



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

*Sunday, October 26, 2025
20th Sunday after Pentecost*



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

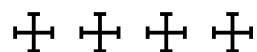


OUR VALUES STATEMENT: We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

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 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.

In-person attendance for last Sunday: 129

PLEASE MAKE SURE CELL PHONES ARE SILENCED.

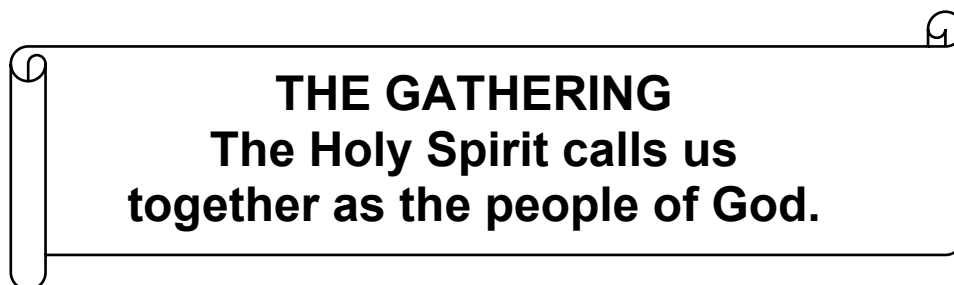
CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

There is a Redeemer

Melody Green



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

CALL TO WORSHIP

The word of the Lord is upright, and all God's work is done in faithfulness.

God loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of God,

for God spoke, and it came to be; God commanded, and it stood firm.

Our soul waits for the Lord; God is our help and shield.

Our heart is glad in God because we trust in God's holy name.

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in You. (*Psalm 33:4-5.8-9.20-22*)

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

GATHERING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

505

vv 1,4

1 A migh - ty for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
 2 If we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing turns to
 3 Though all the world with dev - ils fill and threat - en to de -
 4 God's Word shall stand a - bove the pow'rs, shall end all their thanks-

fail - ing; our help - er frees us from the flood of
 los - ing; the righ - teous one fights by our side, the
 vour us, we trem - ble not, we trust God's will: they
 giv - ing. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for

mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe,
 one of God's own choos - ing. You ask who this may be:
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Though Sa - tan rant and rage,
 God with us is liv - ing. Let goods and kin - dred go,

for - sworn to work us woe, with guile and dread - ful might
 Christ Je - sus, it is he, the Lord of hosts by name.
 in fier - est war en - gage, this ty - rant's doomed to fail;
 this mor - tal life al - so; though all of these be gone,

is armed to wage the fight: on earth there is no e - qual.
 No oth - er God we claim! None else can win the batt - le.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word shall tri - umph.
 they yet have noth - ing won. The king - dom's our for - ev - er!

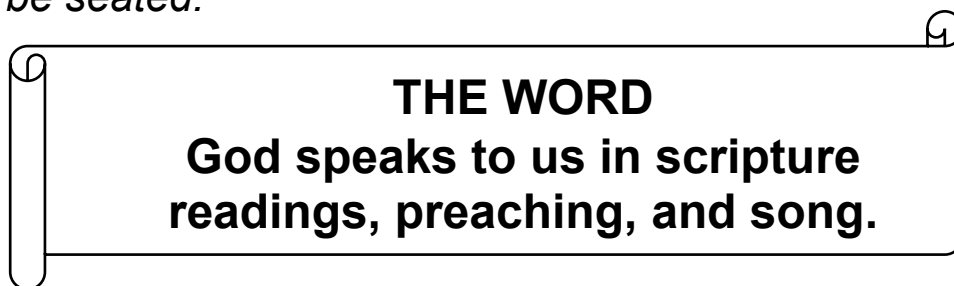
PASTORAL GREETING

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

Holy God, our righteous Judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in You, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in You, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.



CHOIR ANTHEM

The Blessing

Heather Sorenson
Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pat Squires

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO TIMOTHY **4:6-8, 16-18**
Reader: Karen Crawford

⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which

the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. ¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 84:1-7

Led by Karen Crawford

¹ How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!

² **My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king and my God.

⁴ **Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you.**

⁵ Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

⁶ **Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**

⁷ They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

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 18:9-14

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to You, O Lord.

⁹ Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man

went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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.

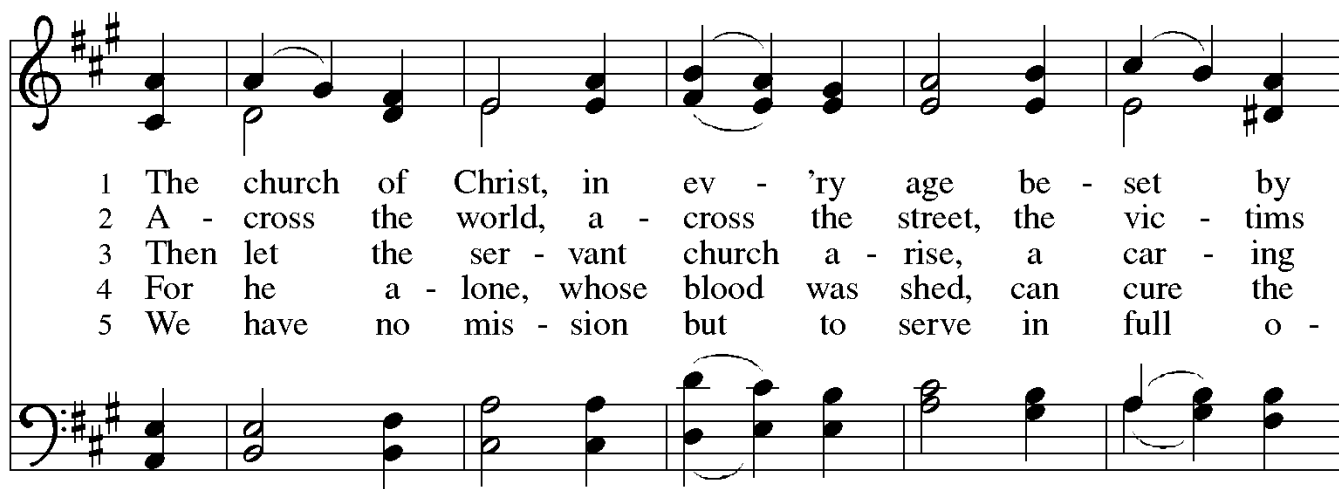
A moment of silence for reflection.

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 *The Church of Christ, in Every Age* 729

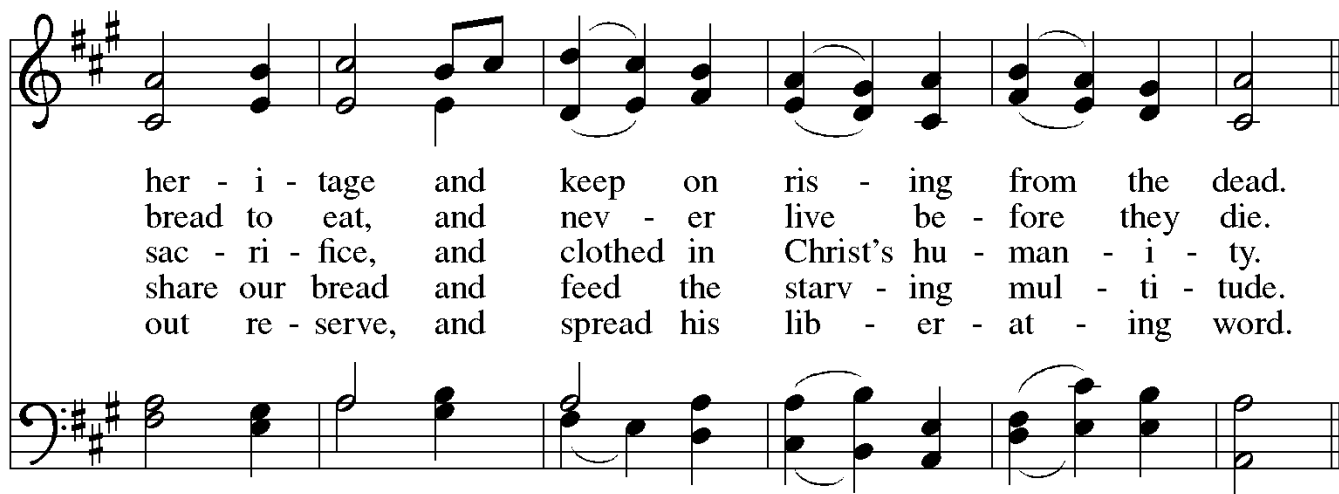
vv. 1,2,5



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
 4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
 be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

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

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

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

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

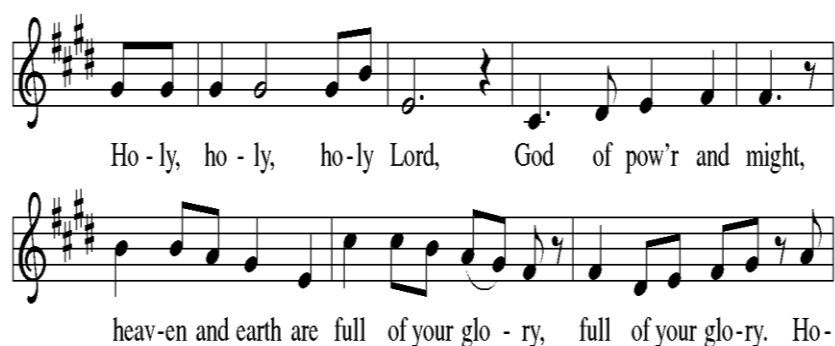
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

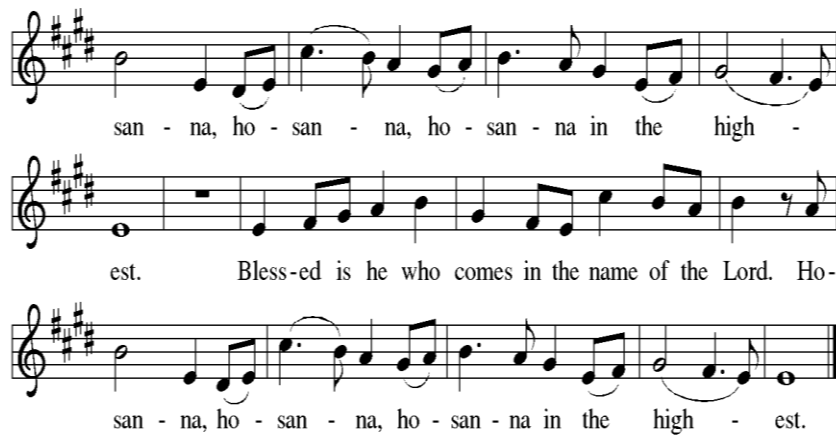
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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:





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, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to You, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving You thanks that You have made us worthy to stand before You and to serve You as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify You through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, 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. Each row may come to the altar starting with the front row and progressing to the back. 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.

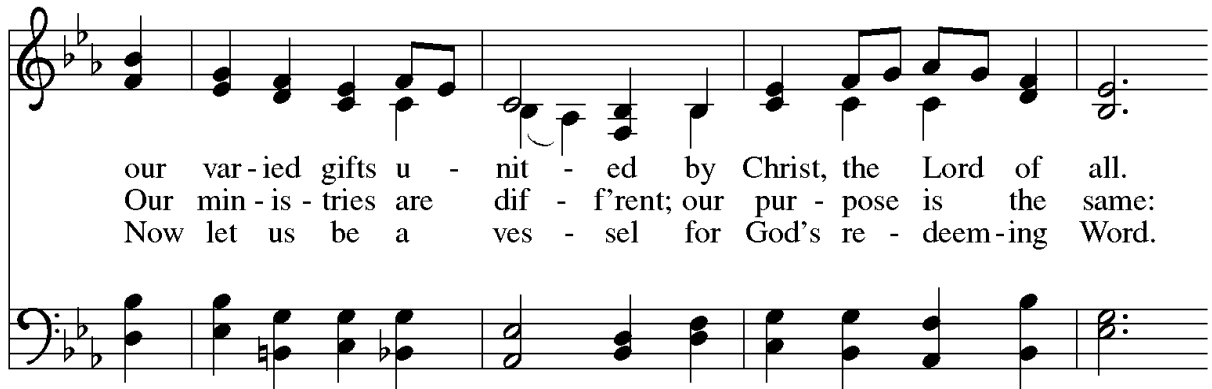
COMMUNION HYMNS

We All Are One in Mission 576
The Lord Is My Light

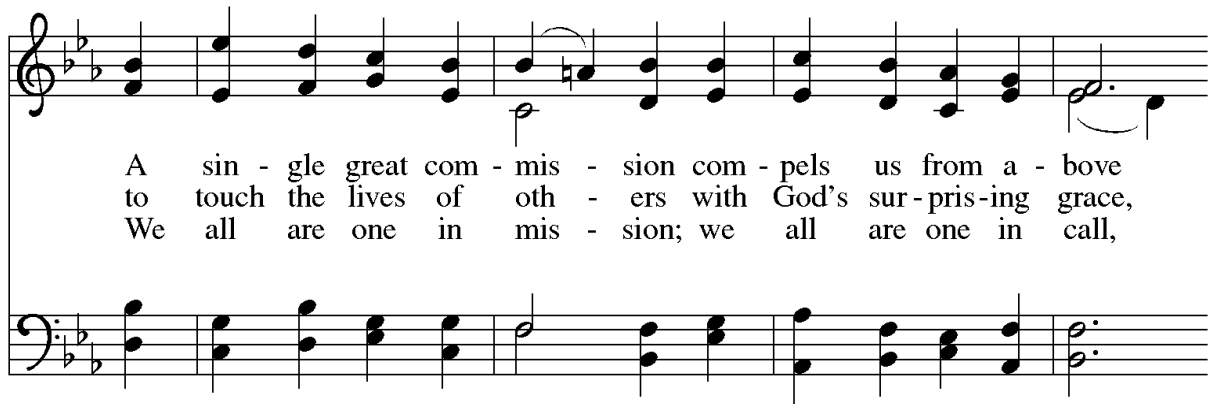
576



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
 2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
 to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
 so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

The Lord Is My Light



1 The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion, the
3 Wait on the Lord and be of good cour - age, oh,

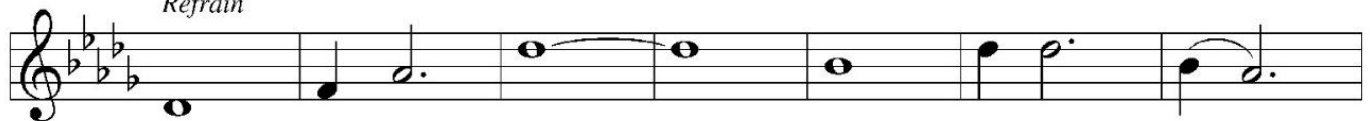


Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion, the Lord is my
wait on the Lord and be of good cour - age, . . . wait on the



light and my sal - va - tion; whom shall I fear?
Lord and be of good cour - age; he shall strength-en thy heart.

Refrain



Whom shall I fear, whom shall I fear?



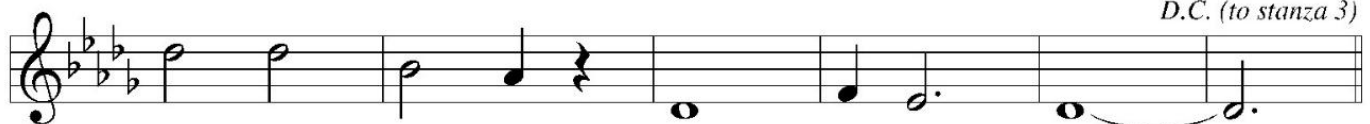
The Lord is the strength of my life; whom shall I fear?



2 In the time of trou-ble, he shall hide me; in the time of



trou-ble, he shall hide me; in the time of trou-ble,



he shall hide me; whom shall I fear?

D.C. (to stanza 3)

COMMUNION MEDITATION MUSIC

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

Please stand as you are able.

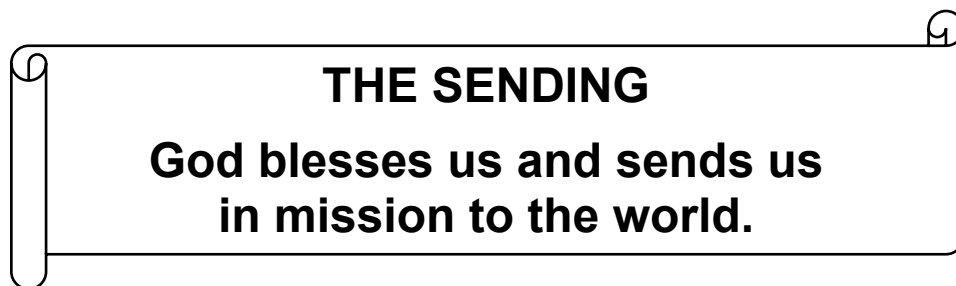
TABLE BLESSING

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.**



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

The Church's One Foundation

654

vv 1,2,5

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

SENDING

People of Nativity, what is our mission?

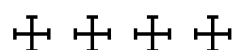
With the birth of Jesus in our hearts we carry light and love to the world.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Live by the Spirit!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *The Church's One Foundation* Robert J. Hughes



NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 1:10-18	Psalm: 32:1-7
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12	Luke 19:1-10

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

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

New this week: Waltraut Bellmann

Continue to pray for: Brian Albright, Tom Anderson, Killian Ash, Anne B, Carlos B, Eric Vincent Baez, Tracy Baker, Frani Barnes, Maria Baynon, Baynon family, Herb Baynon, Betty Lou Bernhardt, Windy Binns, Robert Bonesteel, Ruth Brellenthin, Paul Todd Brown, Agnes Burkart, Canea family, Stacy Christian, C.J. & Colleen, Karen Chipko, Beryl Clements, Patti Cotter, Denise Crawford, Dominik Desormeaux, Judy Dietz, JoAnn Faulkner, Gavin, Jenna, & Ben Felder, Flower family,

Vicki Goers, Patrick Gould, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, Terry Halgren, D. Hambaugh, Toni Hamilton, June Heinecke, Gary and Mary Heinecke, Glenn Heinecke, Kay Hill, Sandra Hill, Barbara Hofving, Linda Hrab, Jay Jensen, Brian Johnson, 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, Shaun, Sirmenis family, Kathy Swank, Jackie & Alan Sweet, Alice Totten, Antonio Vaznelis, Ralph Warner, Lauren West, West family, Ginger Wielk, Howard Williams, 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.

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 given by:

June Heinecke	In loving memory of Nancy
Janet & Mike Jones	In loving memory of Georgeanna Scheidter

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 the service.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Rev. Giuseppe Mattei
Assisting Minister	Vicki Page
Scripture Reader	Karen Crawford
Ushers	Gwen Mahon & Lou Prettyman
Acolyte/Crucifer	Lou Prettyman
Greeter(s)	Evelyn Galli
Music Director	Donna Olsen
Organist	Kathy Hackemer
Altar Guild	Linda Russo & Patti Werner
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	Barbara Crisanti
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: nlcww.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.

