



*Let the same mind be in you  
that was in Christ Jesus.*

*Sunday, November 19, 2023  
25th Sunday after Pentecost*



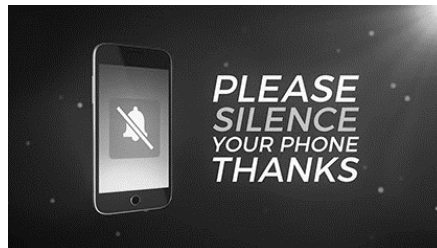
**NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Sunday, November 19, 2023**  
**25th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Reverend Giuseppe Mattei**

**The Liturgy** is from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

**Are you hearing impaired?** If you are having difficulty hearing our worship service, try using our Assisted Hearing System, which is available from an usher.

**Today's worship service** is being live-streamed beginning at 9:25am and will be replayed next Sunday at 6pm on FM radio station 102.9. The service is available to view anytime on the home page of our website: [www.nlcww.org](http://www.nlcww.org).

**In-person attendance for last Sunday: 152**



## **INTRODUCTION**

*Our readings during November speak of the end times. 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.*

## **CHIMES**

Indicates the start of worship.

# WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRELUDE

*Air from Suite No. 3*

J.S. Bach

Trumpet: Todd Holly

Organist: Kathy Hackemer



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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous!

**Praise befits the upright.**

Sing to him a new song!

**For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.**

He loves righteousness and justice;

**the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.** (*Psalm 33:1-5*)

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

## GATHERING HYMN

*On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand*

437

vv. 1, 2, 4

1 On Jor-dan's storm - y bank I stand, and cast a wish - ful eye  
 2 All o'er those wide ex - tend - ed plains shines one e - ter - nal day;  
 3 No chill - ing winds or poi - s' nous breath can reach that health - ful shore;  
 4 When shall I reach that hap - py place and be for - ev - er blest?

to Ca - naan's fair and hap - py land, where my pos - ses - sions lie.  
 there God the Son for - ev - er reigns and scat - ters night a - way.  
 sick - ness and sor - row, pain and death, are felt and feared no more.  
 When shall I see my Sav - ior's face and in God's bos - om rest?

*Refrain*

I am bound for the prom - ised land, I am bound for the prom - ised land;

oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom - ised land.

## 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



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!



## CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



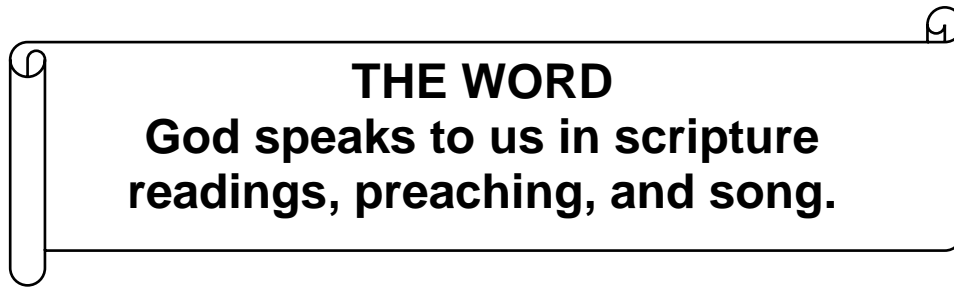
Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## 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**

*How Beautiful*

Twila Paris

Duet: Phil & Sharon Schroeder

*Children may depart for Sunday School.*

**A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER  
OF PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS**

**5:1-11**

Reader: Nancy Vangilder

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

**Matthew 25:14-30**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five



talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then 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.' <sup>21</sup>His 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.' <sup>22</sup>And 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.' <sup>23</sup>His 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.' <sup>24</sup>Then 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; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But 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? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For 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. <sup>30</sup>As 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.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Righteous God, we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*The Lord Is My Light*

The Lord is my light and my salvation,  
The Lord is my light and my salvation,  
The Lord is my light and my salvation,  
Whom shall I fear?

Whom shall I fear, whom shall I fear  
The Lord is the strength of my life  
Whom shall I fear?

The Lord is my light and my salvation,  
The Lord is my light and my salvation,

The Lord is my light and my salvation,  
Whom shall I fear?

Whom shall I fear, whom shall I fear  
The Lord is the strength of my life  
Whom shall I fear?

*Stand or sit as you desire.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us turn our hearts to God, our Breath and Life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

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

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and 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 on-line at <https://www.nlcww.org>, or on our*

*Facebook page. Now you may also contribute using Venmo if you have an account or using the QR code below. For more information about these methods see today's Weekly Announcement Sheet.*



*Assisting Minister unveils the chalice and paten.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of field and forest, sea and sky, **You are the Giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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

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

All people are called to Christ's table. Guests and friends of any age and background, come, eat what is good!

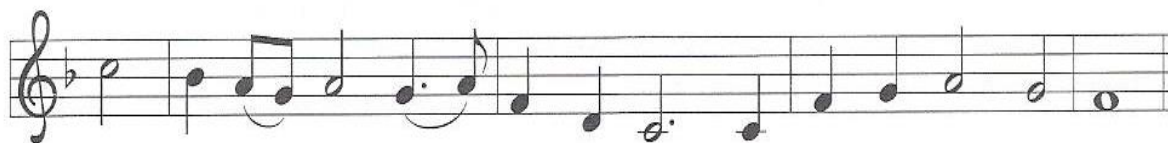
*Please be seated. Please follow the instructions of the ushers as you come forward. Please let an usher know if you cannot come to the altar to receive communion. We will have communion brought to you.*

### *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.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

441, 439, 815, 843

*Please stand as you are able.*

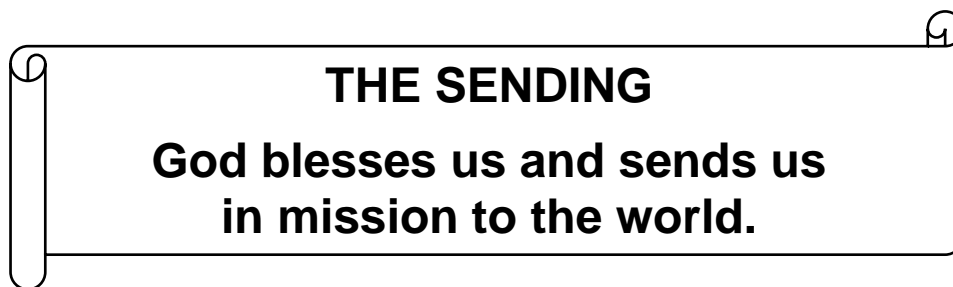
## TABLE BLESSING

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We thank You, generous God, **for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the One who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**



## BLESSING

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed **✝** bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*Christ Be Our Light*

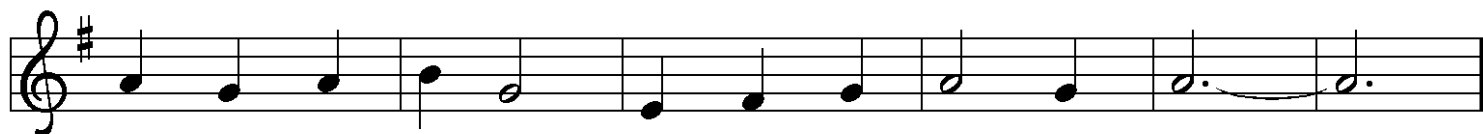
715  
vv. 1, 2, 5



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

*Refrain*



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.



## SENDING

People of Nativity, what is our mission?

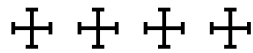
**With the birth of Jesus in our hearts we carry light and love to the world.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Share the harvest!

**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**     *Come, Ye Thankful People Come*     Jayson Payne  
Organist: Kathy Hackemer



## NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

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

**COFFEE HOUR** - Please join us for fellowship in Winemiller Hall after worship service.



*Flowers on the altar are given by:*

Leonore & Gary Kopitzke     In honor of their 56<sup>th</sup>  
wedding anniversary!

**Altar Flowers:** *If you would like to order flowers in honor or in memory of someone, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or you can call the office at 352-597-1456. Donation is \$25.00 a vase. 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.*

## **PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

***New this week:*** Art Alt, Ed Denning, Walter Johnson, Pastor Mattei & family

***Continue to pray for:*** Tina Anderson, Rob Anthony, Gus Aroyo, Tracey Baker, Anne & Debbie Barsumian, Carlos Bayron family, Stephen Benner, Windy and Bill Binns, Linda Blatt, Agnes Burkart, Libby Capell, Denise Crawford, David, Diethorn family, Judy Dietz, Tracy Flanders and family, Irene Froehlich, Nora Geiser, Patrick Gould, Raymond Groetsch, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, Terry Halgren, Ron and Linda Hansen, June Heinecke, Gary and Mary Heinecke, Glenn Heinecke, Jim Hennessey, Kay Hill, Barbara Hofving, Hannah Hope, Joel Jensen, Brian Johnson, June Johnston, Willy K., Kevin Kehoe, Buddy Kristoferson, Kerry & Lynn Krol, Sandra Lee, Lisa Luckman, Lofgren family, Ned Long, Gwen Mahon, Elaine Malone, Antonio Mattei, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Don and Suzanne Nelson, Sheryl O'Conner, Kim Ohlhauser, Oliver family, Lisa Overs-Morton, Michael Petty, Ed Quiring, Katherine Rizzo, Dennis Rogers, Rocco family, Nancy Salzbach, Rhonda Schadler, Carole Schaefer, Judi Schreiner, Schuttler family, Judy Seidl, Ange Sirmenis, Eileen Smith, Rob Southey, Barbara Strohl, Jessica Swan, Alan & Jackie Sweet, Mary Ann Szmanski, Torres family, Alice Totten, Keith Wagner, family of Chad and Katy Waldorf, West family, Luke Williams, Richard Wright and family, Roger & Jane Zimany, Laretta Z.

## **PRAYERS FOR OUR LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY**

Nic Baker, Brandi Culpepper, Areil Dietz, Tyler A. Germann, 1st Lt. Robert M. Heinecke, Maj. Matthew Henry, Colton Hill, Andria T. Hook, Jonathan Hudson, Maj. USAF Will Lawlor, Zachary McGuire, CTT2 William Pause, Brandon Pierce, Clinton Pierce, Isaac Redmond, Andrea Roache, Joel Roberts, Cpl. Timothy Spruytte, Cameron James

Thompson-Airman 3rd Class, LCpl. Erich Timm, Airman Bob Totten, Kesley Underwood, Kyle Underwood, Maj. Chad Waldorf - Airforce.

**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.*

## *Worship Leaders*

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<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Pastor Giuseppe Mattei
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Vicki Page
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Nancy Vangilder
<b>Ushers</b>	Gwen Mahon & Lou Prettyman
<b>Crucifer</b>	Robert Rios
<b>Greeter</b>	Evelyn Galli
<b>Music Director</b>	Donna Olsen
<b>Organist</b>	Kathy Hackemer
<b>Bell Choir Directors</b>	Janet & Todd Holly
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Suzanne Chelf, Kenny Larsen, & Nancy Vangilder
<b>Sanctuary</b>	Connie Chase & Beryl Clements
<b>AV Director</b>	Art Alt
<b>Audio</b>	Pat Squires
<b>Cameras</b>	Tim Cotter, Buddy Kristoferson & Mark Major
<b>Graphics</b>	Diane Alt, Ed Lewis & Linda Rizzo
<b>Video Production</b>	Vicki Page
<b>Head counter this week</b>	Ernie Horeis

## **VISION STATEMENT**

Working as a supportive family of faith to extend God's gracious welcome through worship, community service, and spiritual growth opportunities

## **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, 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](mailto:Nativitylutheran63@gmail.com), Website: [nlcww.org](http://nlcww.org)

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Deacon Charlotte Downing

Deacon Clyde Rosten

Music Director: Donna Olsen

Audio/Visual Director: Art Alt

Bell Choir Directors: Janet & Todd Holly

Sunday Services at 9:30 a.m.