



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

*Sunday, September 14, 2025
14th Sunday after Pentecost*



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



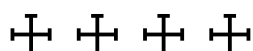
RECONCILING IN CHRIST

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). Therefore, we welcome all people, regardless of religious office, position, possessions, education, race, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability or other distinctions; and work to promote anti-racism. (Adopted 4/6/25)

VISION STATEMENT: 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*.

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 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 after 3:00pm on Sundays.

In-person attendance for last Sunday: 116

PLEASE MAKE SURE CELL PHONES ARE SILENCED.

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

My Savior's Love

Albin Whitworth

Organist: Kathy Hackemer



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

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

¹ It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High,

² to declare your steadfast love in the morning
and your faithfulness by night,

³ to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.

⁴ For You, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy. (Psalm 92:1-4)

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

GATHERING HYMN *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* 807



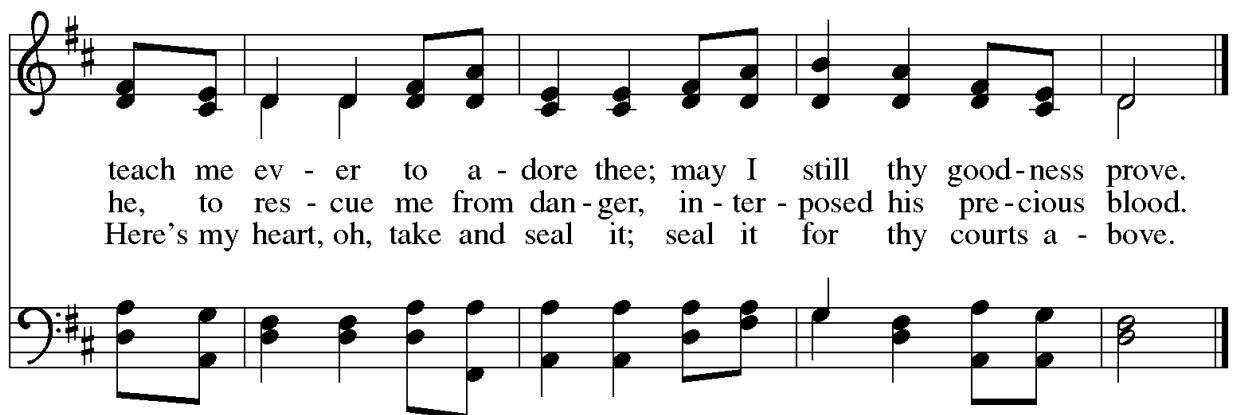
1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

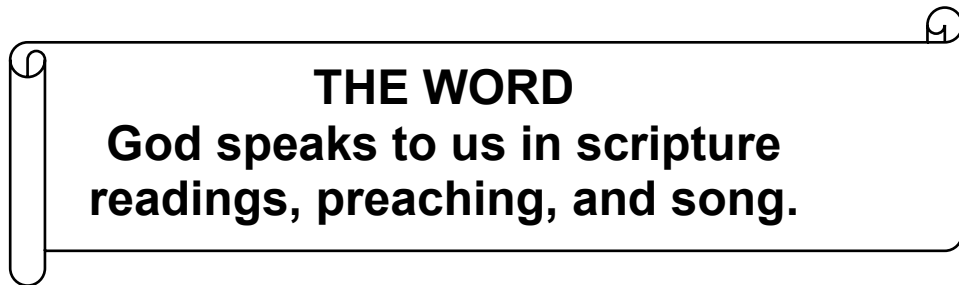
PASTORAL GREETING

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, overflowing with mercy and compassion... Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.



CHOIR ANTHEM *Beloved, Let Us Love One Another*

Pepper Choplin
Chancel Choir

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

1:12-17

Reader: Joanne Johnson

PSALM 51:1-10

Led by Joanne Johnson

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

² **Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³ For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

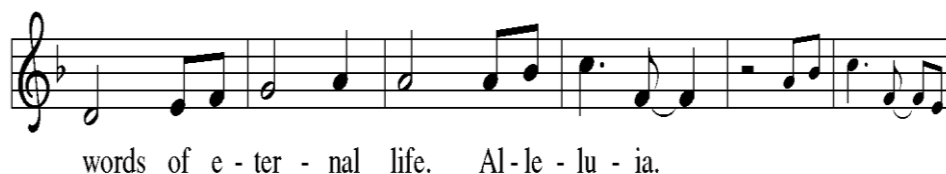
⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-10

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

A moment of silence for reflection.

Merciful God, You free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. **You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life You offer.** You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. **In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✝ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* 588
vv. 1,2,3



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to You in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

After each petition: God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to You, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Friend. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

You may offer your neighbor a sign of peace.

THE MEAL

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

OFFERTORY

You may place your offering in the offering basket by the baptismal font, or bring/mail to the office during the week. You may also donate on-line at <https://www.nlcww.org>, or on our Facebook page. You may also contribute using Venmo or Zelle if you have an account or use 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. Creator God, in your wisdom You bring forth all that is good, and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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.

PREFACE



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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We give You thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom You sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from You, through whom You created all things, and in whom You take delight. He is your

Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary. **He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for You a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust You.**

He is the one who, ... in your holy church, both 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 kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice! 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

Be Still, My Soul
Sweet Hour of Prayer
As The Deer & 779
(as many as needed)

Be Still, My Soul



1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.
 2 Be still, my soul: your God will un - der - take
 3 Be still, my soul: the hour is has - t'ning on



Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain;
 to guide the fu - ture, as in a - ges past,
 when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord,



leave to your God to or - der and pro - vide;
 Your hope, your con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;
 when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,



in ev - 'ry change God faith - ful will re - main.
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.

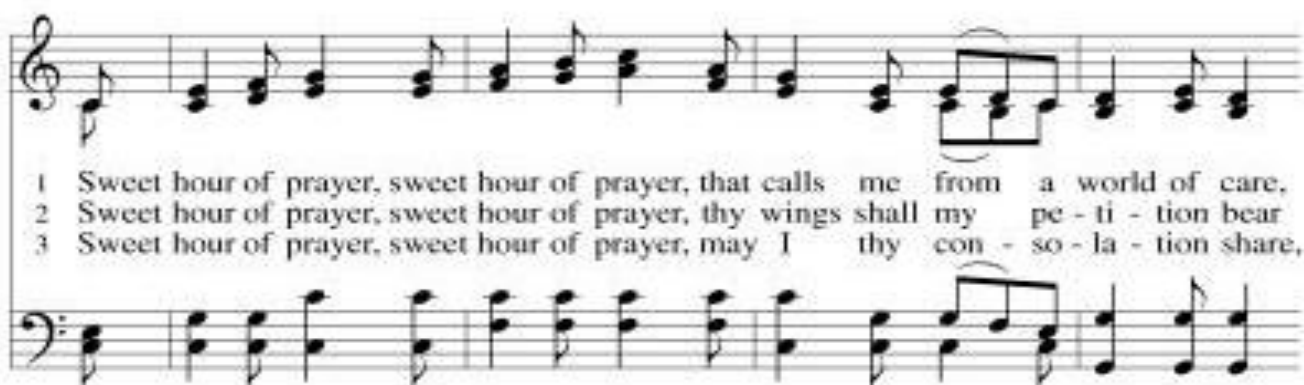


Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'n - ly friend
 Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
 Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
 the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.
 all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last,

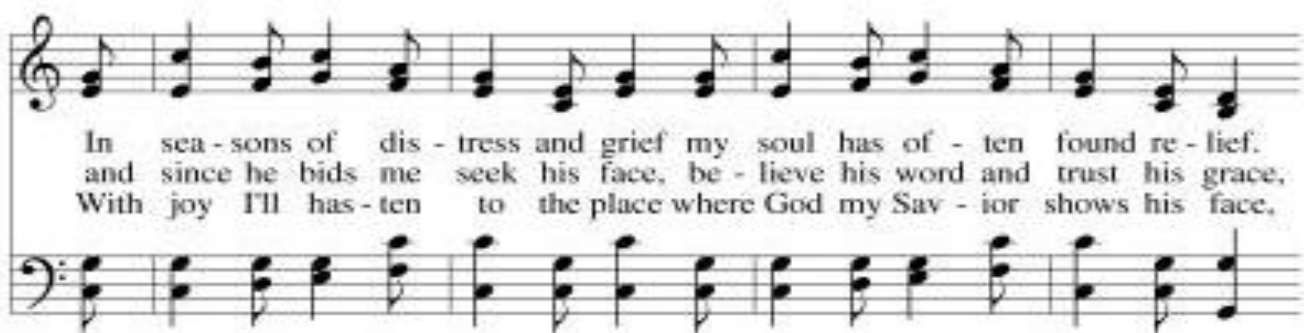
Sweet Hour of Prayer



1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care,
 2 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, thy wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear,
 3 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, may I thy con - so - la - tion share,



and bids me at my Fa - ther's throne make all my wants and wish-es known,
 to him whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless;
 till from Mount Pis - gah's loft - y height I view my home and take my flight.



In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief my soul has of - ten found re - lief.
 and since he bids me seek his face, be - lieve his word and trust his grace,
 With joy I'll has - ten to the place where God my Sav - ior shows his face,



and oft es - caped the tempt - er's snare by thy re - turn, sweet hour of prayer.
 I'll cast on him my ev - 'ry care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.
 and glad - ly take my sta - tion there, thy prom - ise gained, sweet hour of prayer.

AS THE DEER

JoeHarrisMusic

Guitar Tab Arrangement

Words and Music by
MARTIN NYSTROM

Slowly

D A/C# Bm D/A G A7 D

1. As the deer pant-eth for the wa-ter, so my soul long-eth af-ter Thee.
2. You're my friend and You are my broth-er, e-ven though, You are a King.
3. I want You more than gold or sil-ver, on-ly You can sat-is-fy.

T
A
B

D A/C# Bm D/A G A7 D

You a-lone are my heart's de-sire and I long to wor-ship Thee.
I love You more than an-y oth-er, so much more than an-y-thing.
You a-lone are the real joy giv-er, and the ap-ple of my eye.

T
A
B

Bm G D G Em

You a-lone are my strength, my shield; to You a-lone, may my spir-it

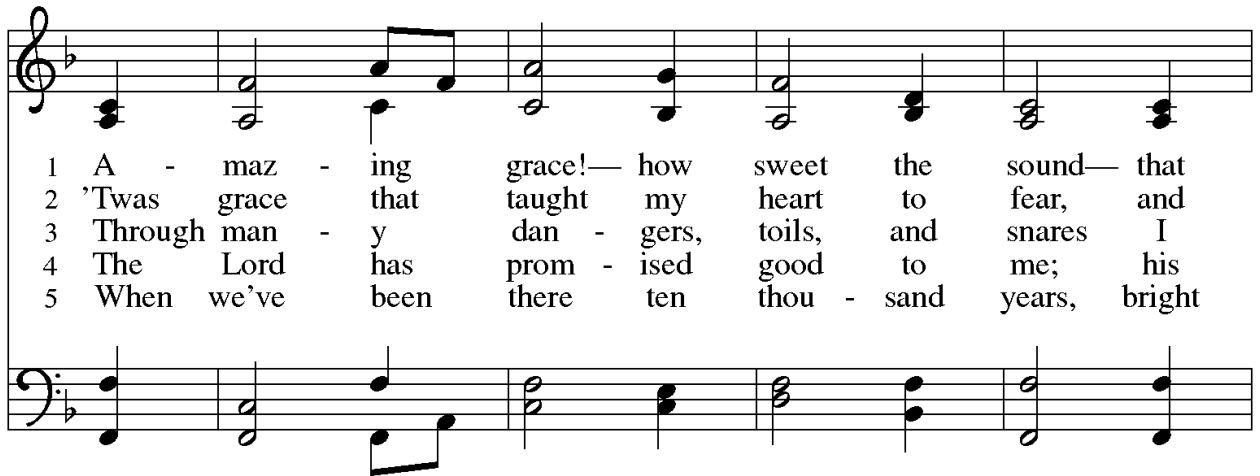
T
A
B

F#7 D A/C# Bm D/A G A7 D

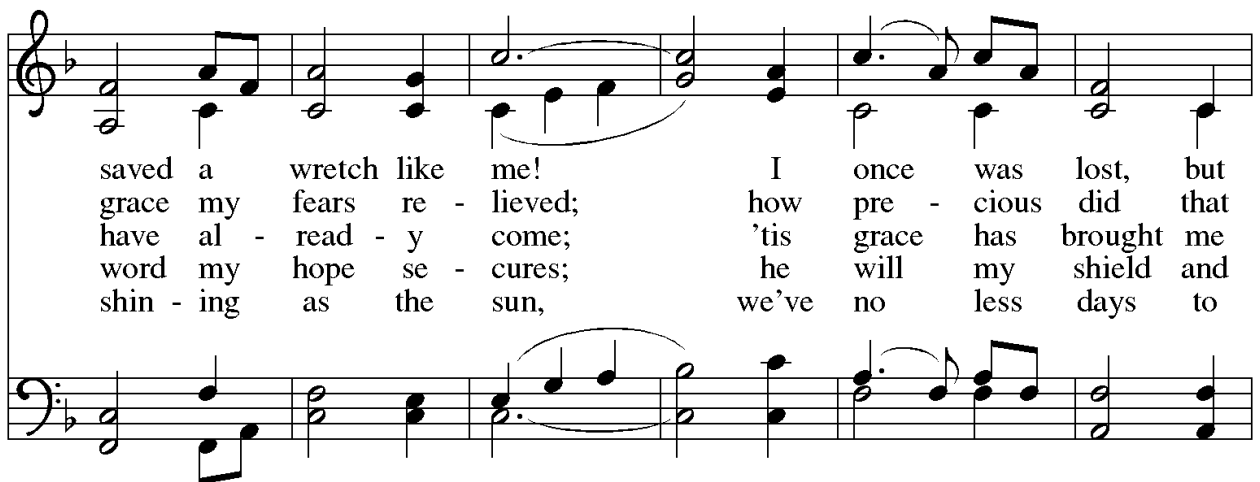
yield. You a-lone are my heart's de-sire and I long to wor-ship Thee.

T
A
B

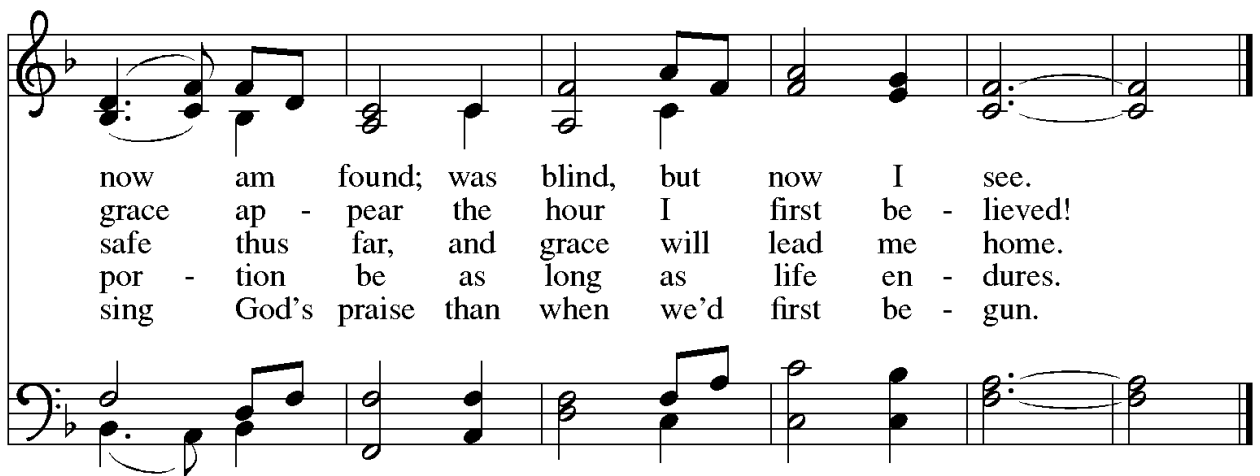
Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

The Assisting Minister puts away the communion trays and covers and paten and chalice.

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.

Mothering God, **You gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.**



THE SENDING

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

BLESSING

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✝ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen

vv 1,2,3



- 1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en, from this meal of love and grace;
- 2 Rise, trans-formed, and choose to fol - low af - ter Christ, though wound-ed, whole;
- 3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture God has called us to re - ceive;
- 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion; cour - age be our dai - ly breath;



may we through such love en - vi - sion whose we are, and whose, our praise.
bro - ken, shared, our lives are hal - lowed to re - lease and to con - sole.
pres - ent by God's lov - ing nur - ture, spir - it - ed then let us live.
mer - cy be our des - ti - na - tion from this day and un - to death.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: God, the won - der of our days.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Spir - it, grace by whom we live.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

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! Live by the Spirit!

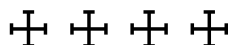
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Toccata in E minor

Johan Pachelbel

Organist: Kathy Hackemer



NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Amos 8:4-7	Psalm: 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13

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

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

New this week: Stacy Christian, Shaun, Jackie & Alan Sweet

Continue to pray for: Brian Albright, Killian Ash, Anne B, Carlos B, Eric Vincent Baez, Tracy Baker, Frani Barnes, Jimmy Barrett, Maria Baynon, Baynon family, Herb Baynon, Windy Binns, Robert Bonesteel, Ruth Brellenthin, Paul Todd Brown, Iris Brunner, Agnes Burkart, Canea family, C.J. & Colleen, Karen Chipko, Patti Cotter, Denise Crawford, Dominik Desormeaux, Judy Dietz, JoAnn Faulkner, Gavin, Jenna, & Ben Felder, Flower family, Vicki Goers, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, Terry Halgren, D. Hambaugh, Toni Hamilton, June Heinecke, Gary and Mary Heinecke, Glenn Heinecke, Kay Hill, Sandra Hill, Barbara Hofving, Jay Jensen, Brian Johnson, June Johnston, Sue Kardasz, Willy K, Karen family, Finn Katona and family, Judy Kortier, Stephanie Krepshaw, Maggie Kull, Debra Leinenger, Kim Macloud, Bob Maday, Mallory, Elaine Malone, Antonio Mattei, Terri McBride, Raina McDannold, Bradford Allen McWilliams, Jackie Meyer, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Eva

Mydland, Kelly Oliver, Oliver family, Michele Oliver, Lou Prettyman, Barbara Prochilo, Mary Reber, Rinehart family, Rocco family, Dennis Rogers, Nancy Salzbach, Robert Sanders, John Sannuto, Carole Schaefer, Sirmenis family, Alice Totten, Nancy Vangilder, Antonio Vaznelis, Ralph Warner, Lauren West, West family, Ginger Wielk, Art Worden, Christopher Younger, Eileen and Carol and Jason

PRAYERS FOR OUR LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

Nic Baker, Brandi Culpepper, Private Tony D'Angelo, Areil Dietz, Isaac Furr-Army, Maj. Matthew Henry, Colton Hill, Brandon Holt-Chief Warrant Officer 3, Andria T. Hook, Jonathan Hudson, Perry Langbein, Maj. USAF Will Lawlor, Cullen McDannold, Zachary McGuire, US Navy 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.

COMMISSIONING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS & STAFF

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 are given by:

Patricia Sozio

In memory of her father, Jim Hennessey

June Heinecke

In loving memory of Bob and Nancy

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

Presiding Minister	Rev. Giuseppe Mattei
Assisting Minister	Pat Squires
Scripture Reader	Joanne Johnson
Ushers	Gwen Mahon & Wayne Morris
Acolyte/Crucifer	Wayne Morris
Greeters	Evelyn Galli
Music Director	Donna Olsen
Organist	Kathy Hackemer
Altar Guild	Suzanne Chelf, Gayle Howland & Pat Squires
Sanctuary	Connie Chase & Beryl Clements
AV Director	Art Alt
Audio	Pat Squires
Cameras	Mark Major
Graphics	Diane Alt, Francesca Bugini, Ed Lewis & Linda Rizzo
Video Production	Vicki Page
Head counter this week	June Kristoferson
Data Entry	Diane Alt

**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, Website: nlcwww.org

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei
Deacon Charlotte Downing
Music Director: Donna Olsen
Audio/Visual Director: Art Alt
Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

