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

Sunday, March 8, 2026
Third Sunday in Lent

Nativity Lutheran Church of Weeki Wachee

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 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: 140

PLEASE MAKE SURE CELL PHONES ARE SILENCED.

CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *I Need Thee Every Hour* Robert Lowry

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

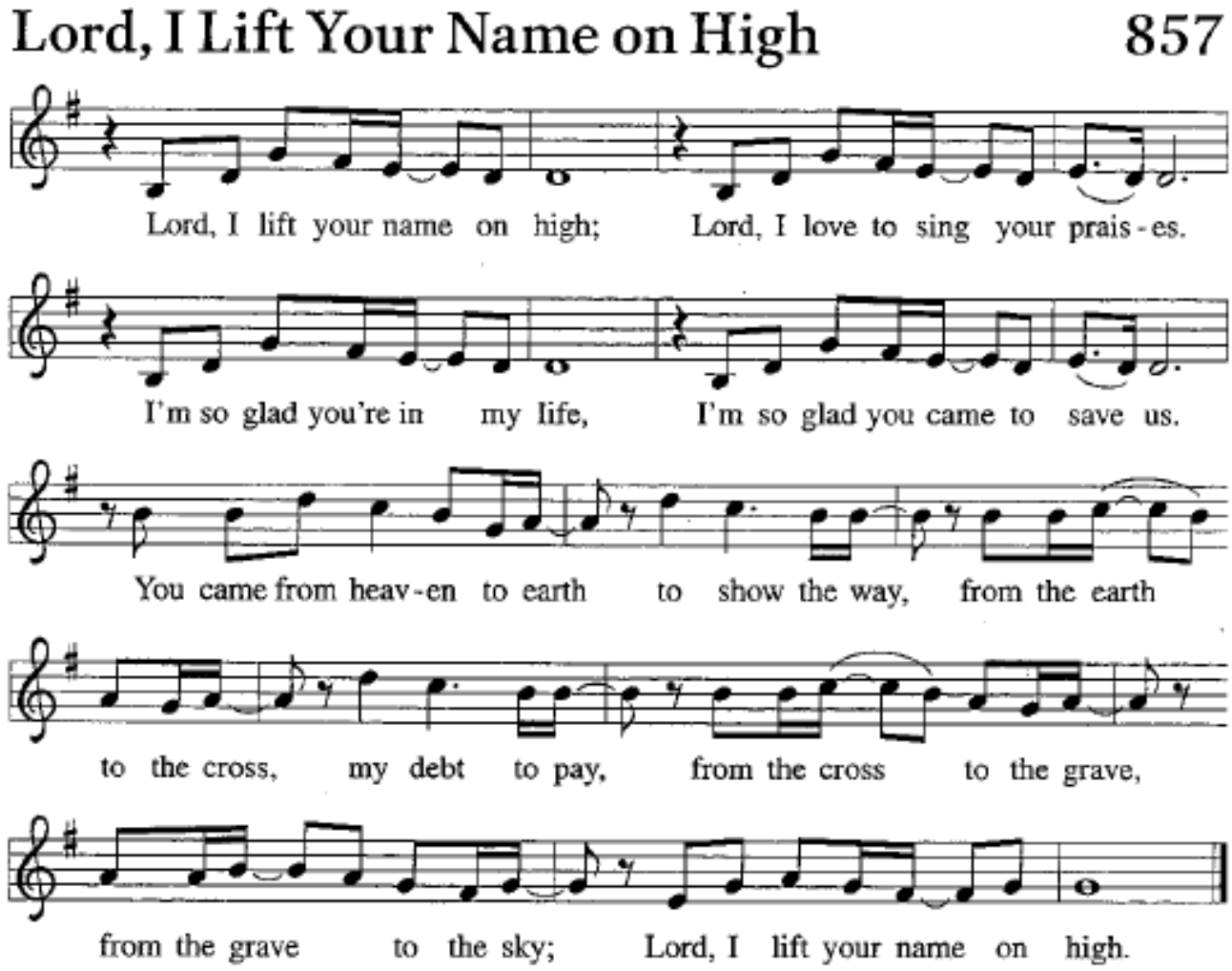
Please stand as you are able and turn toward the baptismal font.

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the morning, Lord, You hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before You and wait expectantly.
For You are not a God who is pleased with wickedness; with You, evil people are not welcome.
The arrogant cannot stand in your presence.
You hate all who do wrong; You destroy those who tell lies.
But I, by your great love, can come into your house;
in reverence I bow down toward your holy temple.
Lead me, Lord, in your righteousness. *Psalm 5:3-8*

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

GATHERING HYMN *Lord, I Lift Your Name On High*857 (2x)



PASTORAL BLESSING

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

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. Merciful God, the Fountain of living water …one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC *Praise to the Lord, The Almighty* Jason Paine
Organist: Kathy Hackemer

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Carlan Helgeson

Children may depart for Sunday School.

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS **5:1-11**
Reader: Nancy Vangilder

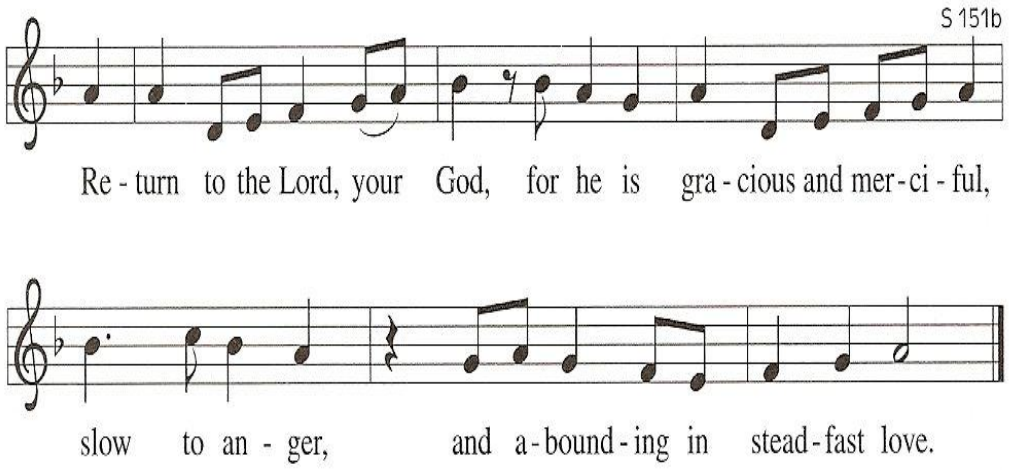
PSALM 95 Led by: Nancy Vangilder

[1] Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
[2] **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**
[3] For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.
[4] **In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**
[5] The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.
[6] **Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**
[7] For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!
[8] **"Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**
[9] There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.
[10] **Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, 'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**
[11] Indeed I swore in my anger, 'They shall never come to my rest.' "

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lenten Refrain *Return to the Lord*



THE HOLY GOSPEL John 4:5-42

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 Rev. Dr. Carolyn Schneider

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor You: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

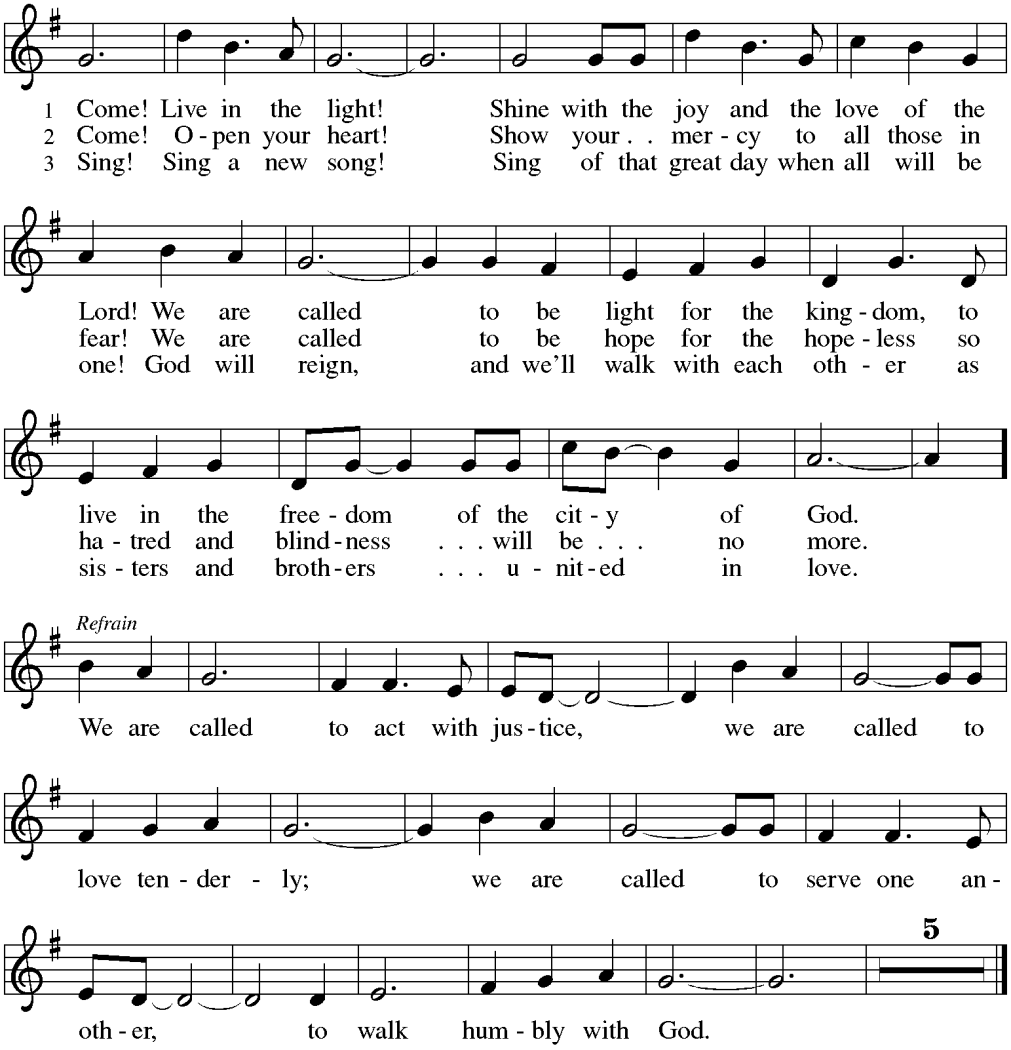
For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY *We Are Called* 720



Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

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

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated.

THE MEAL
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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. 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. O God, Maker of heaven and earth, **your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

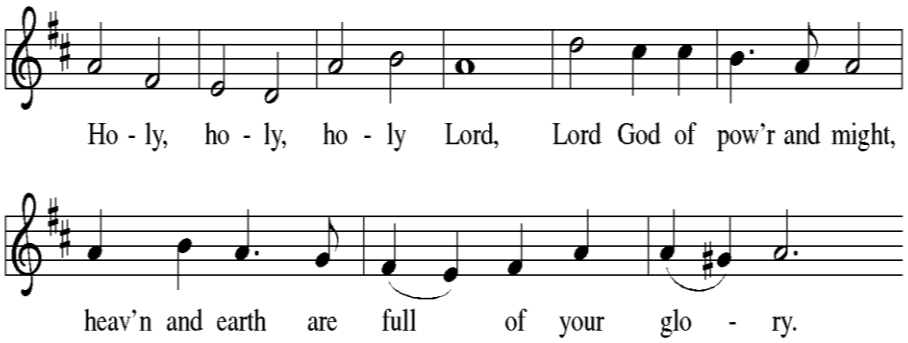
Please stand as you are able.

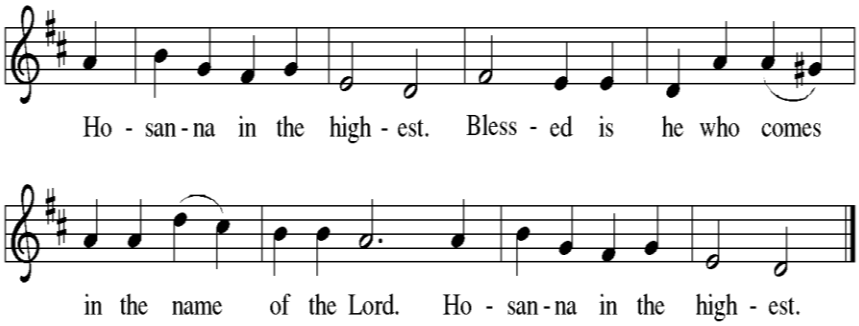
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.





Let us pray the prayer Christ himself taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

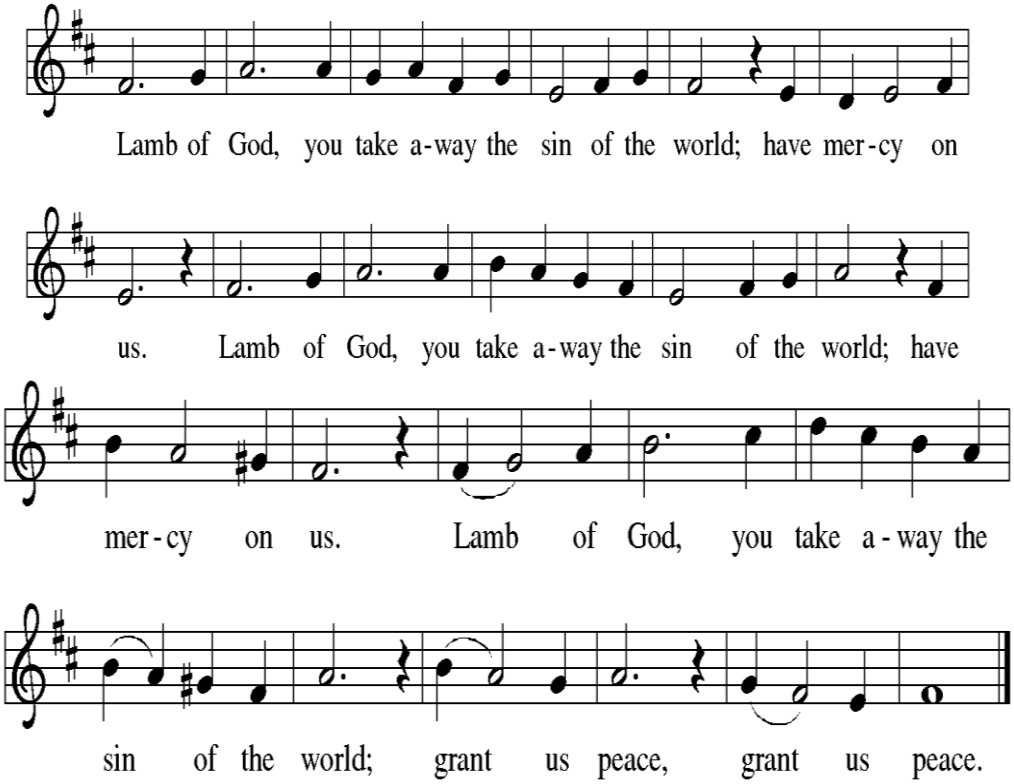
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table! Feast on God's goodness and mercy! Guests and friends of any age and background, come, let us feast together!

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.

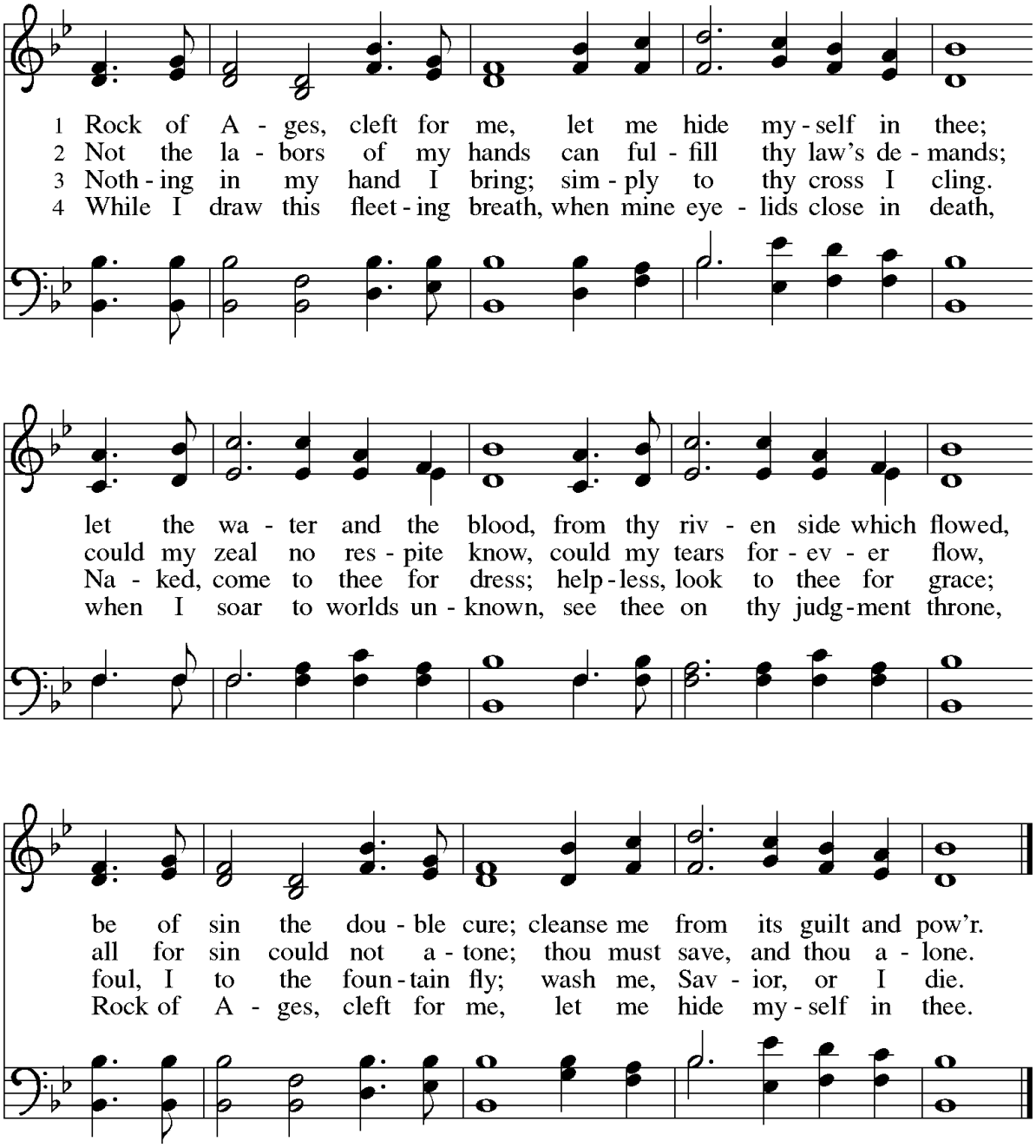
Lamb of God



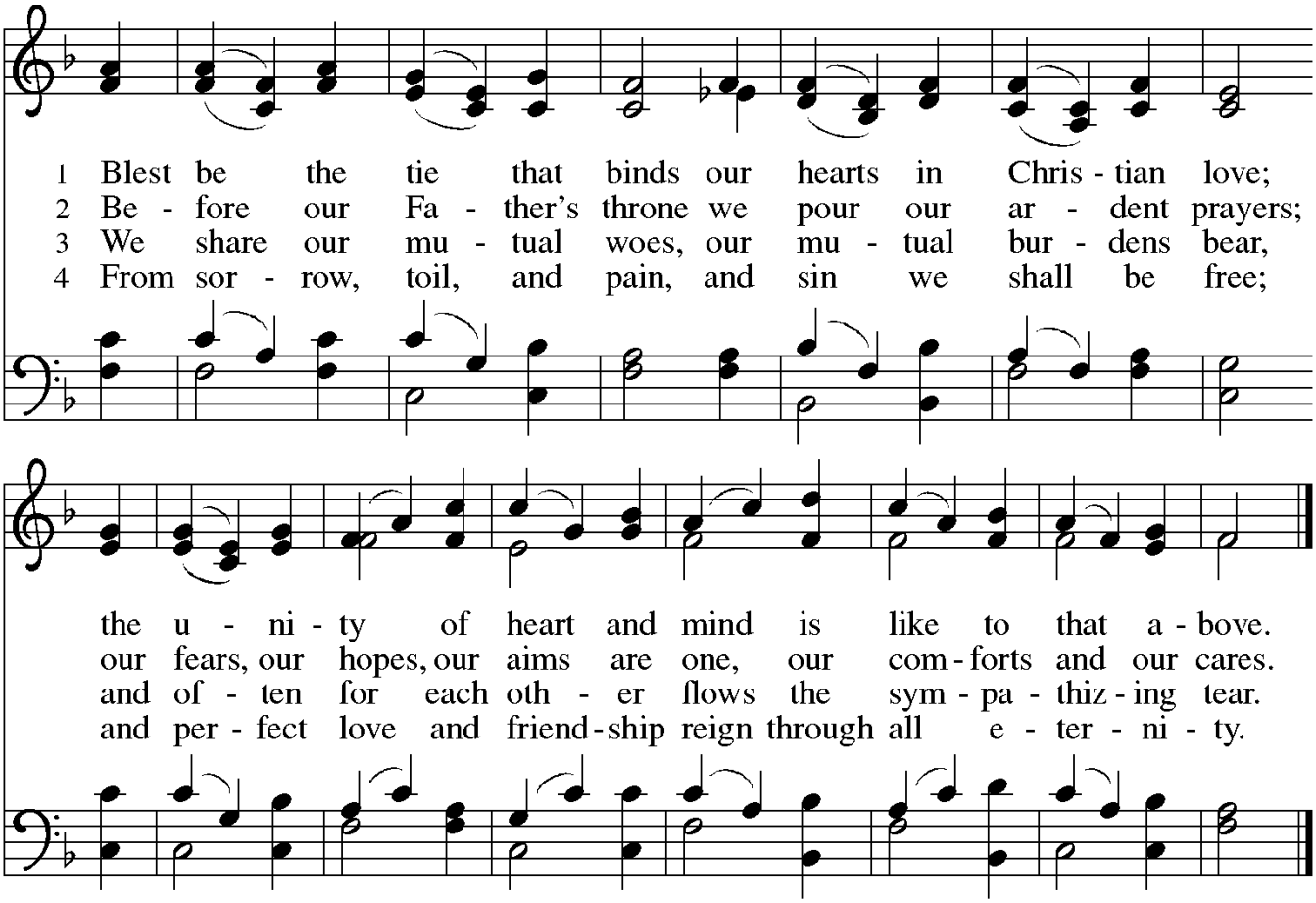
COMMUNION HYMNS

623 – *Rock of Ages*
656 – *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

623


1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,
let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,
be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

656



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. God of our salvation, **we give You thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to You, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

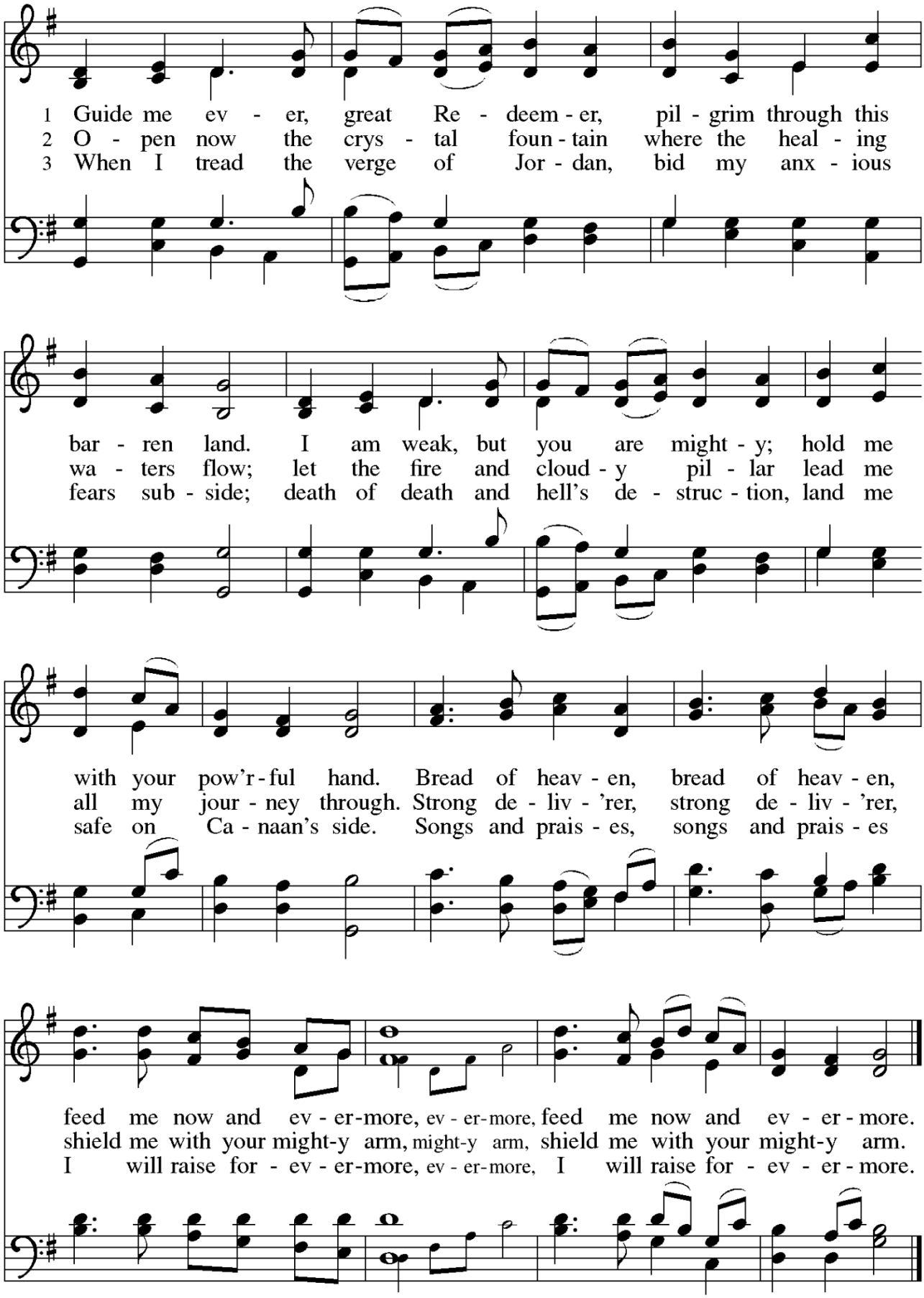
THE SENDING

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

BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the Holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *Guide Me, Ever, Great Redeemer* 618


1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
shield me with your might-y arm, might-y arm, shield me with your might-y arm.
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es
I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

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! Believe the good news! **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE *The Righteous Live Forever* Franklin Ritter

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23
Romans 8:6-11	John 9:1-41

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: Beth Hammood, Verna Robsen
Continue to pray for: Brian Albright, Killian Ash, Anne Barsumian, Carlos Bayron, Eric Vincent Baez, Tracy Baker, Frani Barnes, Maria Baynon, Baynon family, Herb Baynon, Waltraut Bellmann, Pat Berry, Windy Binns, Ruth Brellenthin, Harlee Brown, Paul Todd Brown, Agnes Burkart, Canea family, Diane Cello, Stacy Christian, C.J. & Colleen, Karen Chipko, Patti Cotter, Melissa Cotter, Denise Crawford, Charles Deon, Dominik

Desormeaux, JoAnn Faulkner, Gavin, Jenna, & Ben Felder, Flower family, Vicki Goers, Patrick Gould, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, Terry Halgren, Carrie Hall-Tannenbaum, D. Hambaugh, Dottie Haney, June Heinecke, Gary and Mary Heinecke, Glenn Heinecke, Kay Hill, Sandra Hill, Barbara Hofving, Linda Hrab, Beth Johassen, Brian Johnson, Joanne Johnson, Willy K, Karen family, Finn Katona and family, Kevin, Leonore Kopitzke, Stephanie Krepshaw, 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, Kelly Oliver, Brian Oliver, Oliver family, Michele Oliver, Lou Prettyman, Barbara Prochilo, Mary Reber, Rinehart family, 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, 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, Lt. Col. 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: *There are no altar flowers during Lent. Starting Sunday, March 15, you may order Easter Lilies using the special envelopes in the narthex. Lilies will be displayed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday.*

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Reverend Giuseppe Mattei
Visiting Pastor	Reverend Dr. Carolyn Schneider
Assisting Minister	Norm Davis
Scripture Reader	Nancy Vangilder
Acolyte & Crucifer	Lou Prettyman
Ushers	Gwen Mahon & Wayne Morris
Music Director	Donna Olsen
Guest Organist	Kathy Hackemer
Altar Guild	Linda Russo & Patty Werner
Greeter	Evelyn Galli
Sanctuary	Connie Chase
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	Pat Squires
Data Entry	Barbara Crisanti

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.