



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

*Sunday, April 28, 2024  
Fifth Sunday of Easter*



**NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Sunday, April 28, 2024**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**Reverend Giuseppe Mattei**

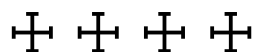
**OUR VALUES STATEMENT:** We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

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: 121**

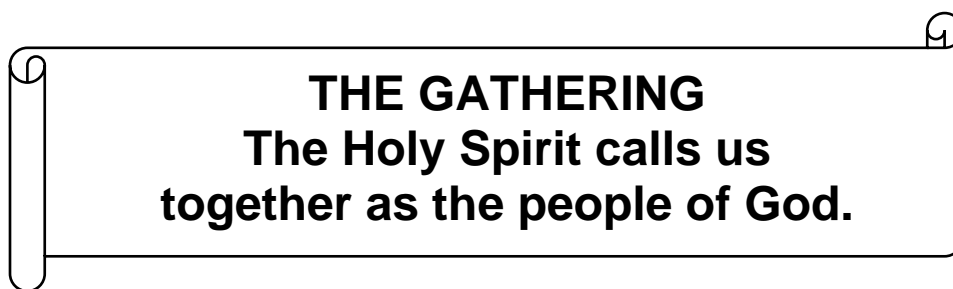
## **CHIMES**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

*Love Will Make a Way*

Dan Edwards  
Nativity Ringers



*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!**

Who could be disgraced when they have entwined their hearts 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 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the  
 2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with  
 3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in  
 4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to

sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing  
 con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will  
 this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our  
 you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther

eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!  
 ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.  
 strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.  
 e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

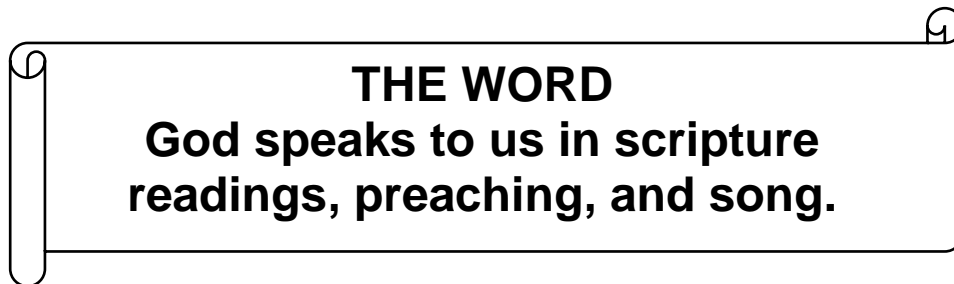
## **GREETING**

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

*Please be seated.*



## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*I Will Rise*

Chris Tomlin  
Nativity Chancel Choir

## **A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN**

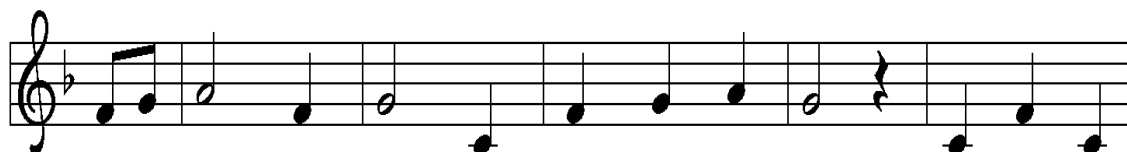
**4:7-21**

Reader: Sharon Schroeder

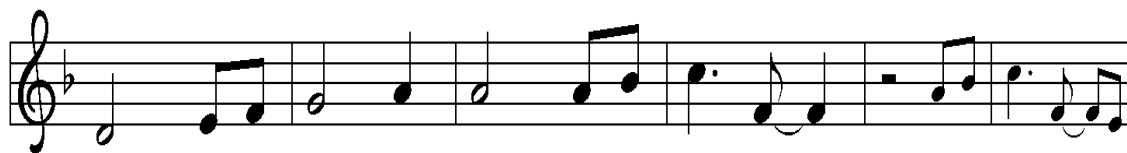
The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*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

John 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to John.  
**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.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*We Know That Christ Is Raised*

449

vv. 1,2,4



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

## 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!**

## WORDS OF CONSECRATION

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. Guests and friends of any age and background, come and eat at God's 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



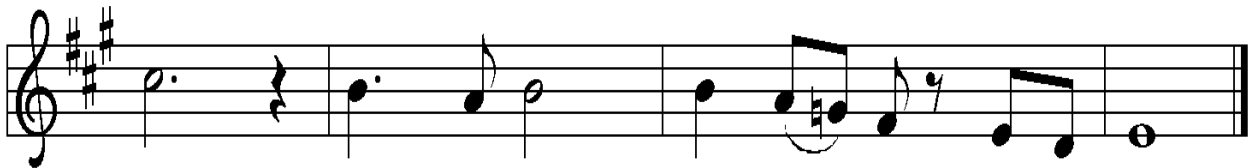
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



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

481, 482, 483, 490, 494

*Please stand as you are able.*

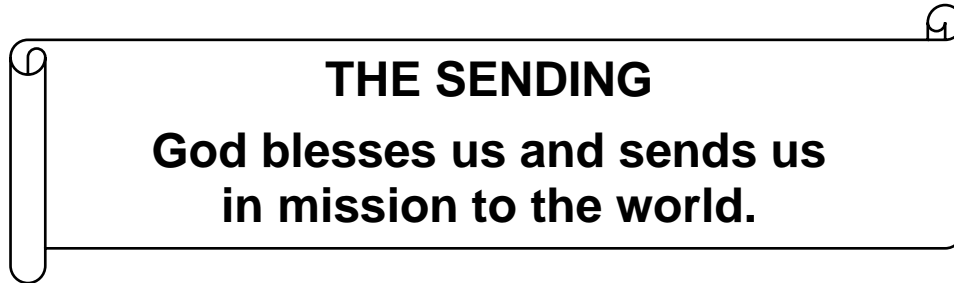
## TABLE BLESSING

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.



### THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us  
in mission to the world.

## 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**      *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*      367  
vv 1,2,4



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has  
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has  
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of  
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he  
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"  
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



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

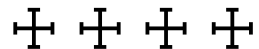
Alleluia! Go in peace! Rejoice and be glad!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

*How Majestic Is Your Name*

Michael W. Smith



## NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 8:26-40	Psalm: 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8

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

## PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

### ***New this week:***

***Continue to pray for:*** Ava, Tina Anderson, Rob Anthony, Gus Aroyo, Maryanne B., 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, Francie Curtis, Denning family, Judy Dietz, Charlotte Downing, Charlton Ewell, 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, Kay Hill, Barbara Hofving, Janet Holly, Joel Jensen, Rainer Jenss, Beth Johanssen, 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, Bradford McWilliams, Martha Meredith, Sharelle Miller, Amy Miller-Beckner, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Sheryl O'Conner, Kim Ohlhauser, Oliver family, Dot Orthman, Lisa Overs-Morton, John Persico, Noel Prettyman, Daniel Raines, Judy Reid, Steven Rizzo, Dennis Rogers, Rocco family, Janet Rosario, Angela S, Rhonda Schadler, Carole Schaefer, Nancy Schenning, Judi Schreiner, Schuttler family, Erlinda Sheridan, Tyler Shirey, Sirmenis family, Debbie, Dan & Buddy Smith, Eileen Smith, Beverly Stewart, 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, Matt West, Luke Williams, Willy K., Brian Yoos, Laretta 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.*



June Kristoferson

In memory of her loving  
husband, Buddy.

**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.*

## ***Worship Leaders***

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**Presiding Minister**

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

**Assisting Minister**

Vicki Page

**Scripture Reader**

Sharon Schroeder

**Ushers**

Lou Prettyman & Robert Rios

**Acolyte/Crucifer**

Lou Prettyman

**Greeters**

Evelyn Galli

**Music Director**

Donna Olsen

**Bell Choir Directors**

Janet & Todd Holly

**Altar Guild**

Gayle Howland & Nancy Vangilder

**Sanctuary**

Connie Chase & Beryl Clements

**AV Director**

Art Alt

**Audio**

Pat Squires

**Cameras**

Tim Cotter & Mark Major

**Graphics**

Diane Alt, Ed Lewis & Linda Rizzo

**Video Production**

Vicki Page

**Head counter this week**

Ernie Horeis

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

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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 Service at 9:30 a.m.