

Holy Nativity Lutheran Church

3 Lenape Trail
Wenonah, NJ 08090

OUR MISSION

Graced by a loving God to be a caring community of faith the fellowship of Holy Nativity is called to support one another, warmly welcoming others into our community, sharing in the mission of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed, and reaching out in witness and service to the communities to which we belong as one in the Body of Christ.

Worship Service for Sunday, February 22, 2026

1st Sunday in Lent LBW Holy Communion Setting Two

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

In response to God's overwhelming love, we stand in awe of the wideness of God's mercy and by God's Spirit we welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. In faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, mindful of our Lutheran emphasis on grace, and rejoicing in the celebration of our shared baptismal journey, we welcome all as members of our church family including any who have ever felt excluded by the Church for any of the reasons that too often divide us.

We are so glad you have joined us today!

First-time guests: *Please fill out a Communion Card and place it in the offering plate.* Newcomer orientations are held on various days several times a year for those who are interested in learning more about HNLC.

Restrooms are located in the hallway between the lobby and our fellowship hall.

Today's Altar Flowers are given by Tony and Denise DiRienzo in memory of their parents and grandparents.

The Sanctuary Candle is given by Dot and Ed Jeffers in honor of their wedding anniversary.

PRELUDE

A Lenten Supplication

Dittrich



Introduction to the day

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS IN LENT (The congregation responds with text in bold print.)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, (+) one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

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 disdain 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.**

GATHERING SONG *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days* (LBW 99 v. 1-2)



- 1 O Lord, through-out these for - ty days you prayed and kept the fast;
- 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your faith - ful - ness en - dured;
- 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind a - bove;
- 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and all our earth - ly days,

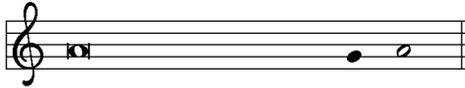


in - spire re - pen - tance for our sin, and free us from our past.
lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
so teach us to de - ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
that when the fi - nal Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

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.

KYRIE (LBW p. 78-79)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



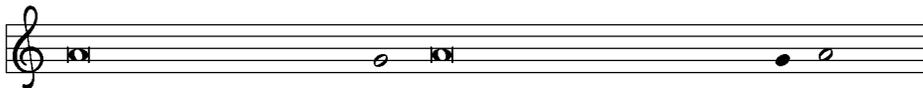
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



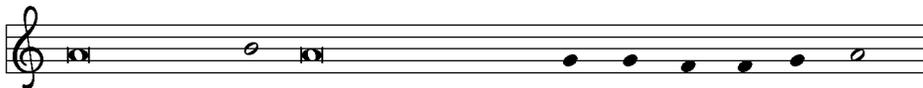
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Lord God, our strength, **the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we**

fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 A reading from Genesis.

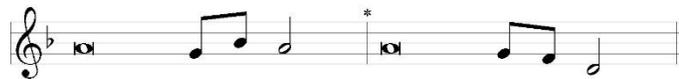
Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 32 (The Psalm is sung responsively by verse.)



Refrain: Mercy em- |braces those * who trust | in the LORD. (*Ps. 32:10*)

Refrain: Mercy em- |braces those * who trust | in the LORD.

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven, * and whose sin is | put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt, * and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away, * because of my groaning | all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night; * my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

Refrain: Mercy em- |braces those * who trust | in the LORD.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt. * I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble; * when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble; * you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go; * I will guide you | with my eye.**

Refrain: Mercy em- |braces those * who trust | in the LORD.

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; * who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; * but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; * shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Refrain: Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19 A reading from Romans.

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many.

¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

WE RISE TO GREET THE GOSPEL

One does not live by bread alone, * but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. (Matt. 4:4)

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11 The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Clo - ry to you, O Lord.

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

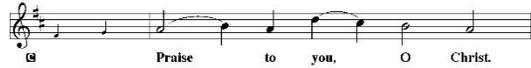
⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord.



HOMILY *Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

HYMN OF THE DAY *Oh, Love, How Deep (LBW 88 v. 1, 3 & 5)*



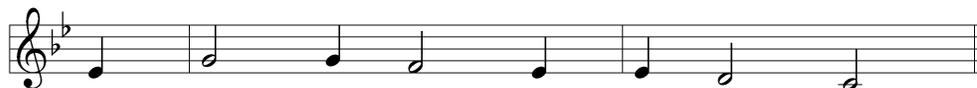
1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high,
2 He sent no an - gel to our race,
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught;



be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,
of high - er or of low - er place,
his ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;
for us his dai - ly works he wrought,



that God, the Son of God, should take
but wore the robe of hu - man frame,
for us temp - ta - tion sharp he knew;
by words and signs and ac - tions thus



our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
and to this world him - self he came.
for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us he gave his dying breath.

6 For us he rose from death again;
for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

7 All glory to our Lord and God
for love so deep, so high, so broad;
the Trinity whom we adore
forever and forevermore.

APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156 Monday, February 23, 2026

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921 Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

PRAYER LIST

Prayers for the victims of the shooting at Brown University and in Australia, Prayers for the residents in Washington state who have been evacuated due to flooding, Prayers for the two National Guardsmen who were shot in Washington, DC and their families, Holly & Duane, , Dawn Allen, The family of Anthony Assante as they mourn his passing, The friends and family of James Barth as they mourn his passing, Hal Battendorf, Nicholas Baud, Lorraine Brecht, Wanda Bryan, Madelene Budd, Mike Bundy, Carol Carty, Sal Castelli, Jenn Causey and family, Tracey Causey, Lisa Clark, Josh Clarke, Sean Cleavenger, Baby Landyn and Kristen Compagoni, Sherwood Cotton, Bob Counbs, Craig (diagnosed with cancer), Rocco Cristinzio, Leslie Criston, Milton Cuevas, Sr., Milton Cuevas, Jr., The family of John Cusack as they grieve his passing, Nicholas Damiani, The family of Tony DelMonte as they mourn his passing, Alicia DiRienzo, Kathy Drew, Barbara Esposito, Barbara Facchine, Bill Flynn, Francis, Bobby G., Jeannie Gapinski, Alma Garcia, Stephen Genovese, Gavin Gigliotti, Lauren Stott Gilbert, Marie Giliberti, Mark Gismondi, Terry Gismondi, Wilma Gismondi, Jay Goheen and family, Randi Gordon, Collet Grasso, Steve Harris, the Hatcher family, the Hogan family, Ed Jeffers, The friends and family of Tom Jones as they mourn his passing, Marilyn Kaiser, Corinne Klotz, Clara Kuter, The family and friends of Doris Lail as they mourn her passing, Grace Laphan, Pat Larkin, Joseph Lonia, Bill Ludwig, The friends and family of Jessie MacGregor as they mourn her passing, The family of Doris Manogue as they mourn her passing, Joseph Mansfield, Rob and Nona McDonough & family, Caroline Miles, Jim Montisano, The friends and family of Mary Alice Morrison as they mourn her passing, George Muth, Bob and Sue Nevins, Janet Ostrowski, Lucas Otey, Otis, Donna Paone, Danielle Peters, The family of Lewis Richards as they mourn his passing, Dan Richardson, The friends and family of Carole Rund as they mourn her passing, The family of Charles Rust as they mourn his passing, The family of Scott Rust as they mourn his passing, Noreen Ruyuh, Dylan Sauer, Meleta Seher, Billy Shea, Helen Simkunas & Family, Joyce and Arvin Skramsdad, The family of Deb Solt as they mourn her passing, Julia Stanz, Nathan Storhoff, Donna Testa, Frank Temean, Ed Tutka, Lynne Rasmussen Walker, Sharon Walker, Wayne Weaver, The family of Michelle Whiting as they mourn her passing, the Wilke family including Tim & Catherine, Jill Wilt, Glenn Wrigley.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. (*Especially we pray for . . .*) Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

MEAL

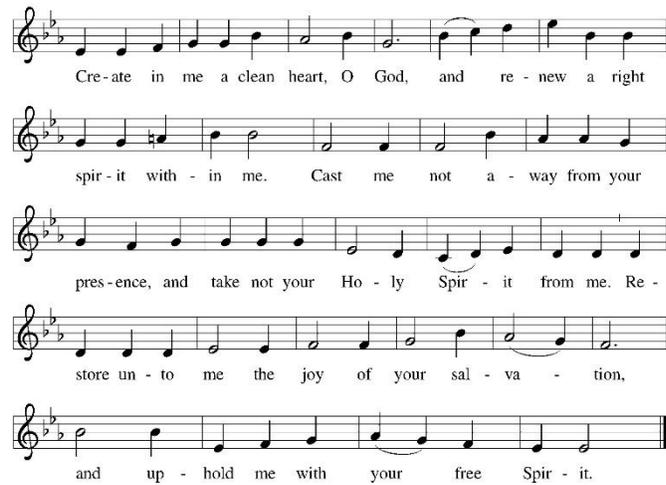
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

arr. Held

OFFERTORY VERSE (*Create in Me a Clean Heart*)



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE, PREFACE AND SANCTUS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

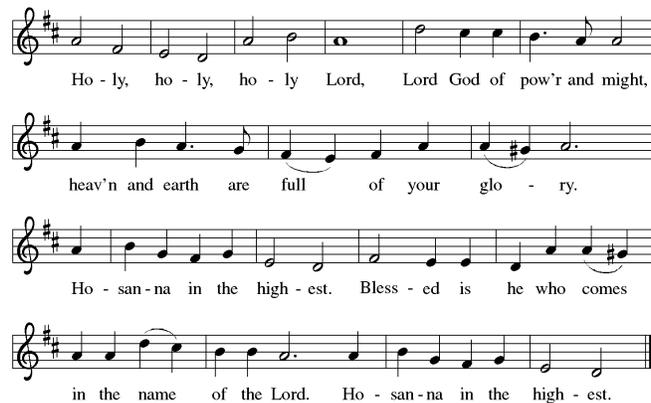
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:



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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE LITANY

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With [*name/s and*] your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 HOLY COMMUNION

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

COMMUNION SONG

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

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the Body and Blood of our precious Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you now and forever in God's grace! **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

SENDING

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

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

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 *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days* (LBW 99 v. 3-4)

3 Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed
and fixed your mind above;
so teach us to deny ourselves
that we may know God's love.

4 Be with us through this season, Lord,
and all our earthly days,
that when the final Easter dawns,
we join in heaven's praise.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Offering received February 14th and 15th - \$5081.00. (This amount does not include money donated for ELCA Good Gifts.) Weekly amount needed to meet the spending plan--\$2614.00. Total received to date—\$19947.00. Amount needed to date--\$18298.00. (Please don't forget the church if you will be away!)
- We have reached the goal for the “Paint the Tower” project. The church council voted to maintain the excess funds for any future property needs. Thank you to all for your generosity in helping to care for our church property!
- Caregiver's Breakfast—The Gloucester County Division of Senior Services is holding a Caregiver's Appreciation Breakfast on National Caregiver's Day to honor Gloucester County Caregivers and Kinship Caregivers. The event will be held on February 20 at The Sapphire Grand, 1849 Cooper Street, Deptford, NJ 08096 from 9 am to 12 pm. Pre-registration is required. To RSVP, please contact Stacy Reid at 856-686-8338 or sreid@co.gloucester.nj.us.
- If you need offering envelopes for 2026, please see Pastor Andy.
- The weekly bulletin is emailed to members each Thursday or Friday prior to the weekend. If for some reason you did not receive the email or have trouble opening the file, you can also access the bulletin on the church's website.
- Donations through Venmo and PayPal--Please note that, per council policy, if you make an electronic donation through Venmo or PayPal, it will not be recorded on your annual giving statement. It is the member's responsibility to track these donations for tax purposes.
- Shop Rite shopping cards are available for purchase after the services.
- LENTEN LUNCH AND LEARN SESSIONS: This year, the theme is “The Four Last Things—Advent in Lent” The Wednesday dates and locations are as follows (11:30 am—1:00pm—lunch provided):
 - * February 25—Introduction at Holy Trinity in Wenonah
 - * March 4—Death/Hope at 1st Presbyterian Church of Woodbury Heights
 - * March 11—Judgement/Peace at Mantua United Methodist Church
 - * March 18—Hell/Love at Holy Nativity Lutheran in Wenonah (We are looking for volunteers to provide soups for lunch. Please see Lori Kershaw if you can help.)
 - * March 25—Heaven/Joy at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in West Deptford
- ST. PETER'S COMMUNITY PANTRY is here to help serve those facing food insecurity in Gloucester County. If you are having a difficult time buying food for yourself, or your family, please let us try to make a small difference for you. The Pantry is located behind St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 304 Kings Highway in Clarksboro. We are open every 3rd Saturday of the Month from 9 AM to 1 PM. Next distribution date: Saturday, February 21, 2026.
- GREATER WOODBURY COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES is a joint effort by 13 Faith Communities to serve people within our area. A major part of the services offered by the GWCM is through our Food Pantries and Clothing Distribution Center. Clients in need of assistance are given a standard assortment of grocery items according to the size of their family, plus fresh fruits and vegetables and special treats. They are also now asking for donations of laundry detergent.
- Coffee hour between services is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month, hosted by the 8:30 service. Come and join us for coffee and fellowship Sunday, March 1st.
- Save the following dates:
 - * Tuesday, March 19, 2026-1-6 pm. Red Cross Blood Drive
 - * Sunday, March 29th—Church Clean Up Day
 - * Saturday, April 25th—Wenonah Town Wide Yard Sale (8 am)
 - * Saturday, May 9th—Wenonah Clean Communities Day (8:30 am-10:30 am)
 - * Wednesday, May 13th—Church BBQ (5-7 pm)
 - * Tuesday, September 29th—Red Cross Blood Drive (1-6pm.)



Donate

- HOLY NATIVITY MEMORIAL GARDEN ENGRAVED PAVERS--Our congregation created a memorial garden in our back yard years ago to honor or memorialize loved ones. We are offering the opportunity once again to purchase a paver to honor a loved one(s). The cost of each engraved paver is \$60. If you are interested in purchasing one please fill out the form found in the narthex and include it with payment in the offering plate or deliver to Pastor Andy or Kim Theriault. Each paver can have up to 5 lines/ 15-17 characters per line. There is a sample paver in the narthex for viewing. All pavers purchased by September 15th will be dedicated on All Saint's Day (Nov. 1st). Any questions, please see or contact Kim Theriault (609)420-8453.
- GROWING IN FAITH: THE DIAKONIA PROGRAM Growing in Faith is a ministry within the ELCA committed to fostering learning environments for followers of Jesus to grow in faith. Lay members of congregations are integral to healthy discipleship in the church and community. If you would be interested in this program, check out the website www.njdiakonia.com for more information. The steering committee is hosting an event titled "Come—Gather and—Be Equipped—Ignited—Empowered" at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Somerville, NJ on Saturday March 7th from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Registration is \$50 and includes lunch. A flyer is posted on the bulletin board. See Pastor for a copy of the registration form if you are interested.
- There are two Planet Aid clothing bins in the parking lot. Clean items may be placed in the yellow bins: including clothing, shoes, bedding, towels, curtains, sleeping bags, socks, underwear, bras. They do not accept items that are tattered beyond repair, dirty, wet or moldy.
- If you have someone that you would like on the prayer list, please fill out a form in the narthex and place it in the offering plate or contact the church office email: hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com.
- Choir rehearsals are on Sunday mornings @ 9:40. All are welcome to join us.
- Live Sunday School sessions are held every Sunday at 9:30. We welcome students of all ages. Church school resources continue to be available on our website on a weekly basis.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Postludium

Young

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GOSPEL MESSAGE (Forty Days of Humility)

The devil gives Jesus three opportunities to assert himself as powerful and exceptional: to turn rocks into bread, to be saved by the angels, and to rule over all the earth. Three times Jesus rebuffs the devil, turning his attention to God and refusing to take the bait.

Anthony the Great, a desert father whose life mirrored the experience of Jesus in this text, once said, "I saw the snares that the enemy spreads out over the world and I said groaning, 'What can get through from such snares?' Then I heard a voice saying to me, 'Humility'" (Benedicta Ward, trans., *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers*, Cistercian, 1975). This is exactly how Jesus responds to the temptations offered by the devil: turning his attention back to God in humility, refusing the temptation to prove himself through miracles and acts of power.

During Lent, we are invited to engage in practices like fasting, almsgiving, and prayer to discipline our minds and bodies so we can return our full attention to the abiding love of God in Jesus. There will be a temptation to engage these practices as ways of puffing ourselves up, performing, or proving our worth. But Jesus calls us back to a Lent rooted in humility, engaging practices not for the sake of proving ourselves, but for deepening our trust in God.

Where might we be experiencing that temptation to puff ourselves up, perform, or prove our greatness? What practices might support a posture of humility, reminding us that God is the author of all good things, and that we are loved and sustained by a God who humbly took on flesh for the sake of the world?

May these forty days teach us to embrace humility and to trust that God walks with us, making all things new.

HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 Lenape Trail

Wenonah, NJ 08090

856-468-5760

hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com

Pastor: Andy Gordon Music Director: Chris Robinson

Guest Organist: Bill Mitchell

5:00—Harriet Vico; 8:30—Lori Kershaw; 10:30—Diane Yandach

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

April Montana—Christian Education

Vince Montana—Property

Joyce Bradbury—Secretary Pro Tem

Donna DeFrank—Stewardship

Lori Kershaw—President/Social Ministry and Outreach

Kim Theriault—Vice President/Social Ministry and Outreach

Juliet Genovese—Council Member

Stephen Genovese—Council Member

Karen Cusack—Finance

Brett Montana—Youth Representative

Caryl Carthew—Financial Secretary/Worship and Music

Diane Yandach—Treasurer