



*With the birth of Jesus in our hearts
We carry light and love to the world*

*Sunday, November 15, 2020
24th Sunday after Pentecost*

NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sunday, November 15, 2020
24th Sunday after Pentecost
Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

The Liturgy is from Setting 4, page 147, in the hymnal.

Information for the hearing impaired: Are you having difficulty hearing what is being said during our worship service? If so, try using our Assisted Hearing System, which is available from an usher.

Today's worship service will be replayed next Sunday at 6pm on FM radio station 102.9 and is available to VIEW anytime late afternoon today on the home page of our website www.nlcww.org.

Attendance for last Sunday: 64



INTRODUCTION

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMES

Indicates the start of worship

PRELUDE

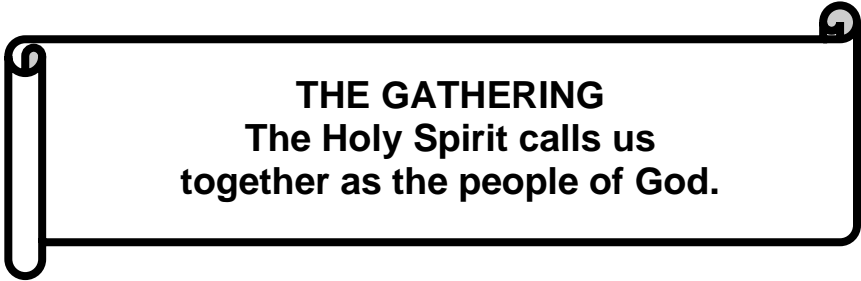
God Bless America

Berlin
sing 2x

God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above

From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home

From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home
God bless America, my home sweet home



THE GATHERING
The Holy Spirit calls us
together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

A moment of silence for self-reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from You and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to You, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

*Oh, Happy Day When
We Shall Stand*

441
vs. 1,2,3

- 1 Oh, happy day when we shall stand amid the heav'nly throng; and sing with hosts from ev'ry land the new celestial song, the new celestial song.
- 2 Oh, blessed day when Christ shall come and show himself as Lord, and thousands meet in their new home which Jesus has prepared, which Jesus has prepared.

3 Oh, what a mighty rushing flood of joy and love and peace will roll down over us with good and blessedness and grace, and blessedness and grace.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE ELEISON

Kyrie Eleison is a pre-Christian expression in Greek that means "Lord have mercy." When we ask for the mercy of God, we are asking for his nearness and for the necessary healing of our human brokenness.

As the Prodigal Son I come to you, merciful God. I have wasted my whole life in a foreign land; I have scattered the wealth which You gave me. Kyrie eleison, **Lord have mercy.**

Receive me in repentance, O God, and have mercy upon me. Open to me the doors of repentance, O Giver of life. Christe eleison, **Christ have mercy.**

In your compassion purify me by the loving kindness of your mercy. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. According to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. Kyrie eleison, **Lord have mercy.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Glory to God in the highest **and on earth peace, good will to all people.**

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for your great glory. Lord, King, heavenly God, Father almighty.

Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, You who take away the sins of the world. Receive our prayer, You who sit at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us. For You only are holy, only You are Lord Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

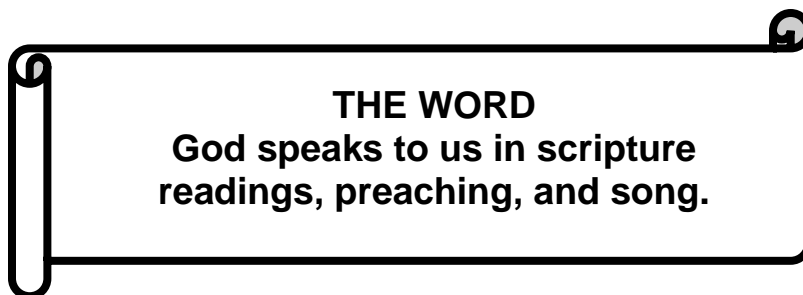
Each day I shall bless You, and I will praise your name forever and to the ages of ages.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Righteous God, our merciful Master, You own the earth and all its peoples, and You give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve You with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.



SPECIAL MUSIC

Jesus' Name Medley

Gaither/Mieir

Soloist: Clarence Crawford

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ZEPHANIAH

1:7, 12-18

Reader: Clyde Rosten

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. ¹²At that

time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." ¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. ¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. ¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. ¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 90:1-12

¹Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.**

³You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;**

⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

⁶**in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

⁸**Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even
eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they
pass away quickly and we are gone.**

¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?

¹²**So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 25:14-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long

time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

(see yellow insert)

- 1 Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure, enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.
- 2 Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed, an ever-flowing stream of faith translated into deed.
- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true, and justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

Stand or sit as you desire.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

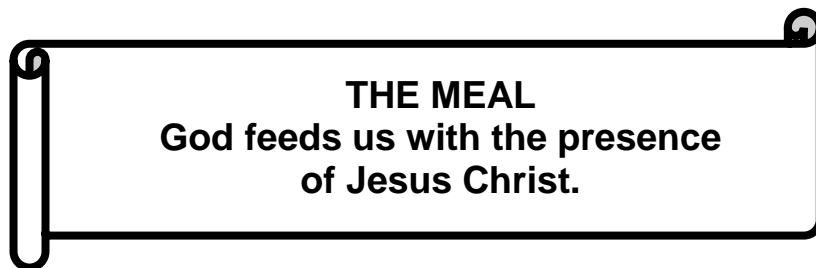
After each petition: Hear us, O God. **Your Mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when You gather all creation around your throne where You will reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated.



OFFERING

Please remain seated. You may drop your offering in the basket by the exit door or at the office during the week. You may also donate safely on-line at

<https://www.nlcww.org> or on our Facebook page. Please pull out of the bag your communion set and hold both containers into your hands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, **the eyes of all wait upon You, and You open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

DIALOGUE AND PREFACE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us pray the prayer Christ himself taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

TABLE BLESSING

Consume the elements now. Return the non-consumed wine to the table in the narthex for proper disposal. Wait until the end of service to toss empty containers into wastebasket.

Observe a moment of silence.

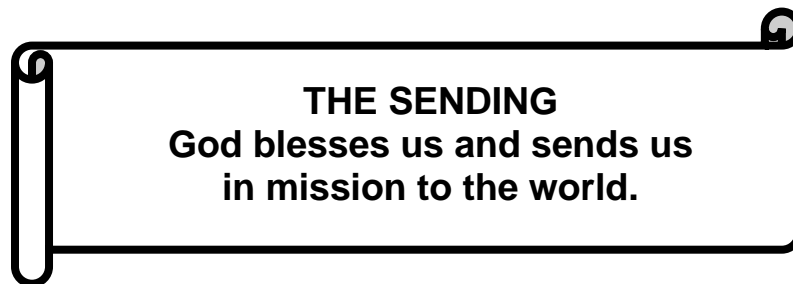
Please stand as you are able.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of abundance, **with this bread of life and cup of salvation You have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**



BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Thine the Amen

826

vs 1,3,4

- 1 Thine the amen thine the praise alleluias angels raise thine the everlasting head thine the breaking of the bread thine the glory thine the story thine the harvest then the cup thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.
- 3 Thine the truly thine the yes thine the table we the guest thine the mercy all from thee thine the glory yet to be then the ringing and the singing then the end of all the war thine the living thine the loving evermore evermore.
- 4 Thine the kingdom thine the prize thine the wonder full surprise thine the banquet then the praise then the justice of thy ways thine the glory thine the story then the welcome to the least then the wonder all increasing at thy feast at thy feast.

SENDING

People of Nativity, what is our mission?

With the birth of Jesus in our hearts we carry light and love to the world.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Be Still and Know

Chapman

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Psalms 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46

PRAYERS: The list will be cleared every other week. If you wish to remain on the list for longer than two weeks, please call the office and request a long-term prayer. *In case of emergency, contact the office at 352-597-1456 and leave a detailed message. Messages are checked daily.*

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Peg Ahlquist, Windy Binns, Bob Bohn, Linda Borowski's son and family, Linda Borowski's daughter and family, Kim Bozzuto, Elliott Burger, Darlene Christensen, Woody and Joan Cornetta, Patti Cotter, Norma Diedrich, Donald Foley, Jocelyn Foudali, Jacob Abraham Foudali, Austin Garrett, Cindy Garrett, Geiser family, Irene and Larry Gilbert, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, William and Charlotte Hamm, Gary and Mary Heinecke, Richard and Nancy Heinecke, Zoila Herrera, Kay Hill, Bob Johnson and family, Mary Jones, Michael Koch, Alfred Korndoerfer, Carl and Asta Lundh, Claude and Germaine Major, Elaine Malone, Mary McDowall, Robert Meredith, Maria Mesko, Rich Miller, Marianne Mock, Christopher Morman, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Sheryl O'Connor and family, Oliver family, Rosie Rosten, Mike Ruffner, Nancy Salerno, Sharon SanFilippo, Margret Steffens, Keli Tedesco, West family, Janet Wilkens, Ann Wright, Laurreta Z.

PRAYERS FOR OUR LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

Nic Baker, Carlos Bayron Jr., Daniel Davis, Kyle Davis, Colton Hill, Andria T. Hook, Jonathan Hudson, Brett Johnson, Cpt. Will Lawlor, Zachary McGuire, CTT2 William Pause, Brandon Pierce, Clinton Pierce, Isaac Redmond, Andrea Roache, Joel Roberts, William Robishaw, OS2 Jordan A. Torres, Cpl. Timothy Spruytte, Chad Waldorf.



ALTAR FLOWERS: *If you would like to honor someone special or commemorate a special event, please call the church office (352-597-1456) to order altar flowers. Donation is \$25.00.*

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Presiding Minister	Reverend Giuseppe Mattei
Assisting Minister	Deacon Clyde Rosten
Music Director	Donna Olsen
Scripture Reader	Deacon Clyde Rosten
Altar Guild	Lilo Horeis
Audio/Video Record	Art Alt
Gardener(s)	Ken & Carol White
Head counter this week	Ernie Hories

MISSION STATEMENT

**With the birth of Jesus in our hearts
we carry light and love to the world.**

OUR VALUES STATEMENT

We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

We recognize that God is making us, through grace, into a Fellowship that embodies and expresses the spirit of Christ.

In this fellowship, the Bible says, "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of us are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). We, therefore, welcome equally all people, regardless of religious office, position, possessions, education, race, age, gender, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability or other distinctions. (Adopted 9/7/07)

**NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEEKI WACHEE
A CONGREGATION OF THE FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD OF
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

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Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Deacon Charlotte Downing

Deacon Ruth Ann Hoy

Deacon Michelle Mehan-Conklin

Deacon Jack Page

Deacon Clyde Rosten

Music Director: Donna Olsen

Audio/Visual Director: Art Alt

Bell Choir Directors: Jane Henkel/Cherylann Schneider

Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.