



He is
RISE **REN**

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

*Sunday, May 16, 2021
Seventh Sunday of Easter*



NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Sunday, May 16, 2021
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

The Liturgy is from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

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: 115



INTRODUCTION

The gospel for Easter's seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John's gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus' desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

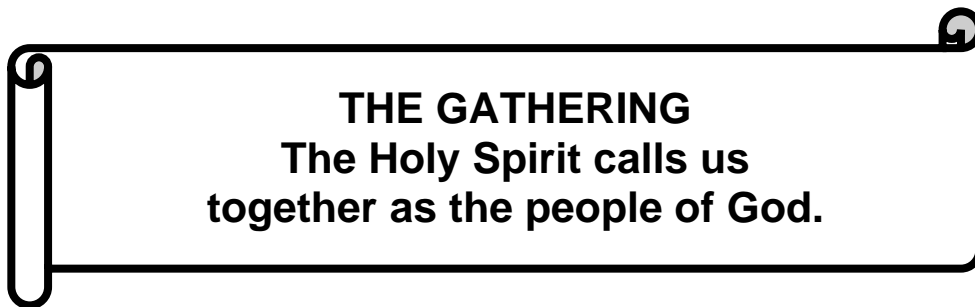
CHIMES

Indicates the start of worship

PRELUDE

On Eagle's Wings

Michael Joncas
arr: Mark Hayes



Please stand as you are able and turn toward the baptismal font.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank You, risen Christ, for these waters where You make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless You, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.

To You be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

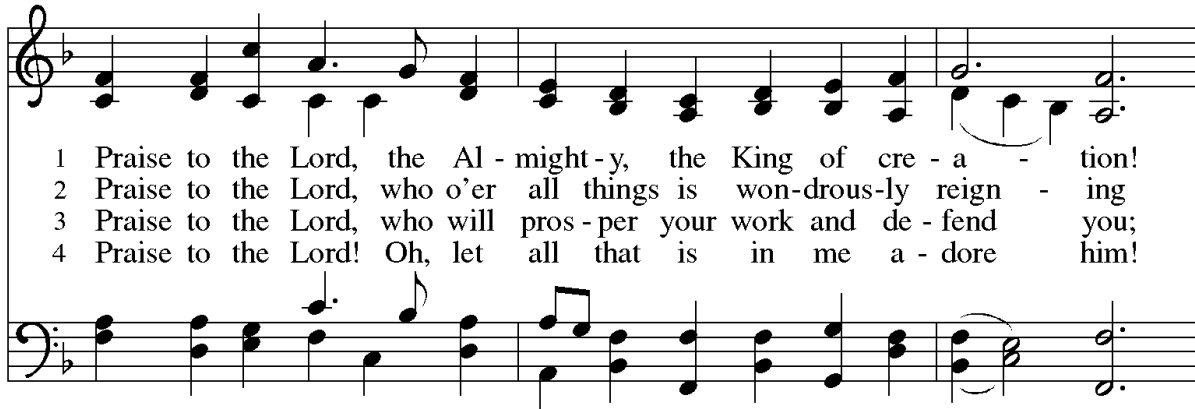
GATHERING HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

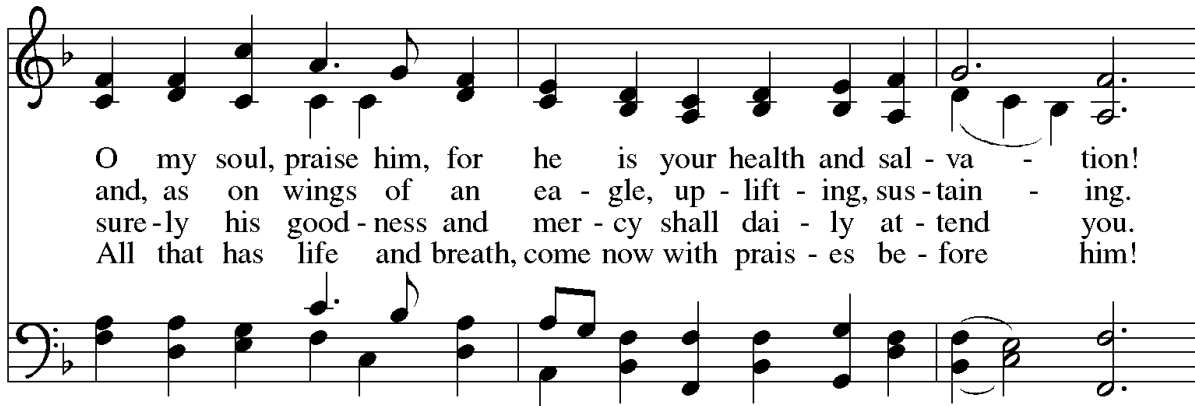
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Please look toward the cross as it processes toward the altar.

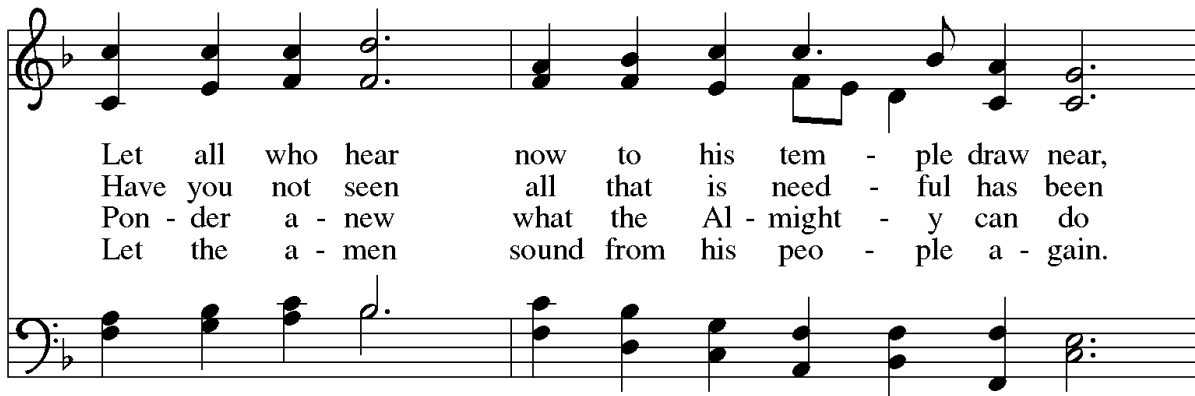
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



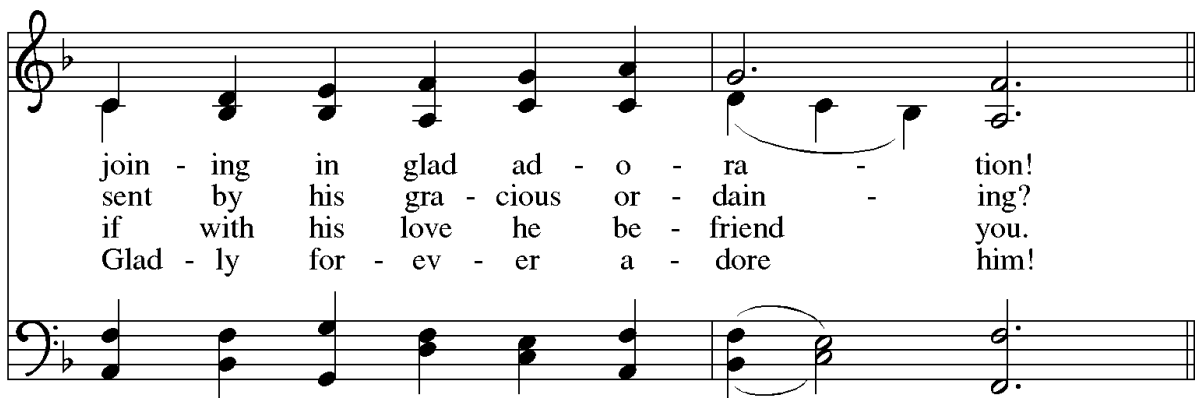
1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

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.

The Cantor sings the verses; the Congregation sings the refrain.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is labeled "Refrain" and "S 184". The lyrics under the first staff are "Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way." The second staff has the lyrics "Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day." The music consists of a simple melody with a steady rhythm.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord; let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

For your Spirit to guide; that You center our lives in the water and the Word; that You nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Refrain**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo-ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



Refrain
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



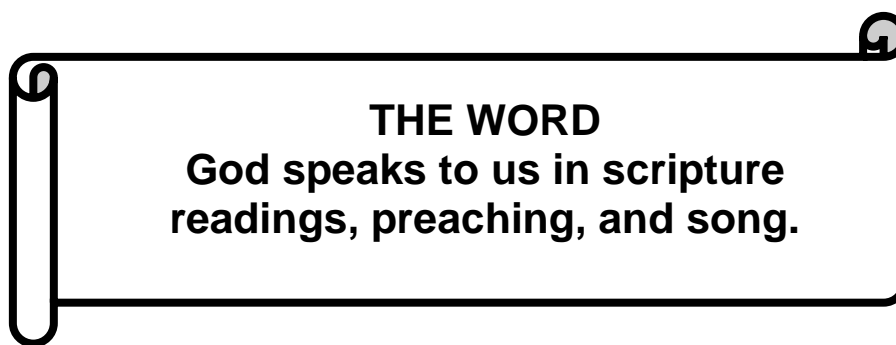
Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Gracious and glorious God, You have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ You protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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

The Gift of Love

Hal Hopson

Soloist: Deacon Ruth Ann Hoy

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

1:15-17, 21-26

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶“Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us— one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen

²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 1

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law | of the Lord, and they meditate on God’s teaching | day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not wither; everything they | do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so | with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

⁶**For the Lord knows the way | of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.**

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN

5:9-13

⁹If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

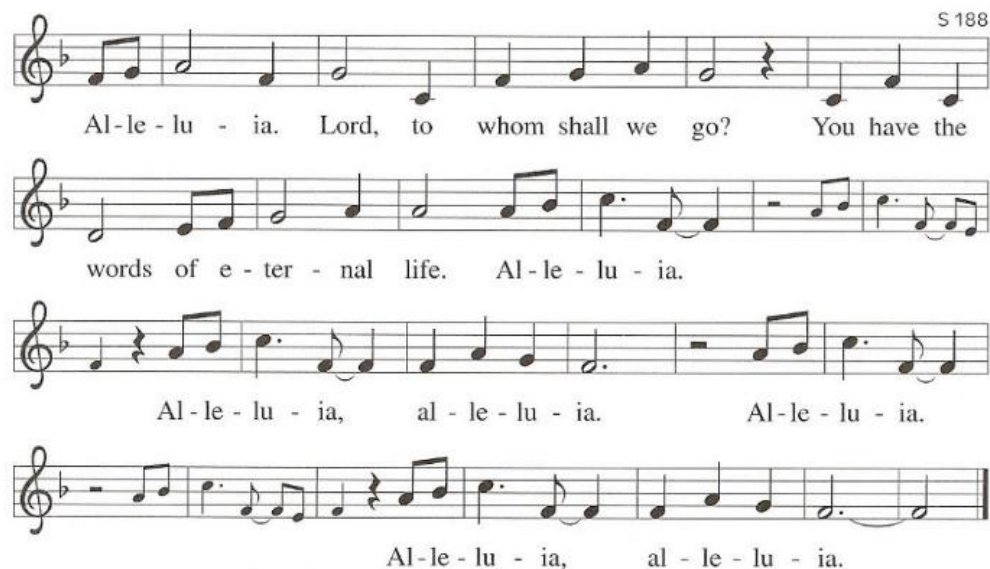
¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God

does not have life. ¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



S 188

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 17:6-19

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

Jesus prayed: ⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of

those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON *Can I Get a Witness?*

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Spirit Song*

Oh, let the Sun of God enfold you
With His Spirit and His love.
Let Him fill your heart and satisfy your soul.
Oh, let Him have the things that hold you,
And His Spirit, like a dove,
Will descend upon your life and make you whole.

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.

Oh, come and sing the song with gladness,
As your hearts are filled with joy.
Lift your hands in sweet surrender to His name.
Oh, give Him all your tears and sadness,
Give Him all your years of pain,
And you'll enter into life in Jesus' name.

Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.
Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill Your lambs.

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.

Remain standing 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

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 hold the communion set in your hands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of love, You call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

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:

S207

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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line and the number 'S207' in the top right corner. The second and fourth staves end with double bar lines.

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


The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

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.

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.



FAREWELL & GODSPEED

Jim & Darlene Christensen

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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

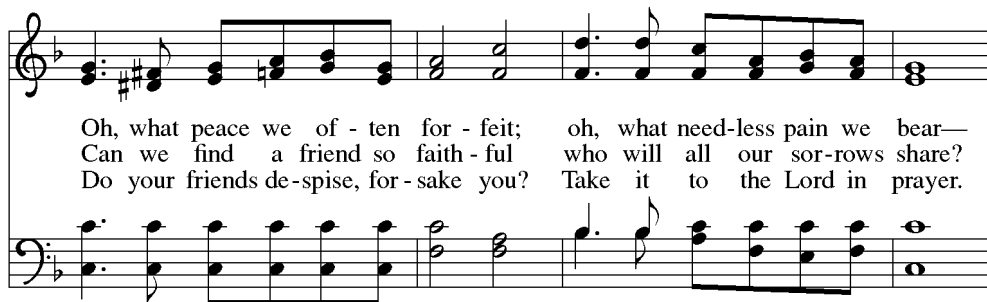
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1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

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

Glory To His Name

Franklin Ritter

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

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, Mary Bannister, Bob Bohn, Linda Borowski's son and family, Linda Borowski's daughter and family, Kim Bozzuto, Elliott Burger, Anne and David Carpenter, Jerry Conklin, Woody and Joan Cornetta, Susan Deeg, Jim DeVos, Norma Diedrich, Judy Dietz, Michelle Donahue, Jocelyn Foudali, Jacob Abraham Foudali, Cindy Garrett, Roberto Ghizini, Irene and Larry Gilbert, Vinnie Gucciardo, 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 Korndoerfer, 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, Beury Simons, Mary Joy Speicher, Barbara Strohl, Sara and John Sweeney, Keli Tedesco, Carsyn Volpe and family, Ginger Wielk, Janet Wilkens, Lauletta 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.



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. Flowers can be picked up after the 9:30AM Sunday service, or you can schedule a pick-up time with the office if you are not attending service.*

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister
Assisting Minister &
Scripture Reader

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei
Deacon Charlotte Downing

Cantor

June Heinecke

Music Director

Donna Olsen

Altar Guild

Janet Jones & Marilyn Henkel

AV Director

Art Alt

Audio

Guy Peeters

Cameras

Buddy Kristoferson

Graphics

Diane Alt & Ed Lewis

Gardener(s)

Head counter this week

Jean Drach

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

6363 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee, FL 34613

Phone (352) 597-1456

Email: Nativitylutheran63@gmail.com / Website: nlcww.org

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Deacon Charlotte Downing

Deacon Ruth Ann Hoy

Deacon Jack Page

Deacon Clyde Rosten

ELCA Deacon Michelle Mehan-Conklin

Music Director: Donna Olsen

Audio/Visual Director: Art Alt

Bell Choir Directors: Jane Henkel/Cherylann Schneider

Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.