.*
- For our bishop, the *Rt. Rev. James D. Heiser.*
- For the parishes served by our diocese, especially, *St. Boniface Ev. Lutheran Church, Niles, MI,* and her pastor, the *Rev. John Rutowicz.*
- 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.
- For those celebrating an anniversary this week.
- For those traveling this week.

Announcements

Daily Readings for the Week after Rorate coeli and Christmas

| | Morning | Evening |
|-------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Today | Matt. 26-27; Luke 1:67-80 | St. Matthew 28; Hebrews 12:15-29 |
| Monday: | Rom. 1-3; Matt. 1:18-25 | Romans 4-6; Isaiah 40:1-11 |
| Tuesday: | Rom. 7-9; Luke 1:39-45 | Romans 10-12; Malachi 3:1-7 |
| Wednesday: | Rom. 13-14; John 1:15-18 | Romans 15-16; Micah 4:1-8 |
| Thursday: | 1 Cor. 1-3; Luke 2:15-20 | 1 Corinthians 4-6; Isaiah 32:1-8 |
| Friday: | 1 Cor. 7-9; Luke 2:22-24 | 1 Corinthians 10-12; Isaiah 46:3-13 |
| Saturday: | 1 Cor. 13-14; Luke 2:25-32 | 1 Corinthians 15-16; Isaiah 49:1-13 |

Praying the Psalter Daily in Matins and Vespers:

| | Morning | Evening |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Today: | Psalms 5, 119:1-40 | Ps. 89, 110, 132, 119:41-88 |
| Monday: | Ps. 19, 45, 85, 119:89-128 | Ps. 89, 110, 132, 119:129-176 |
| Tuesday: | Psalms 19, 45, 85, 120-125 | Psalms 89, 110, 126-132 |
| Wednesday: | Psalms 19, 45, 85, 133-135 | Ps. 89, 110, 132, 136-139 |
| Thursday: | Psalms 19, 45, 85, 140-141 | Ps. 89, 110, 132, 142-143 |
| Friday: | Psalms 19, 45, 85, 144 | Psalms 89, 110, 132, 145 |
| Saturday: | Psalms 19, 45, 85, 146 | Psalms 111, 147 |

Book of Concord Readings for the Week:

Monday: The Large Catechism, I.103-116
Tuesday: The Large Catechism, I.117-133
Wednesday: The Large Catechism, I.134-148
Thursday: The Large Catechism, I.149-165
Friday: The Large Catechism, I.166-182

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 80—“All Praise to Thee, Eternal God”

Evening: TLH 85—“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

Calendar for the Week after Rorate coeli and Christmas

Today: Rorate coeli, The Fourth Sunday in Advent—Violet

10:00 a.m. Divine Service

11:15 a.m. Bible Study

The Vigil of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord—White

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Divine Service

Monday: The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord—White

10:00 a.m. Divine Service

Tuesday: The Festival of St. Stephen, Deacon and Protomartyr—Red

Wednesday: The Festival of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist—White

Thursday: The Festival of the Holy Innocents—Violet

Friday: Within the Octave of the Nativity of our Lord—White

Saturday: Within the Octave of the Nativity of our Lord—White

Next Sunday: The First Sunday after Christmas—White

New Year's Eve

10:00 a.m. Divine Service

11:15 a.m. Bible Study

The Lutheran Herald

The December 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.

Vestry Meeting

There will be a Vestry meeting on January 14, 2018 to discuss and adopt a parish budget for 2018. Please make arrangements to be there.

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—Rorate coeli

Old Testament Lesson:

Isaiah 40:1-8

Epistle:

Philippians 4:4-7

Holy Gospel:

St. John 1:19-28

December 24th—The Vigil of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

Old Testament Lesson:

Isaiah 9:2-7

Epistle:

Titus 2:11-14

Gospel:

St. Luke 2:1-14

December 25th—The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

Old Testament Lesson:

Isaiah 7:10-14

Epistle:

Hebrews 1:1-12

Gospel:

St. John 1:1-14

December 26th—The Festival of St. Stephen, Deacon and Protomartyr

Old Testament Lesson:

2 Chronicles 24:17-22

Epistle:

Acts 6:8-15; 7:54-60

Gospel:

St. Matthew 23:34-39

December 27th—The Festival of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Old Testament Lesson:

Hosea 14:1-9

Epistle:

1 John 1:1-10

Gospel:

St. John 21:19-24

RORATE COELI

December 24th, 2017



Introit

P: RAIN DOWN, - || you heavens, | from | a- | bove, *

C: And let the skies pour | down | **right-** - | eous- | ness;

P: || Let the earth o- | pen | her | womb, *

C: And bring | forth | **sal-** - | va- | tion. (*Isaiah 45:8*)

P: || The heavens declare the glo- | ry | of | God; *

C: And the firmament shows | His | **hand-** - | i- | work.

P: || Their line is gone out into | all | the | earth, *

C: And their words to the | end | **of** - | the | world.

P: || In the heavens He has set a tabernacle | for | the | sun, *

C: Which is like a bridegroom coming out | of | **his** - | cham- | ber.

P: || Its rising is from one end of | the | heav- | en, *

C: And its circuit to | the | **oth-** - | er | end. (*Psalms 19:1, 4-6*)

GLORIA PATRI (From Hymnal)

P: || Rain down, you heavens, | from | a- | bove, *

C: And let the skies pour | down | **right-** - | eous- | ness;

P: || Let the earth o- | pen | her | womb, *

C: And bring | forth | **sal-** - | va- | tion. (*Isaiah 45:8*)

Collect

Stir up, O Lord, we beseech Thee, Thy power, and come and help us with Thy great might, that by Thy grace whatsoever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished through Thy mercy and satisfaction; Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

Collect for the Season of Advent

Stir up, we beseech Thee, Thy power, O Lord, and come, that by Thy protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Thy mighty deliverance; Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.



Gradual

P: || The Lord is near to all who call | up- | on | Him, *

C: To all who call up- | on | **Him** - | in | truth.

P: || My mouth shall speak the praise | of | the | Lord, *

C: And all flesh shall bless | His | **ho-** - | ly | name. (*Psalms 145:18, 21*)

Verse

P: || Al- | le- | lu- | ia! *

C: Al- | — | **le-** - | lu- | ia!

P: || You are my help and my de- | liv- | er- | er; *

C: Do not delay, O my God. | Al- | **le-** - | lu- | ia! (*Psalms 40:17*)

Isaiah 40:1-8

¹ “Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” says your God. ² “Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.” ³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; ⁵ The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” ⁶ The voice said, “Cry out!” and he said, “What shall I cry?” “All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.”

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your

hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

St. John 1:19-28

¹⁹ Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹ And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²² Then they said to him, “Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?” ²³ He said: “I am ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of the LORD,”’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” ²⁴ Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. ²⁵ And they asked him, saying, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶ John answered them, saying, “I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. ²⁷ It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.” ²⁸ These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Dedication Hymn

TLH 640 “God the Father, Son, and Spirit”

W. Gustave Polack, 1939

1. God the Father, Son and Spirit,
Ever-blessed Trinity,
Humbly now our thanks we offer
All unworthy tho’ we be,
Freely Thou hast showered blessings
Countless as the ocean’s sands,
Blessings rich and overflowing,
On the labors of our hands.
2. Thou didst guide our fathers’ footsteps
To this land we hold so dear,
Lengthening the cords and curtains
Of their habitation here;
Strengthening Thy temple’s pillars
As Thou hast from age to age;
Giving us, their sons and daughters,
An abiding heritage.
3. Grant that we Thy Word may cherish
And its purity retain.
Lord, unless Thou art the Builder,
All our labor is in vain.
Keep us from all pride and boasting,
Vanity and foolish trust,
Knowing that our work without Thee
Soon will crumble into dust.
4. God of grace and love and blessing,
Thine alone shall be the praise;
Give us hearts to trust Thee truly,
Hands to serve Thee all our days.
Lord, bestow Thy future blessing
Till we join the heav’nly host,
There to praise and serve Thee ever,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

TLH 60 “Hark, a Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

Unknown Latin author, about 900

1. Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding!
“Christ is nigh!” we hear it say;
“Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day!”
2. Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

3. Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from Heaven.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiven,

4. That, when next He comes with glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He may shield us with His mercy
And with words of love draw near.

Δ 5. Honor, glory, might, dominion,
To the Father and the Son,
With the everlasting Spirit,
While eternal ages run! Amen.

INSERT “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel” (Tune TLH 62)

Unknown Latin author, about 1100

1. Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.
2. Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of Hell Thy people save,
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.
3. Oh, come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.
4. Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.
5. Oh, come, oh, come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai’s height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

6. Oh, come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, by Thy might;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

7. Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease;
And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel. Amen.

TLH 61 “Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People”

Johann G. Olearius, 1671

1. Comfort, comfort, ye My people,
Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning ‘neath their sorrows’ load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over.

2. Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.

3. Hark, the Herald’s voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Bidding all men to repentance
Since the Kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

4. Make ye straight what long was crooked,
Make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o’er Earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken. Amen.

TLH 72 “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

Laurentius Laurenti, 1700

1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising,
And soon He draweth nigh;
Up, pray and watch and wrestle!
At midnight comes the cry.

2. The watchers on the mountain
Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go meet Him as He cometh,
With hallelujahs clear.
The marriage-feast is waiting,
The gates wide open stand;
Up, up, ye heirs of glory;
The Bridegroom is at hand!

3. Ye saints, who here in patience
Your cross and suff’rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever,
When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
The Lamb ye shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him
Your diadems of gold!

4. Our Hope and Expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, Desire of nations,
O’er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of Earth’s redemption,
That brings us unto Thee! Amen.