



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

*Sunday, May 3, 2026
Fifth Sunday of Easter*



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



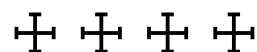
RECONCILING IN CHRIST

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: 139

PLEASE MAKE SURE CELL PHONES ARE SILENCED.

CHIMES

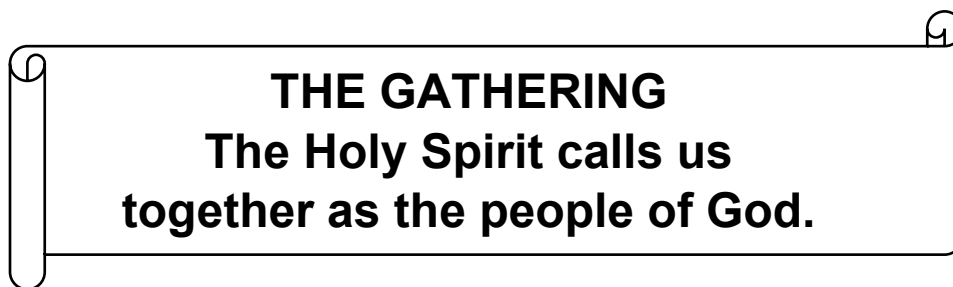
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

I Need Thee Every Hour

Jason Payne

Organist: Kathy Hackemer



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

CALL TO WORSHIP

I love You, O Lord, my Strength.

**The Lord is my Rock, my Fortress, and my Deliverer,
my God, my Rock in whom I take refuge,**

The Lord is my Shield, and the horn of my salvation, my
stronghold.

I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised.

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

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de-fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus-tain - ing.
 sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy shall dai - ly at-tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!

Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.

join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

PASTORAL BLESSING

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

PASTORAL GREETING

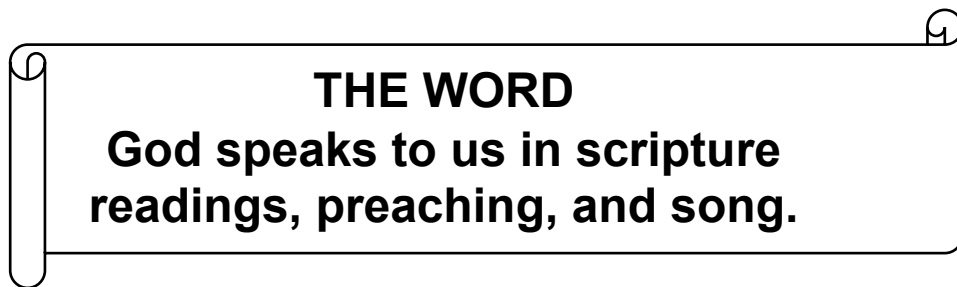
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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

Please be seated.



SPECIAL MUSIC

You Say

Lauren Daigle
Soloist: Gina Fell

Children's Message, then they are dismissed for Sunday School.

**A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER
OF PETER**

2:2-10

Reader: Sharon Schroeder

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 14:1-14

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to You, O Lord.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated.

RACHEL'S DAY PRAYER

Guided by Madeline Johnson

Open our eyes, God, so that we may see the value of all God's children and so that we may together plan for their safety and protection. We pray for homeless children. **Open our eyes, God.**

Open our ears, God, so that we may hear the cries of youth suffering from hunger and malnutrition and so that we may together plan for their feeding and sustenance. We remember the children of Afghanistan, Cuba, Gaza, Haiti, Lebanon, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, and South Sudan. **Open our ears, God.**

Open our hearts, God, so that we may feel the powerlessness of teens struggling to succeed in homes plagued with apathy, division, anger, joblessness, and hopelessness, and so that we may help provide words of comfort, paths of power, and courage for their successful journey to adulthood. **Open our hearts, God.**

Open our lips, God, so that we may boldly confront racism and sexism and may together bring about the unity in diversity necessary for our babies' growth and wholeness. **Open our lips, God.**

Open our minds, God, and purge away pride in actions and attitudes that deteriorate civil society. And help us to understand that each and every child of God is given bountiful gifts regardless of social or economic circumstances. **Open our minds, God.**

Open our arms, God, so that we may welcome children whose parents are incarcerated, absent from the home, working abroad, or struggling with addiction. And help us, together, to provide them with the love, strength, support and stability needed to lead a life of dignity. **Open our arms, God.**

Open us, God, so that we may feel the breath of your Spirit; Open us, God, so that we may feel the power of your majesty; Open us,

God, so that together we may be strengthened to bring about human liberation and wholeness for our children. **Open us, God, so that we may feel the breath of your Spirit.**

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

836

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Please be seated.

RACHEL'S DAY LITANY

Guided by Lonora Smith

We weep for our children who are no more.

We refuse to be consoled.

We weep for our boys who are no more.

We refuse to be consoled.

We weep for our girls who are no more.

We refuse to be consoled.

We weep for our parents who grieve.

We refuse to be consoled.

We weep for our families forced to grieve.

We refuse to be consoled.

We weep for our cities and towns torn by gun violence and terror.

We refuse to be consoled.

We weep.

We refuse to be consoled.

We cry out for justice for our children.

We refuse to be defeated.

We cry out for hope for our boys.

We refuse to be defeated.

We cry out for serenity for our girls.

We refuse to be defeated.

We cry out for tranquility for our parents.

We refuse to be defeated.

We cry out for peace in our cities and towns.

We refuse to be defeated.

Blue is the color of hope.

Blue is the color of hope.

We pray for hope!
We pray for hope!
We act for peace!
We act for peace!
We work for justice!
We work for justice!

RACHEL'S DAY SPECIAL OFFERING - *offering benefiting the Good Samaritan Fund.*

Soft music played.

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. 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.

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give You glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world You love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

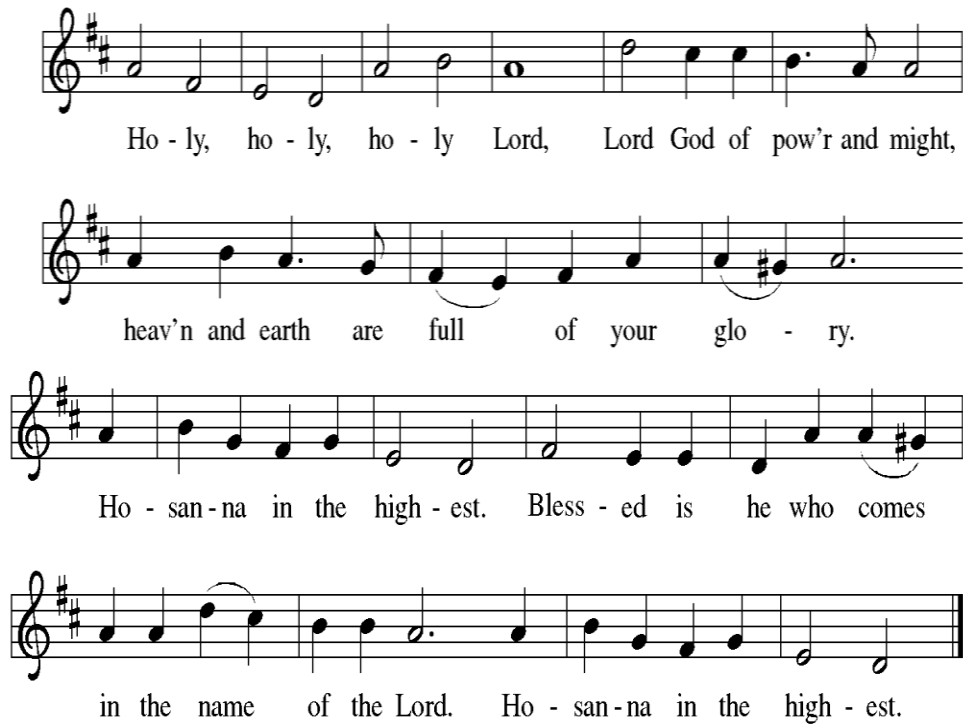
Please stand as you are able.

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.

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

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life. 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 HYMNS

781 – Children of the Heavenly Father

785 – When Peace, like a River

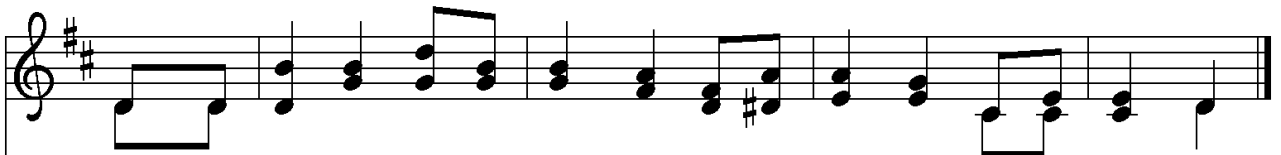
781

Children of the Heavenly Father

Tryggare kan ingen vara



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.



785

When Peace, like a River *It Is Well with My Soul*

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul,

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.

Holy One, **through this meal You have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**



BLESSING

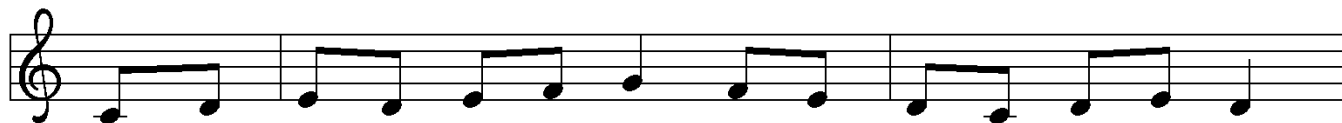
God Almighty, who is the Beginning and the End, Jesus Christ, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our Advocate and Peace, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Thine the Amen

826

viv 1,4,5



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

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! Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

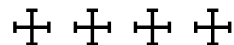
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Festival Voluntary

Flor Peeters

Organist: Kathy Hackemer



NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 17:22-31	Psalm: 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21

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

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

New this week: Charlotte Downing, Jessica Lachance

Continue to pray for: Brian Albright, Killian Ash, Anne B., Debra B., Carlos Bayron, Eric Vincent Baez, Baker family, Frani Barnes, Maria Baynon, Baynon family, Herb Baynon, Betty Lou Bernhardt, Pat Berry, Windy Binns, L. Bizzy, Ruth Brellenthin, Harlee Brown, Paul Todd Brown, Agnes Burkart, Canea family, Lynn Cawley, Diane Cello, Stacy Christian, Karen Chipko, Christopher Clancy, Patti Cotter, Melissa Cotter, Kat Crawford, Joe

Crawford, Charles Deon, Dominik Desormeaux, Randy Donkel, Marylou Fallon, JoAnn Faulkner, Gavin, Jenna, & Ben Felder, Flower family, Vicki Goers, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, Terry Halgren, D. Hambaugh, Beth Hammood, June Heinecke, Gary and Mary Heinecke, Glenn Heinecke, Kay Hill, Sandra Hill, Barbara Hofving, Linda Hrab, Justin Jensen, Beth Johassen, Brian Johnson, Willy K, Karen family, Finn Katona and family, Kevin, Stephanie Krepshaw, Maggie Kull, Debra Leinenger, Donna Lucier, Bob Maday, Germaine Major, Mallory, Elaine Malone, Wayne McCarthy, Bradford Allen McWilliams, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Eva Mydland, Kelly Oliver, Brian Oliver, Oliver family, Michele Oliver, Jennifer Busch Pontrelli, Lou Prettyman, Barbara Prochilo, Mary Reber, Rinehart family, Verna Robsen, Colleen Rocco, Rocco family, Dennis Rogers, Nancy Salzbach, John Sannuto, Carole Schaefer, Dick Schaefer, Bob Schneider, Shaun, Sirmenis family, William Stewart, Kathy Swank, Jackie Sweet, Bob & Alice Totten, Antonio Vaznelis, Vernon, Wahlund family, 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.

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: *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	Vicki Page
Scripture Reader	Sharon Schroeder
Acolyte & Crucifer	Wayne Morris
Ushers	Stephen & Deborah Wendelgass
Greeters	Evelyn Galli & Noel Prettyman
Music Director	Donna Olsen
Altar Guild	Gayle Howland, Noel Prettyman, & Deborah Wendelgass
Sanctuary	Connie Chase & Gayle Howland
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
Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.