

A close-up photograph of pink cherry blossoms with soft, out-of-focus petals and a prominent yellow stamen in the foreground.

*Christ
the Lord is
Risen
Today*

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

*Resurrection of Our Lord
Easter Sunday
April 4, 2021*



NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sunday, April 4, 2021
Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday
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.



INTRODUCTION

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

AN EASTER WELCOME

CHIMES

Indicates the start of worship

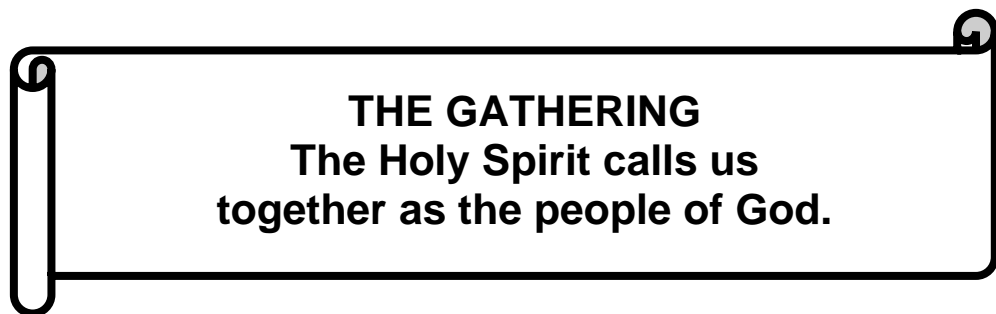
PRELUDE

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Raney

Piano/Organ Duet: Carlan Helgeson/Donna Olsen

Please stand as you are able.



THE EASTER PROCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain! Alleluia!

He gives us new life and hope through his resurrection! Alleluia!

God has claimed us as his own.

God has called us from our darkness into the light of his day.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Now All the Vault
of Heaven Resounds*

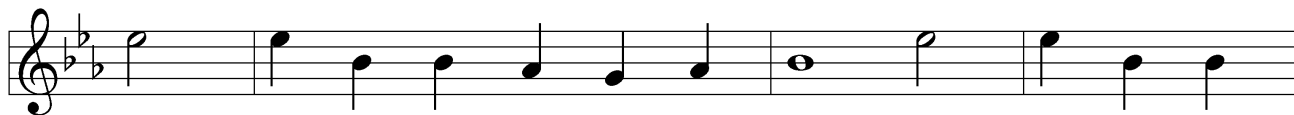
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1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds in praise of love that
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings, there - fore our heart with
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; set heart and will on
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring and with the heav'n - ly



still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
things a - bove that we con - quer through your tri - umph;
bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!"



Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song
Now still he comes to give us life and by his pres -
grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's day that by our lives
Be to the Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest,



of glo - ry here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"
ence stills all strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
we tru - ly say: Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
most ho - ly God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, You gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection You delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.



THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching, and song.

SPECIAL MUSIC

He is Not Here

Huntsinger
Soloist: Alice Wells

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

10:34-43

Reader: Deacon Clyde Rosten

³⁴Peter began to speak to the people: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in

Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Psalmist: Kim Mehan-Conklin

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for the | Lord is good;
God’s mercy en- | dures forever.

²**Let Israel | now declare,
“God’s mercy en- | dures forever.”**

¹⁴The Lord is my strength | and my song,
and has become | my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents | of the
righteous:**

“The right hand of the | Lord acts valiantly!

¹⁶The right hand of the Lord | is exalted!
The right hand of the | Lord acts valiantly!”

¹⁷**I shall not | die, but live,
and declare the works | of the Lord.**

¹⁸The Lord indeed pun- | ished me sorely,
but did not hand me o- | ver to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the | gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks | to the Lord.**

²⁰“This is the gate | of the Lord;
here the righ- | teous may enter.”

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me
and you have become | my salvation.**

²²The stone that the build- | ers rejected
has become the chief | cornerstone.

²³**By the Lord has | this been done;
it is marvelous | in our eyes.**

²⁴This is the day that the | Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

15:1-11

Reader: Deacon Ruth Ann Hoy

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. ³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able for the gospel processional.

It is the ancient custom of the Church to “bring the gospel to the midst of the people” by way of a Gospel procession. Turn to face the processional cross as it passes by your pew.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, halle, halle - lu - jah!
Halle, halle, halle - lu - jah!
Halle, halle, halle - lu - jah!
Hallelujah! Hal-le-lu-jah! (repeat)

SOLOIST

Now Christ is raised up from death, he will never die again.
All who follow his way shall have life in him:
Hallelujah, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, halle - lu - jah!
Halle, halle, halle - lu - jah!
Halle, halle, halle - lu - jah!
Hallelujah! Hal-le-lu-jah! (repeat)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

MARK 16:1-8

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

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus' body. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very

large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

Halle, halle, halle - lu - jah!
Halle, halle, halle - lu - jah!
Halle, halle, halle - lu - jah!
Hallelujah! Hal-le-lu-jah! (repeat)

VIDEO MESSAGE

ELCA Presiding Bishop,
The Reverend Elizabeth Eaton

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

365

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

NICENE CREED

God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

We believe in one God – the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Stand or sit as you desire.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

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

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to You, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated.



OFFERING

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.nlcwww.org> or on our Facebook page.

Please stand as you are able.

Please hold the communion set in your hands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are You, O God, Ruler of heaven and earth. **Day by day You shower us with blessings. As You have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise You and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:

S 207

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

REMEMBERING GOD'S ACTS OF GRACE

Blessed are You, O God of the Universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to You for creating
 the heavens and the earth.
 Praise to You for saving the earth
 from the waters of the flood.
**Praise to You for bringing
 the Israelites safely through the sea.**
**Praise to You for leading
 your people through the wilderness
 to the land of milk and honey.**
**Praise to You for the words and deeds
 of Jesus, your anointed one.**

Praise to You for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to You for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us
in the breaking of the bread.
**Raise us up
as the body of Christ for the world.**

Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice,
peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones
of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise You, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever. **Amen.**

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

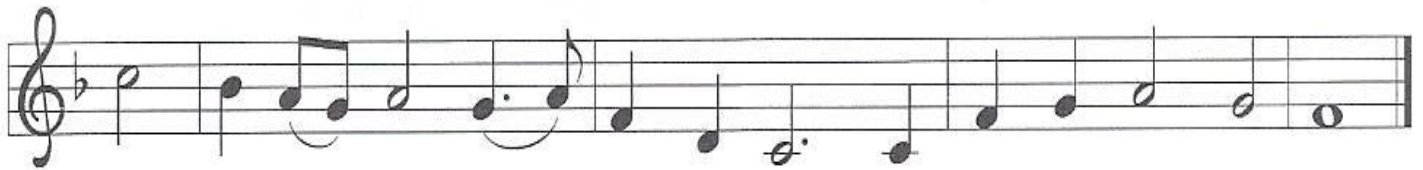
Now let us feast this Easter day.
On Christ, the bread of heaven. **Hallelujah!**

Lamb of God

S208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

The body and blood of Christ given for you.

Please be seated.

Consume the elements now. After service place the empty containers into the wastebasket.

Observe a moment of silence.

Please stand as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection You send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.



BLESSING

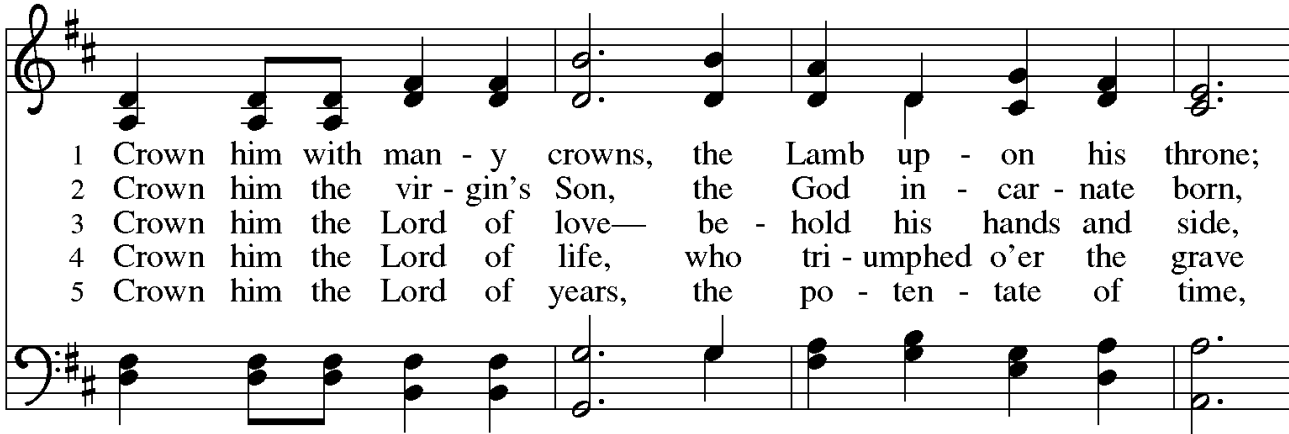
May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

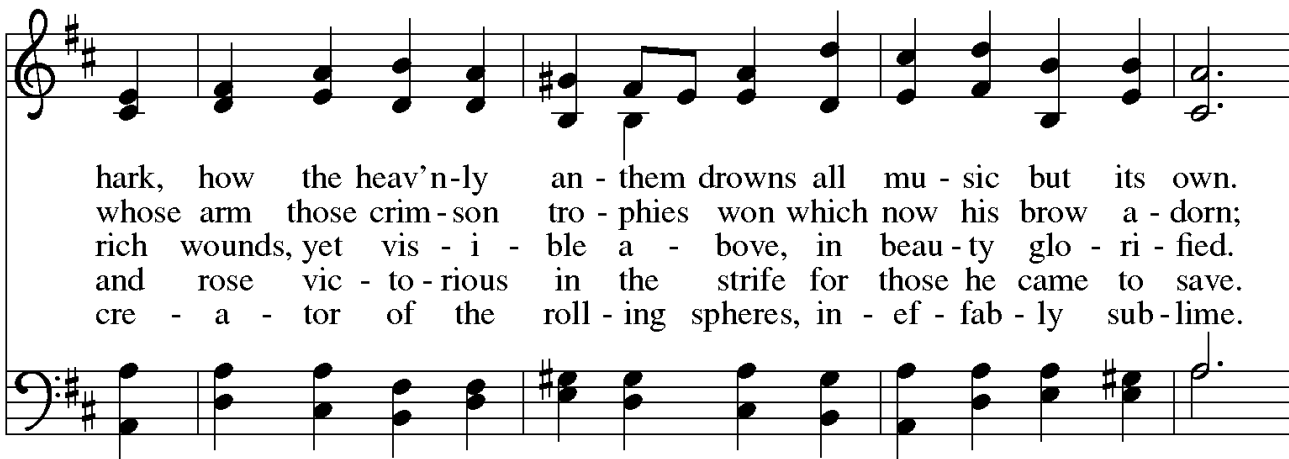
SENDING SONG

Crown Him With Many Crowns

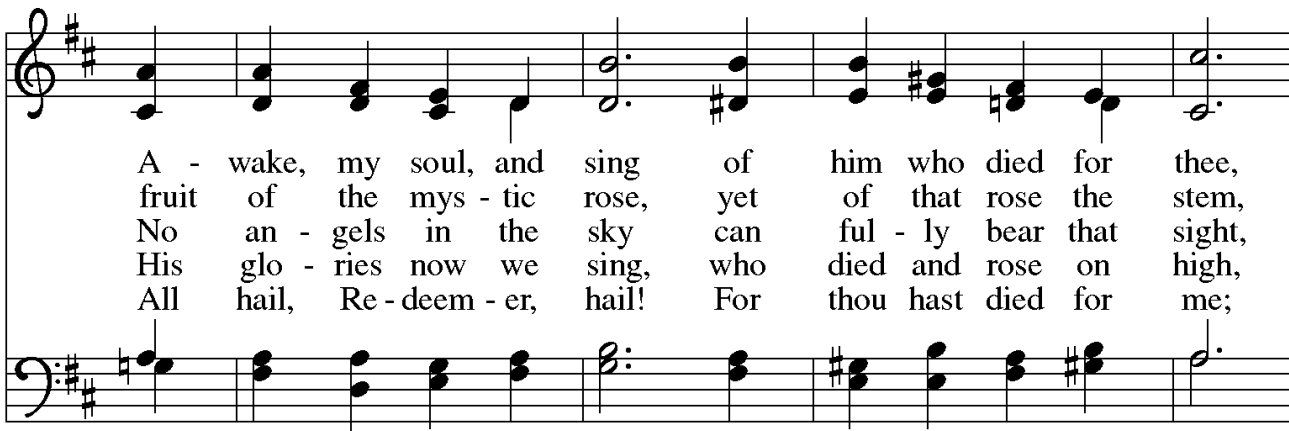
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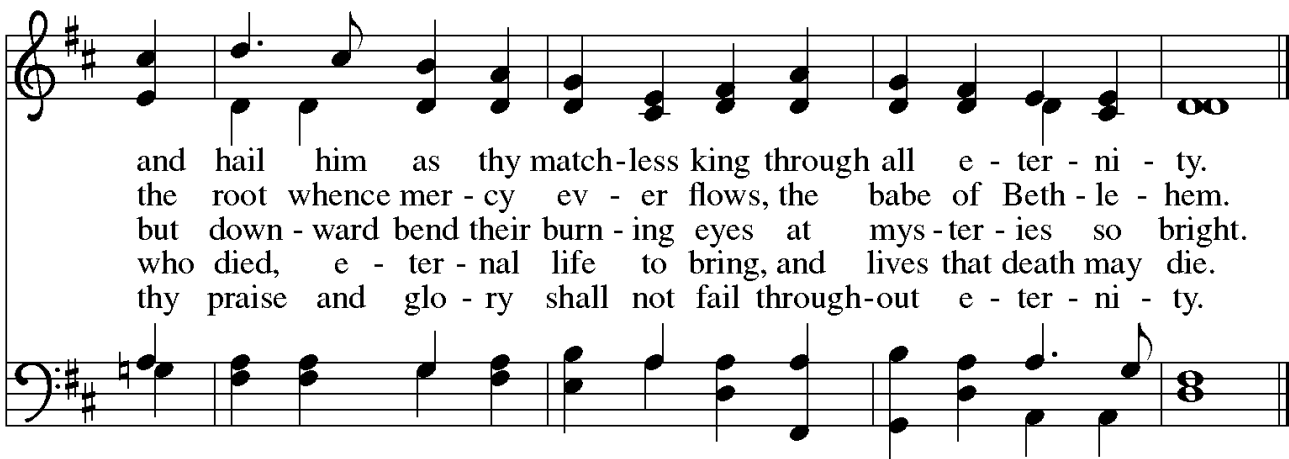
1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

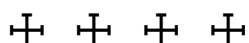
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Jesus Shall Reign

Price



If you ordered an Easter lily you may take it after service today.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31

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, Bob Bohn, Linda Borowski's son and family, Linda Borowski's daughter and family, Kim Bozzuto, Terri Breida, Elliott Burger, Woody and Joan Cornetta, Patti Cotter, Susan Deeg, Jim DeVos, Norma Diedrich, Judy Dietz, Jocelyn Foudali, Jacob Abraham Foudali, Cindy Garrett, Roberto Ghizini, Irene and Larry Gilbert, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, William and Charlotte Hamm, Gary and Mary Heinecke, John Heinecke, Jane Henkel, Kay Hill, Barbara Hofving, Lilo Horeis, April Horton, Bob Johnson and family, Michael Koch, Alfred Korndorfer, Cheryl Krause, Jackie Luebee, Carl and Asta Lundh, Elaine Malone, Maria Mesko, Rich Miller, Marianne Mock, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Linda Overs, Mike Ruffner, Thomas Russo, Nancy Salerno, Harold and LeMoi Salmon, Mary Joy Speicher, Barbara Strohl, Keli Tedesco, Carsyn Volpe and family, Ginger Wielk, Janet Wilkens, Tracy Wilkins, Laurretta Z.

PRAYERS FOR OUR LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

Nic Baker, Carlos Bayron Jr., Daniel Davis, Kyle Davis, 2nd Lt, USMC Robert M. Heinecke, Maj. Matthew Henry, 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.



Presiding Minister
Assisting Minister
Crucifer

Bible

1st Torch Bearer

2nd Torch Bearer

3rd Torch Bearer

4th Torch Bearer

Music Director

Altar Guild

AV Director

Audio

Cameras

Graphics

Gardener(s)

Head counter this week

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

ELCA Deacon, Michelle Mehan-Conklin

Jayson Martin

Deacon Charlotte Downing

Deacon Clyde Rosten

Deacon Ruth Ann Hoy

ELCA Deacon Michelle Mehan-Conklin

Kim Mehan-Conklin

Donna Olsen

Janet Jones & Gayle Howland

Art Alt

Guy Peeters

Buddy Kristoferson

Diane Alt & Ed Lewis

Phil & Cheryl Wolfe

Ernie Horeis

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

ELCA 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.