



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

*Sunday, December 10, 2023  
Second Sunday of Advent*



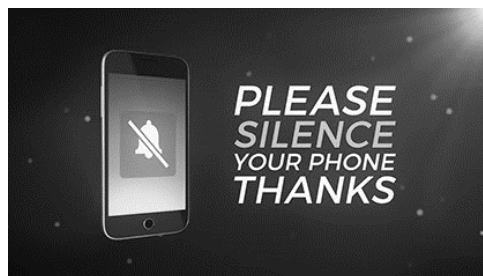
**NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Sunday, December 10, 2023**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**Reverend Giuseppe Mattei**

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

**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: 147**



**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHIMES**

Indicates the start of worship.

**PRELUDE**

*Rejoice, A Savior Comes*

Bill Ingram  
Nativity Ringers

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

## SEASON OF ADVENT

*Advent comes from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning 'Coming.' Advent begins the church year starting four Sundays before Christmas. The season of Advent has been set aside as a time of preparation since the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Advent is a time for preparing for Christ's second coming, even as we remember and celebrate his first coming at Christmas. Blue is associated with Advent, suggesting hope. This association originated in Scandinavia, probably because purple dye was too expensive for churches to use.*

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

### CALL TO WORSHIP

With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O Lord!

**I will keep your statutes.**

I cry to you; save me,

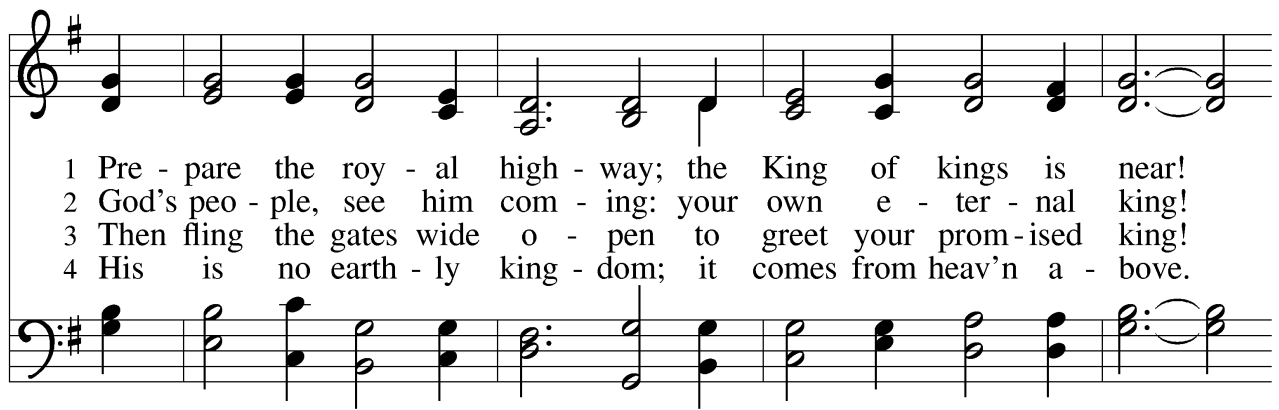
**that I may observe your decrees! (Ps 119:145)**

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

### GATHERING HYMN

*Prepare the Royal Highway*

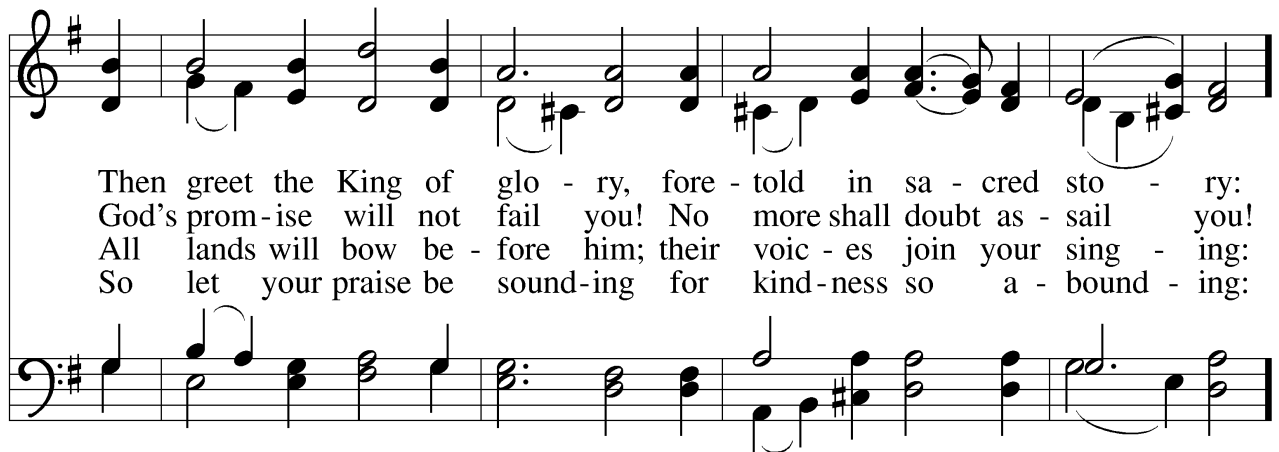
264  
vv 1,2,3



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

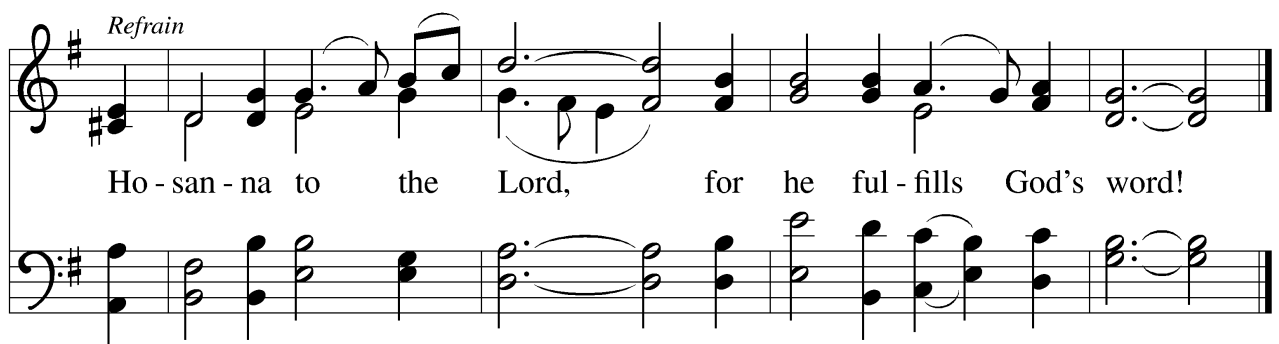


Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

## **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.**

## **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Praise to You, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth. **Amen.**

## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES**

### **Second Candle – The Candle of Peace**

When Jesus came, he taught people the importance of being peace-makers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. When Christ comes to us, he brings us peace, and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again. We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him peace is found.

**ADVENT CANDLE HYMN**     *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*  
240, vv. 1 & 2

**Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.**

**He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.**

**Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.**

**He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.**

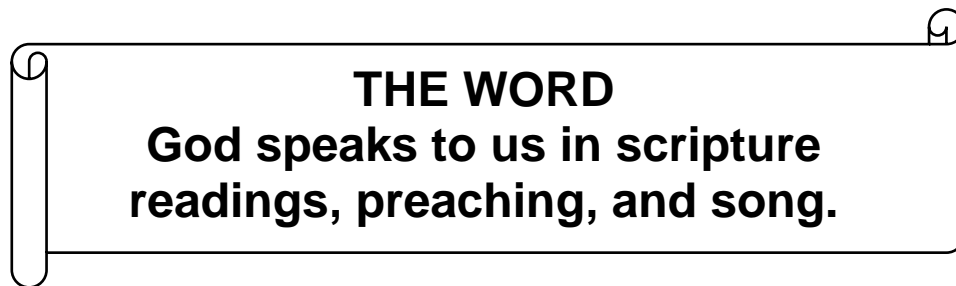
Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle, we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts... one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*



**SPECIAL MUSIC**      *I Still Believe in Christmas*      Anne Wilson  
Soloist: Janet Holly

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH**      40:1-11  
Reader: Joanne Johnson

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

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

**Mark 1:1-8**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' " <sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I

have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*A moment of silence for reflection.*

**Everlasting God, You love justice and You hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation’s bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to You. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God’s covenant is eternal, and God’s blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

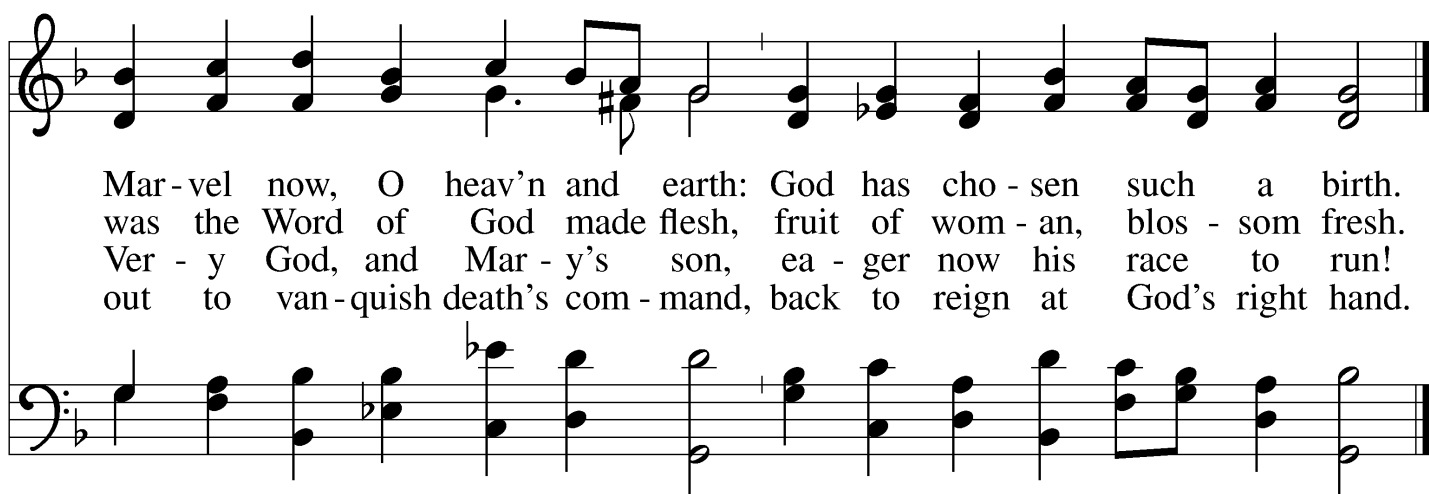
263

vv 1,2,6





1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,  
 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!  
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
 hallows night with newborn light.  
 Night cannot this light subdue;  
 let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
 virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
 To the holy Trinity  
 praise we sing eternally!

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he**

descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Remain standing or sit as you desire.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

After each petition: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **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 our Provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The notes are quarter notes, mostly beamed in pairs. The lyrics are written below the notes.

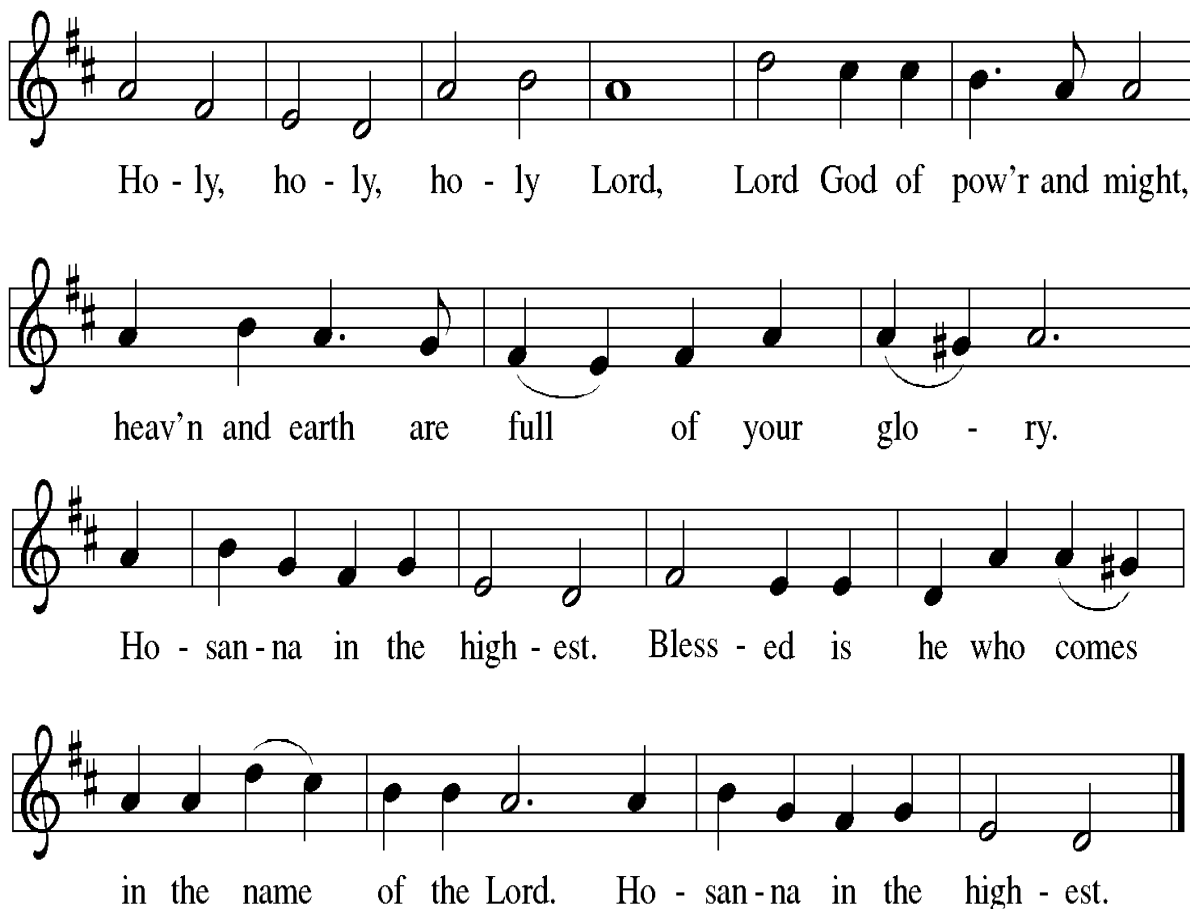
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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, Lord God of pow'r 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The melody is written in treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff has a fermata over the final note. The third staff has a fermata over the final note. The fourth staff has a fermata over the final note.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the Giver of Life:

Blessed are You for the birth of creation.

Blessed are You in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are You for your promise to your people.

Blessed are You in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are You for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are You for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Guests and friends of any age and background, take your place at the table!

*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*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

246, 250, 254, 253

*Please stand as you are able.*

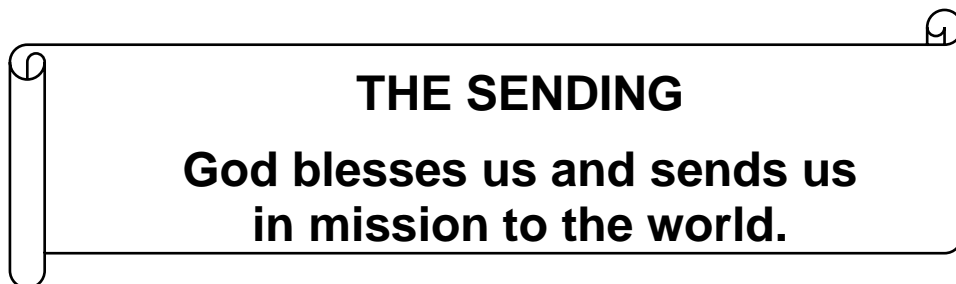
## **TABLE BLESSING**

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

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Generous God, in bread and cup You have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**



## **BLESSING**

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✝ remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG**

*People, Look East*

248

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## SENDING

People of Nativity, what is our mission?

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



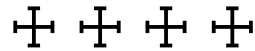
## DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Keep awake!  
**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Advent Star*

Edward Broughton



## NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm: 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:1-8, 19-28

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



*Flowers on the altar are given by:*

June Heinecke

In loving memory of Bob and John.

Linda Rizzo

In loving memory of her sister, Denise Bailey.

**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 per 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:*** Roger Cawley

***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, Ed Denning, Diethorn family, Judy Dietz, David Farmer, Tracy Flanders and family, Irene Froehlich, Geiser family, 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, Joel Jensen, Brian Johnson, Walter Johnson, June Johnston, Willy K., Kevin Kehoe, Buddy Kristoferson, Kerry & Lynn Krol, Sandra Lee, Lisa Luckman, Lofgren family, Ned Long, Elaine Malone, Antonio Mattei, Pastor Mattei & family, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Don and Suzanne Nelson, Sheryl O'Conner, Kim Ohlhauser, Oliver family, Lisa Overs-Morton, Michael Petty, Ed Quiring, Dennis Rogers, Rocco family, Angela S, Nancy Salzbach, Rhonda Schadler, Carole Schaefer, Judi Schreiner, Schuttler family, Ange Sirmenis, Eileen Smith, Rob Southey, Barbara Strohl, Jessica Swan, Alan & Jackie Sweet, Mary Ann Szmanski, Torres family, Alice Totten, Jean Tyszinski, Keith Wagner, family of Chad and Katy Waldorf, West family, Luke Williams, Richard Wright and family, Roger & Jane Zimany, Lauretta 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 four 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>	Reverend Giuseppe Mattei
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Pat Squires
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Joanne Johnson
<b>Crucifer/Acolyte</b>	Arabella & Juliet Wright
<b>Ushers</b>	Gwen Mahon & Lou Prettyman
<b>Music Director</b>	Donna Olsen
<b>Bell Choir Directors</b>	Janet & Todd Holly
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Suzanne Chelf & Gayle Howland
<b>Greeter</b>	Evelyn Galli
<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>	Jean Drach

## **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.