



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

*Sunday, January 4, 2026
Second Sunday of Christmas*



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



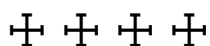
OUR VALUES STATEMENT: We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

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). 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:

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: 112

PLEASE MAKE SURE CELL PHONES ARE SILENCED.

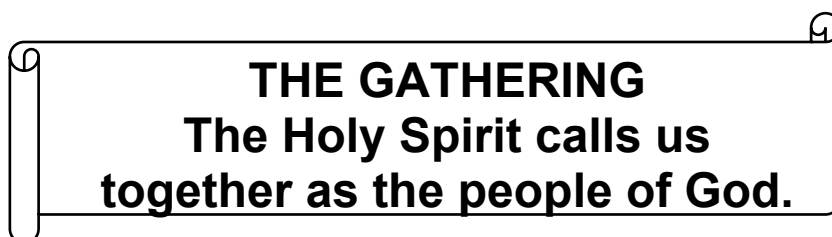
CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

There's a Song in the Air

Matt Hyzer



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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
**who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard
equality with God as something to be exploited,**
but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in
human likeness.

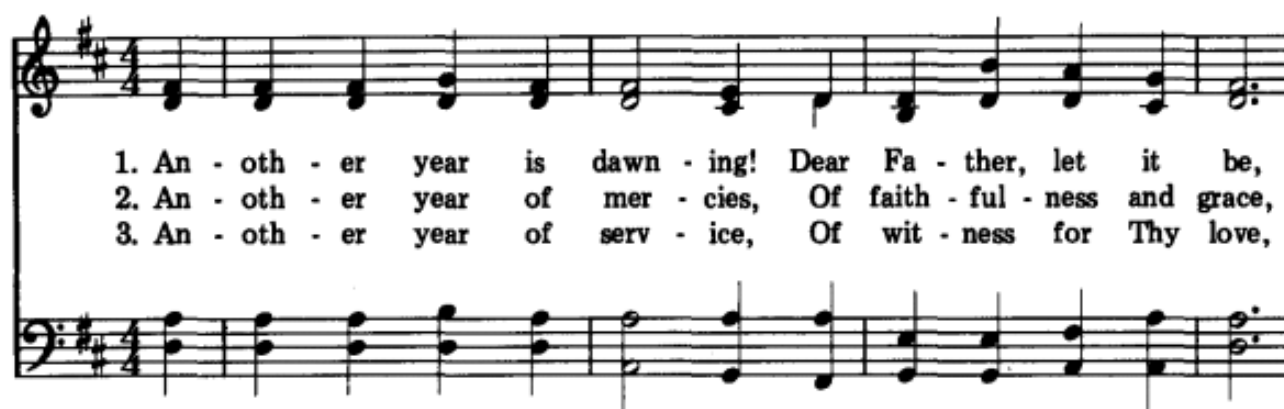
**And being found in human form, he humbled himself and
became obedient to the point of death—even death on a
cross.**

—Philippians 2:5–8

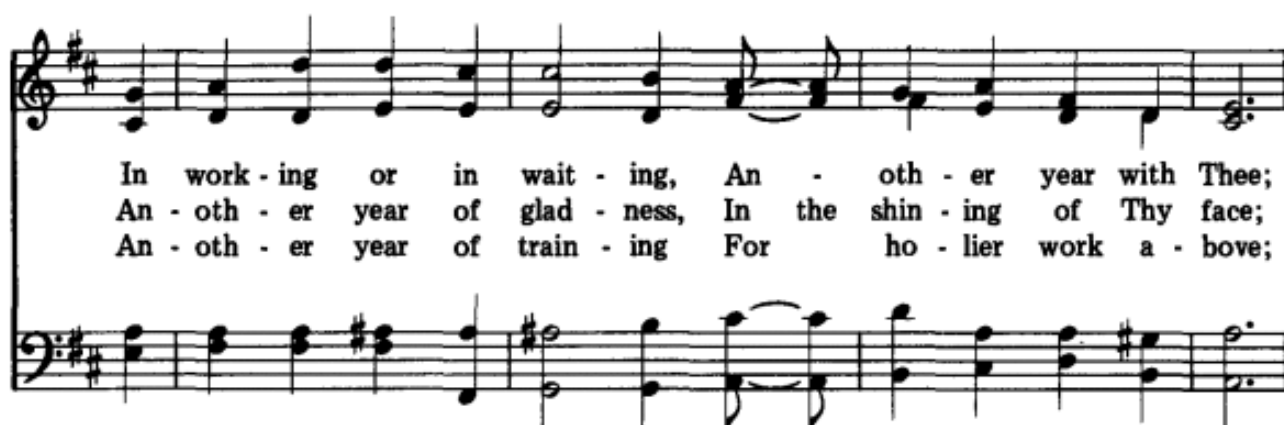
Please look toward the cross as it processes toward the altar.

GATHERING HYMN

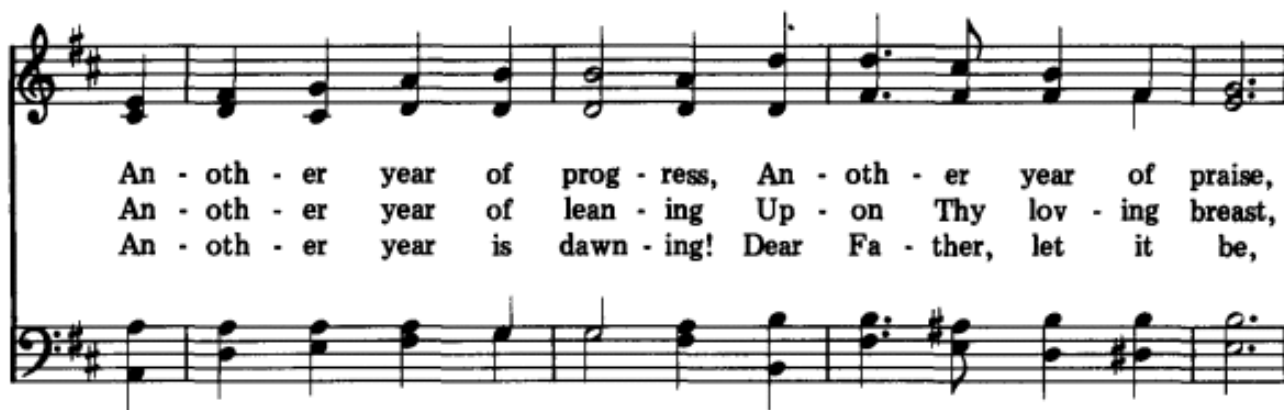
Another Year is Dawning



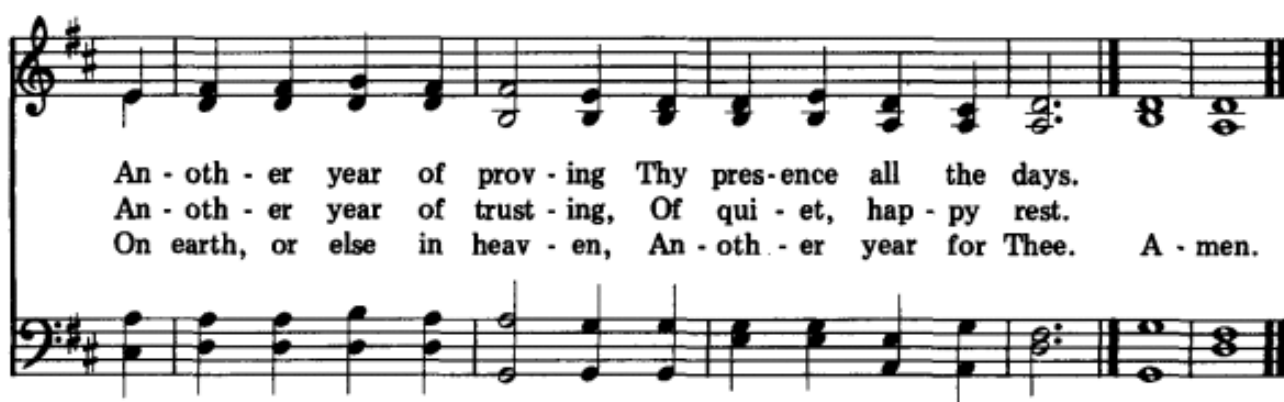
1. An - oth - er year is dawn - ing! Dear Fa - ther, let it be,
 2. An - oth - er year of mer - cies, Of faith - ful - ness and grace,
 3. An - oth - er year of serv - ice, Of wit - ness for Thy love,



In work - ing or in wait - ing, An - oth - er year with Thee;
 An - oth - er year of glad - ness, In the shin - ing of Thy face;
 An - oth - er year of train - ing For ho - lier work a - bove;



An - oth - er year of prog - ress, An - oth - er year of praise,
 An - oth - er year of lean - ing Up - on Thy lov - ing breast,
 An - oth - er year is dawn - ing! Dear Fa - ther, let it be,



An - oth - er year of prov - ing Thy pres - ence all the days.
 An - oth - er year of trust - ing, Of qui - et, hap - py rest.
 On earth, or else in heav - en, An - oth - er year for Thee. A - men.

GATHERING BLESSING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

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

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

Please be seated.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching, and song.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Light of the World

Lauren Daigle
Soloist: Gina Fell

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children may depart for Sunday School.

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

1:3-6
Reader: Juliet Wright

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.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

A moment of silence for reflection.

Reconciling God, **we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace.**

We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news.

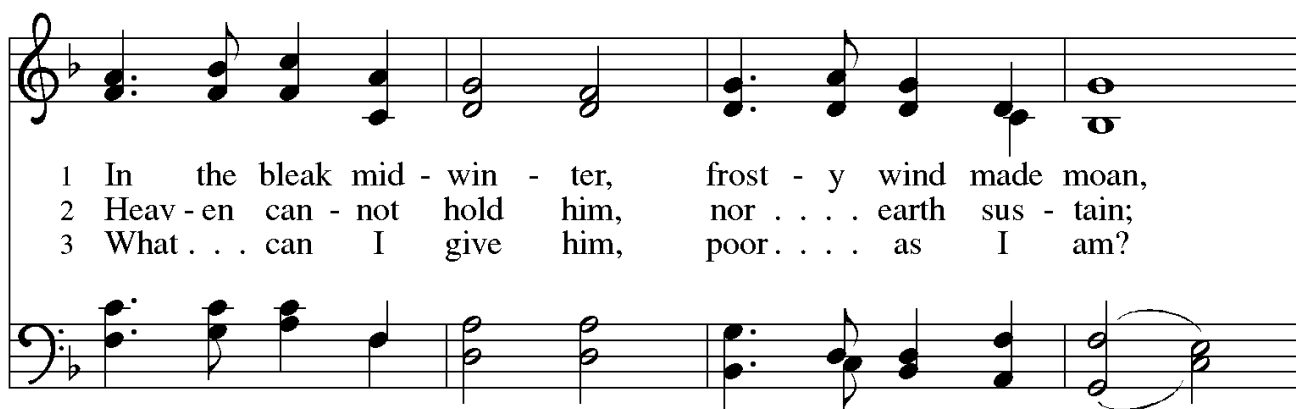
Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you. ✝ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**

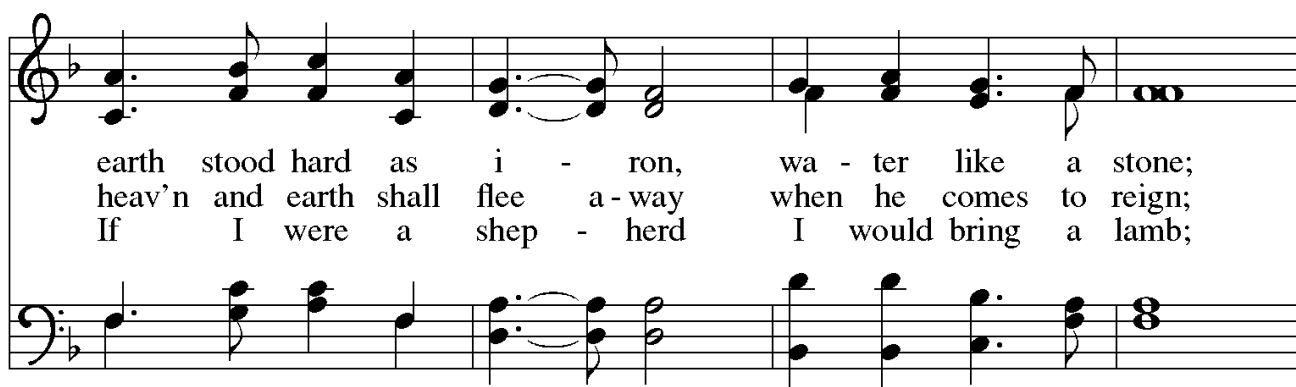
HYMN OF THE DAY

In the Bleak Midwinter

294



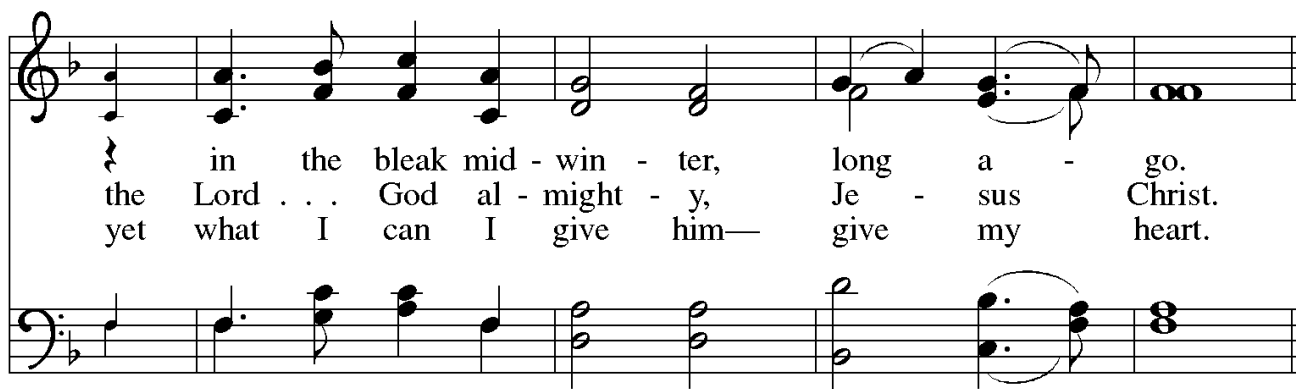
1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

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

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

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

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to You, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated.



OFFERTORY

Gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. You may drop your monetary 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

God of Glory, **great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings You bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the**

needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

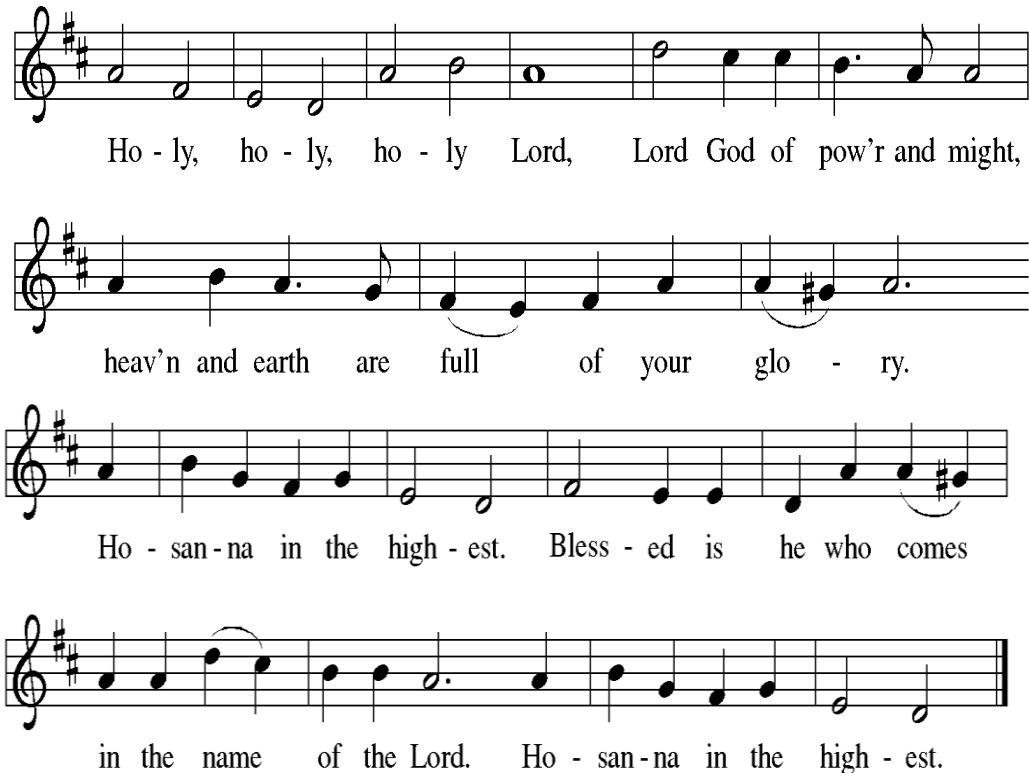
Please stand as you are able.

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.



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.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the Giver of Life:

Blessed are You for the birth of creation.

Blessed are You in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are You for your promise to your people.

Blessed are You in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are You for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are You for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us pray the prayer Christ himself taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy! 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 HYMN

The First Noel

300

1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
 wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . great light, and . . so it con -
 king was their . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . and stay right . . o - ver the
 there in his . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain
 night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

COMMUNION MEDITATION MUSIC

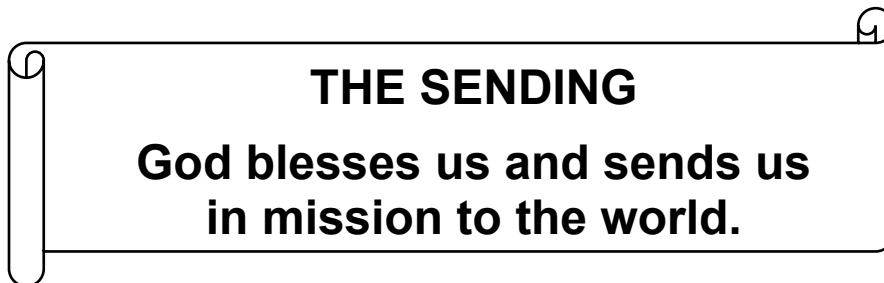
Please stand as you are able.

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. Incarnate God, **You are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.**



Please be seated.

SENDING OF COMMUNION MINISTERS

Gracious God... your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand.

BLESSING

The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ✚ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

290

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.



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

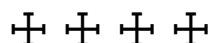
Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *Raise Now Your Song on High* Camille Saint Saens



NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalms 29
Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17

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

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.*

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

New this week:

Continue to pray for: Brian Albright, Killian Ash, Anne B, Carlos B, Eric Vincent Baez, Tracy Baker, Frani Barnes, Maria Baynon, Baynon family, Herb Baynon, Waltraut Bellmann, Betty Lou Bernhardt, Windy Binns, Robert

Bonesteel, Ruth Brellenthin, Paul Todd Brown, Agnes Burkart, Canea family, Diane Cello, Stacy Christian, C.J. & Colleen, Karen Chipko, Beryl Clements, Patti Cotter, Denise Crawford, Charles Deon, Dominik Desormeaux, Judy Dietz, JoAnn Faulkner, Gavin, Jenna, & Ben Felder, Flower family, Vicki Goers, Patrick Gould, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, Terry Halgren, Carrie Hall-Tannenbaum, D. Hambaugh, June Heinecke, Gary and Mary Heinecke, Glenn Heinecke, Marilyn Henkel, Kay Hill, Sandra Hill, Barbara Hofving, Linda Hrab, Brian Johnson, Monica Jusino, Willy K, Karen family, Finn Katona and family, Candice Kochounian, Leonore Kopitzke, Stephanie Krepshaw, Mary Krol, Maggie Kull, Debra Leinenger, Donna Lucier, Bob Maday, Germaine Major, Mallory, Elaine Malone, Raina McDannold, Bradford Allen McWilliams, Beth Morris, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Eva Mydland, Lydia Noto, Kelly Oliver, Brian Oliver, Oliver family, Michele Oliver, Zuma Perez, Lou Prettyman, Barbara Prochilo, Mary Reber, Rinehart family, Katherine Rizzo, Colleen Rocco, Rocco family, Dennis Rogers, Nancy Salzbach, John Sannuto, Carole Schaefer, Shaun, Sirmenis family, Kathy Swank, Jackie Sweet, Bob & Alice Totten, Antonio Vaznelis, Vernon, Lauren West, West family, Ginger Wielk, Howard Williams, Luke 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, Kesley Underwood, Kyle Underwood, Maj. Chad Waldorf - Airforce.

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	Reverend Giuseppe Mattei
Assisting Minister	Robert Rios
Scripture Reader	Juliet Wright
Acolyte & Crucifer	Juliet & Arabella Wright
Ushers	Gwen Mahon & Lou Prettyman
Music Director	Donna Olsen
Guest Organist	Kathy Hackemer
Altar Guild	Mae Haines & Janet Jones
Greeter	Evelyn Galli
Sanctuary	Connie Chase & Beryl Clements
AV Director	Art Alt
Audio	Francesca Bugini & Pat Squires
Cameras	Mark Major
Graphics	Diane Alt, Ed Lewis & Linda Rizzo
Video Production	Vicki Page
Head counter this week	June Kristoferson
Data Entry	Gwen Mahon

**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.



RECONCILING IN CHRIST