



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

*Sunday, February 25, 2024  
Second Sunday in Lent*



**NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Sunday, February 25, 2024**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**  
**Reverend Giuseppe Mattei**

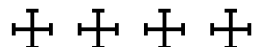
**OUR VALUES STATEMENT:** We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

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)

**VISION STATEMENT:** We seek to become people who live the nativity by...

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



**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: 138**

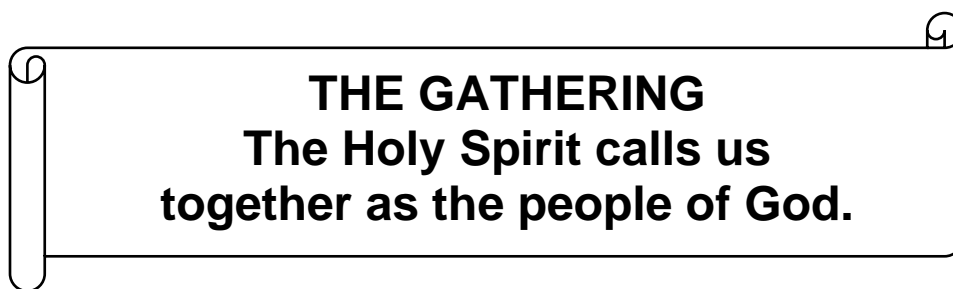
## CHIMES

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Behold the Lamb*

Larry Shackley



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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Let all who passionately seek You, O Lord, erupt with excitement and joy over what You've done!

**May those who love your salvation say continually, "How great and glorious is our God!"** (Ps 40: 16)

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

## GATHERING HYMN

*How Firm a Foundation*

796  
vv. 1,2,3

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!  
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can he say than to you he has said  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

## **GREETING**

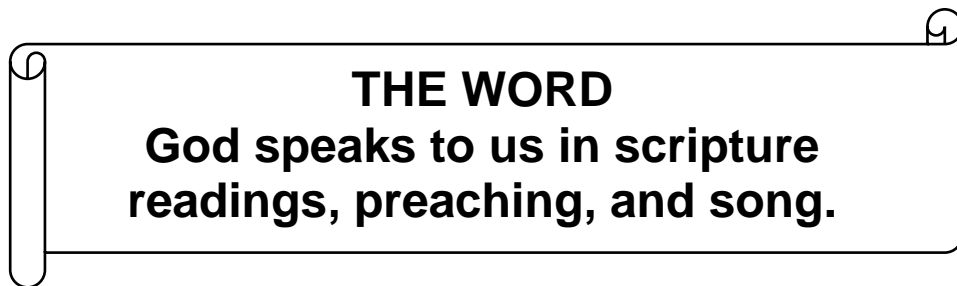
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God... one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*



**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Beloved, Let Us Love One Another* Pepper Choplin  
Nativity Chancel Choir

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS** **17:1-7, 15-16**  
Reader: Kathy Mullins


<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name

be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.” <sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”


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

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 8:31-38

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

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

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

*Please stand.*

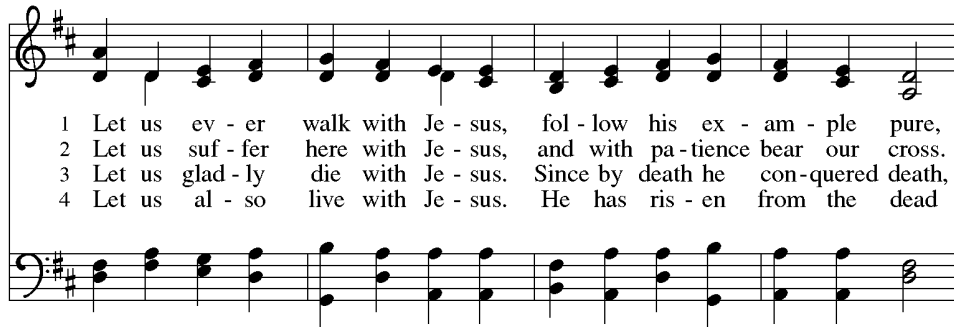
## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

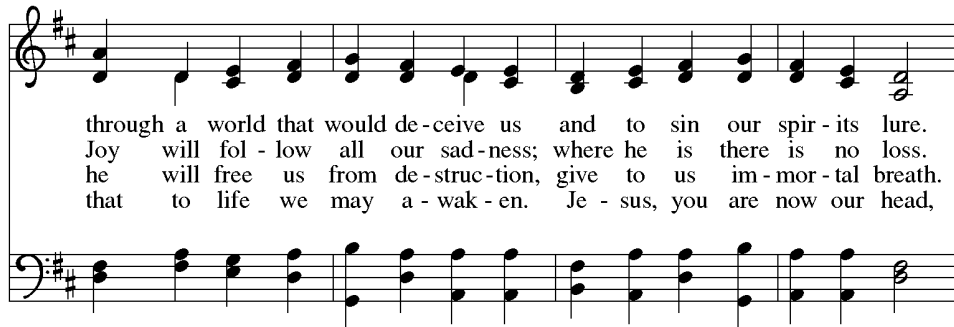
*A moment of silence for reflection.*

**Holy God, we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only You know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace: out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,  
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.  
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,  
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead




through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.  
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.  
 he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.  
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,  
 Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy;  
 Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;  
 we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.  
 all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.  
 and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.  
 in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.  
 Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.  
 Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.  
 Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.



## **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.**

*Stand or sit as you desire.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

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

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

*Please be seated.*

## THE MEAL

**God feeds us with the presence  
of Jesus Christ.**

### 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 or Zelle 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.

**Jesus, You are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but also with a hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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 comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:

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.

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 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

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come! Guests and friends of any age and background, take your place at the table!

*You may be seated. The ushers will invite each row to come to the altar. You may stand or kneel at the communion rail and receive bread and wine (or request a gluten free host and/or grape juice). 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

803, 789, 765, 759

*Please stand as you are able.*

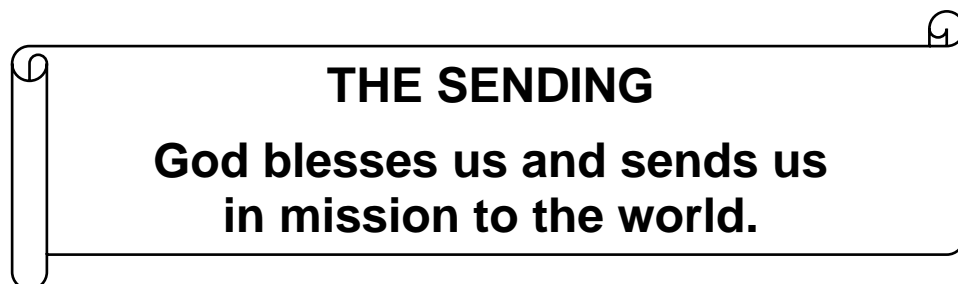
## TABLE BLESSING

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, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**



## BLESSING

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✚ give you peace. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*Will You Come and Follow Me*

798

vv. 1,2,4



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't  
 your name? Will you care for cruel and  
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?  
 kind and nev - er be the same?  
 free and nev - er be the same?  
 side and nev - er be the same?  
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be  
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I  
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and  
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"  
 pray'r in you and you in me?"  
 mean in you and you in me?"  
 sound in you and you in me?"  
 grow in you and you in me.

## 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

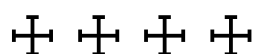
Go in peace! Share your bread!

**Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

Colin Curtis



## NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 20:1-17	Psalm: 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22

**COFFEE HOUR** – Please join us for fellowship in Winemiller Hall after today's worship service.

## PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

***New this week:*** Sharelle Miller

***Continue to pray for:*** Tina Anderson, Tom Anderson, Rob Anthony, Gus Aroyo, Tracey Baker, Anne & Debbie Barsumian, Herb Baynon, Carlos Bayron family, Stephen Benner, Marlene Biachin, Windy and Bill Binns, Linda Blatt, Agnes Burkart, Cawley family, Roger Cawley,

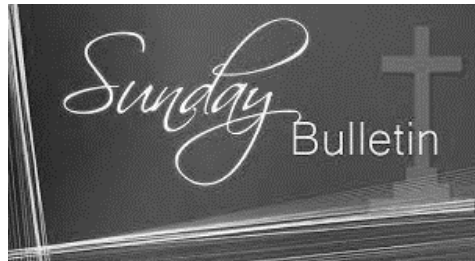


Patrick Cotter, Denise Crawford, Denning family, Judy Dietz, David Farmer, Tracy Flanders and family, Irene Froehlich, Janis & Ryan Geiger, Geiser family, Gibson family, Craig Gosen, Courtney Groetsch, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, Terry Halgren, Ron and Linda Hansen, June Heinecke, Gary and Mary Heinecke, Glenn Heinecke, Jim Hennessey, Kay Hill, Barbara Hofving, Joel Jensen, Rainer Jenss, Brian Johnson, John Johnson, Walter Johnson, June Johnston, Aubree Jones, Willy K., Kevin Kehoe, Buddy Kristoferson, Sandi Krol, Kerry & Lynn Krol, Sandra Lee, Lisa Luckman, Lofgren family, Ned Long, Elaine Malone, Antonio Mattei, Bob McDowall, Amy Miller-Beckner, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Sheryl O'Conner, Kim Ohlhauser, Oliver family, Lisa Overs-Morton, John Persico, Michael Petty, Ed Quiring, Daniel Raines, Judy Reid, Dennis Rogers, Rocco family, Angela S, Marty Salzbach, Fran Santos, Rhonda Schadler, Carole Schaefer, Nancy Schenning, 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, Jim Viereck, Wagner family, family of Chad and Katy Waldorf, West family, Luke Williams, Willy K., Richard Wright and family, Brian Yoos, Laoretta Z.

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

Nic Baker, Brandi Culpepper, Private Tony D'Angelo, 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, CTT1 William Pause, Brandon Pierce, Clinton Pierce, Isaac Redmond, Andrea Roache, Joel Roberts, Cpl. Timothy Spruytte, Cameron James Thompson-Airman 3rd Class, LCpl. Erich Timm, Chief Warrant Officer 3-Adam Timmerman, 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.*



*Bulletin dedicated by:*

June Heineke      In loving memory of John, and in honor of Richard on their birthdays.

Diane Alt          In memory of Elynor Shiell.

**Bulletin Dedication:** *No flowers are on the altar during Lent. If you would like to dedicate a bulletin in honor or in memory of someone, you can call the office at 352-597-1456. Donation is \$10.00.*

# *Worship Leaders*

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<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Reverend Giuseppe Mattei
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Deacon Charlotte Downing
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Kathy Mullins
<b>Ushers</b>	Gwen Mahon & Lou Prettyman
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Robert Rios
<b>Greeters</b>	Evelyn Galli & Noel Prettyman
<b>Music Director</b>	Donna Olsen
<b>Bell Choir Directors</b>	Janet & Todd Holly
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Mae Haines & Gwen Mahon
<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>	Barbara Crisanti

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

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Phone (352) 597-1456

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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.