



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

*Sunday, April 14, 2024  
Third Sunday of Easter*



**NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Sunday, April 14, 2024**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**  
**Reverend Giuseppe Mattei**

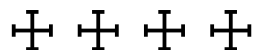
**OUR VALUES STATEMENT:** We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

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 Eight.

**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: 153**

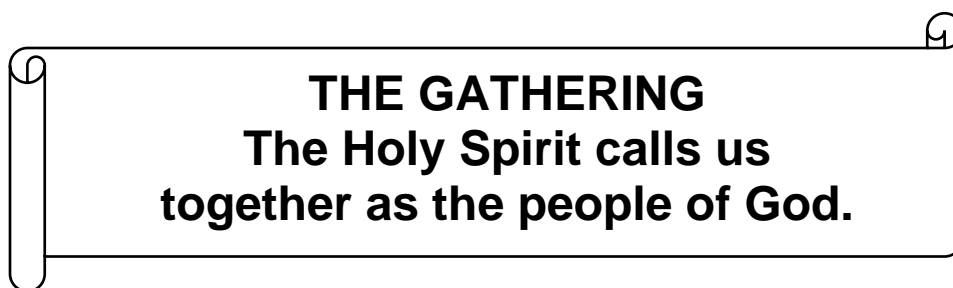
## **CHIMES**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **PRELUDE**

*Here I Am, Lord*

Bill Ingram  
Nativity Ringers  
Guest Vocalist: Gina Fell



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

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come to You, O Lord, as one people. We will always lift up our souls into your presence, Yahweh.

**Be there for us, O God for we keep trusting in You!**

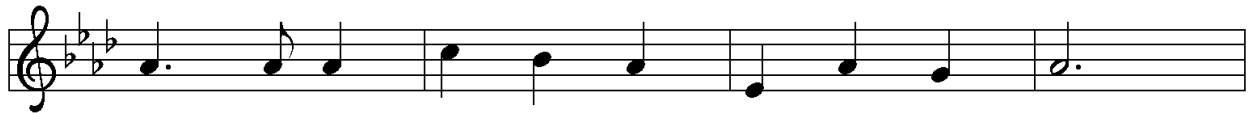
Could anyone be disgraced when they have entwined their heart with yours?

**Direct us, Yahweh, throughout our journey so we can experience Your plans for our life.** (see Ps 25: 1-2.4, The Passion Translation-TPT version)

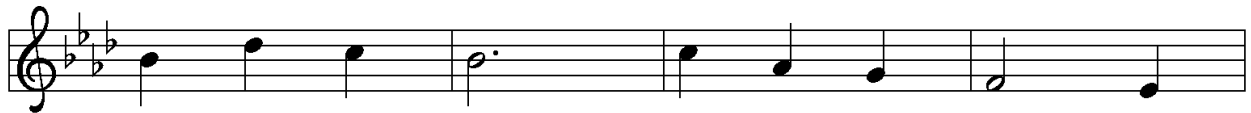
*Please look toward the cross as it processes toward the altar.*



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!  
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter  
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;  
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:  
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!  
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;  
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;  
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.  
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!  
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:  
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,  
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!  
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!  
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.  
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
 Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

*Refrain*



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

## **GREETING**

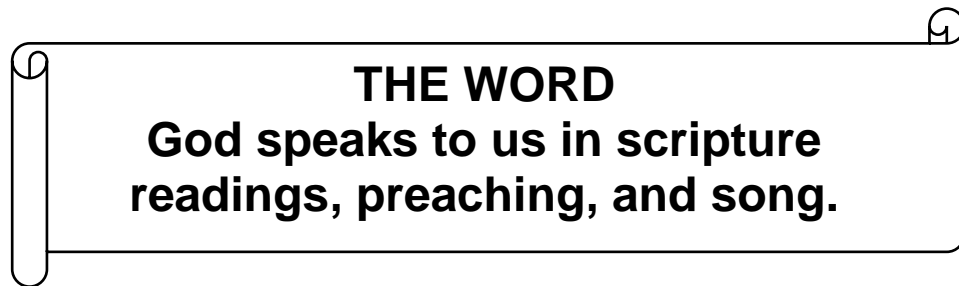
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ... the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Holy and righteous God, ... one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*



## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Jesus Loves Me*

Tomlin/Kinsmore  
Nativity Chancel Choir

## **A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN 1 John 3:1-7**

Reader: Patti Cotter

The word of the Lord.

**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.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 24:36b-48**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

### **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>36b</sup>Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and he took it and ate in their presence. <sup>44</sup>Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written

about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,<sup>46</sup> and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,<sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.<sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.”

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 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Christ, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Chris - tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!

Chris - tians, has - ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 all your grate - ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!

of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 when con - tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!

at the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now he lives, no more to die. 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**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

After each petition: God of grace. **Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living 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 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.

Risen One, **You call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true Vine. 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'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, 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

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table. 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, Lamb of God.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

362, 361, 522, 380

*Please stand as you are able.*

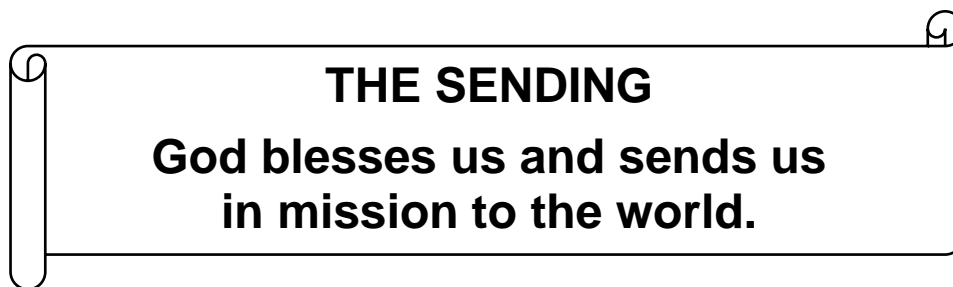
## TABLE BLESSING

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Shepherding God, You have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our Redeemer and Friend. **Amen.**



## BLESSING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!*

393  
vv 1,4,5



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the world shall  
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of Ol - ives  
 3 To whom the shin - ing an - gels cry, "Why stand and gaze up - on the  
 4 "You see him now, as - cend - ing high up to the por - tals of the  
 5 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to you let earth ac -



ring: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be - fore un -  
 stand, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! and with his faith - ful fol - l'wers  
 sky?" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "This is the Sav - ior!" thus they  
 sky." Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! "Here - af - ter Je - sus you shall  
 cord: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! You are, while end - less ag - es



trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God.  
 see their Lord as - cend in maj - es - ty.  
 say, "this is his glo - rious tri - umph day!" Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
 see re - turn - ing in great maj - es - ty."  
 run, with Fa - ther and with Spir - it one.



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

## 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! Go in peace! Rejoice and be glad!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

*Come Ye Faithful*

Broughton/Sullivan

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

## NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 4:5-12	Psalm: 23
1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18

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

## PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

***New this week:*** Ava, Maryanne B., Francie Curtis, Bradford McWilliams, Jean Tyzinski

***Continue to pray for:*** Tina Anderson, Rob Anthony, Gus Aroyo, Tracey Baker, A & D Barsumian, Herb Baynon, Carlos Bayron family, Stephen Benner, Marlene Biachin, Windy and Bill Binns, Teresa Brady, Agnes Burkart, Cawley family, Roger Cawley, Patrick Cotter, Barb and Jim Cox, Denise Crawford, Denning family, Judy Dietz, David Farmer, Tracy Flanders and family, Irene Froehlich, Janis & Ryan Geiger, Rich Geiser, Gibson family, Larry Gilbert, 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, Willy K., Kevin Kehoe, Sandi Krol, Kerry & Lynn Krol, Sandra Lee, Lisa Luckman, Lofgren

family, Elaine Malone, Antonio Mattei, John Mau, Sharelle Miller, Amy Miller-Beckner, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Sheryl O'Conner, Kim Ohlhauser, Oliver family, Dot Orthman, Lisa Overs-Morton, John Persico, Daniel Raines, Judy Reid, Dennis Rogers, Rocco family, Angela S, Rhonda Schadler, Carole Schaefer, Nancy Schenning, Judi Schreiner, Schuttler family, Tyler Shirey, Sirmenis family, Debbie, Dan & Buddy Smith Eileen Smith, 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., Brian Yoos, Lauretta 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, Cullen McDannold, 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 four weeks. 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.*



***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. 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*

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<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Reverend Giuseppe Mattei
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Vicki Page
<b>Scripture Reader</b>	Patti Cotter
<b>Ushers</b>	Gwen Mahon & Lou Prettyman
<b>Acolyte/Crucifer</b>	Robert Rios
<b>Greeters</b>	Evelyn Galli
<b>Music Director</b>	Donna Olsen
<b>Bell Choir Directors</b>	Janet & Todd Holly
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Gayle Howland & 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 & Mark Major
<b>Graphics</b>	Diane Alt, Ed Lewis & Linda Rizzo
<b>Video Production</b>	Vicki Page
<b>Head counter this week</b>	Karen Crawford

**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

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 Service at 9:30 a.m.