

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, July 5, 2026

6th Sunday after Pentecost & U.S. Semiquincentennial Service of the Word

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 loving memory of their parents and grandparents.

The Sanctuary Candle is given to the Glory of God.

PRELUDE

Trumpet Tune

R. Lau



Introduction to the day

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament flawed systems; and we seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather around word, water, and meal by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Here we find rest for our souls and hope for life in beloved community.

GATHERING

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

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

All may make the sign of the cross, +, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins ...

Blessed be the holy Trinity, (+) one God, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth. **Amen.**

Let us bring every burden to God. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of all mercy, **we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

All-merciful, Almighty God forgive you all your sins through the grace of (+) Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit's power strengthen you in doing what is good. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *God of Our Fathers* (LBW 567)



1 God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y hand
2 Your love di - vine has led us in the past;
3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti - lence,
4 Re - fresh your peo - ple on their toil - some way;



leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
in this free land by you our lot is cast;
make your strong arm our ev - er sure de - fense.
lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;



of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies:
oh, be our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay;
Your true re - li - gion in our hearts in - crease;
fill all our lives with heav'n - born love and grace



our grate - ful songs be - fore your throne a - rise.
your word our law, your paths our cho - sen way.
your boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
un - til at last we meet be - fore your face.

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 (Read responsively)

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (Read together in unison.)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth, and peace to God's people on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of all the worlds, **guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12 A reading from Zechariah.

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14 (The Psalm is sung responsively by verse.)



Refrain: The | LORD is gracious * and full | of compassion. (Ps. 145:8)

Refrain: The | LORD is gracious * and full | of compassion.

⁸ The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion, * slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

⁹ LORD, you are | good to all, * and your compassion is over | all your works.

Refrain: The | LORD is gracious * and full | of compassion.

¹⁰ All your works shall praise | you, O LORD, * and your faithful | ones shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory | of your kingdom * and speak | of your power,**

¹² that all people may know | of your power * and the glorious splendor | of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures through- | out all ages. * You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in | all your works.**

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all | those who fall * and lifts up those who | are bowed down.

Refrain: The | LORD is gracious * and full | of compassion.

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a A reading from Romans.

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

WE RISE TO GREET THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. Blessed are you, Lord of heav'n and earth;* you have revealed these things to infants.

Alleluia. (Matt. 11:25)

(Spoken in unison)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶ "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn."

¹⁸ "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL *My Country, 'Tis of Thee* arr. C. Berry (Piano solo)

Our Father's God, to thee, Author of liberty, to thee we sing.

Long may our land be bright, with freedom's holy light,

Protect us by thy might, great God our King.

HOMILY *Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

Jesus offers a comforting invitation, "Come to me," amid a reflection on the mystery of God's wisdom and the failure by some to recognize it. Instead of making the search for wisdom into a game of hide-and-seek, Jesus sheds any presumption that God's wisdom belongs only to the elite or adventurous. He declares that the gift of wisdom is accessible and available not just for the smart or those who have earned it in some way; it is for the

willing, the burdened, and the heavy-laden. Do not worry about going to find secret knowledge. No need to try harder to figure it out. Just receive his invitation to come.

But in our culture, with so much energy and attention devoted to what we can earn, how do we hear this simple invitation from Jesus? When we find that the wise and intelligent are no closer to obtaining this gift from God, does that give us pause? Is all the effort to find the hidden things Jesus is speaking about part of the burden he asks us to lay down? How can we experience the rest Jesus gives?

The expression “come to Jesus” has varied usage in the broader culture, but our gatherings for the Lord’s supper reveal something about Jesus’ invitation and God’s gifts. When we receive the sacrament, we acknowledge a gift given—one that we need. When we come forward, we may not fully understand exactly how receiving those elements is “coming to Jesus,” but the space is made. We can accept Jesus’ invitation without knowing its full implications. And while the invitation is personal, it also helps us recognize that the community is united in a common response.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (LBW 562 v. 1 & 3)

1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,

ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,

let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;

fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,

let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

APOSTLES' CREED (LBW p. 64)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 to the dead.*

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Jan Hus, martyr, died 1415 Monday, July 6, 2026

Hus was a Bohemian (present-day Czech Republic) priest who spoke against abuses in the church, and was seen by Martin Luther as his predecessor in the reforming movement. He was found guilty of heresy by a council of the church, and burned at the stake.

Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, died around 540 Saturday, July 11, 2026

Benedict is known as the father of the Western monastic movement. Educated in Rome, he went to live as a hermit, and eventually gathered a community of monks around him. He wrote a rule for living in monasteries that is used by Benedictines and adapted by others.

PRAYER LIST

Prayers for Bishop Christa Compton and her family with the passing of her mother Nancy, Prayers for St. Ambrose in Pennsville as they begin their pastoral search, Prayers for our service men and women serving in the current military actions, especially for those we have lost, 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, The family of Norman Albinson as they mourn his passing, Dawn Allen, The family of Anthony Assante as they mourn his passing, The friends and family of James Barth as they mourn his passing, Nicholas Baud, Lorraine Brecht, Wanda Bryan, Madelene Budd, Mike Bundy, Justin Buzby and family, Carol Carty, Sal Castelli, Jenn Causey and family, Tracey Causey, Lisa Clark, Josh Clarke, Maverick Cleavenger, 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, Lou Deaine, The family of Tony DelMonte as they mourn his passing, Dylan Dinh, Kathy Drew, the family of Harry Duckinfield as they mourn his passing, Kristen Dymond, Barbara Esposito, Barbara Facchine, Bill Flynn, Francis, Bobby G., Jeannie Gapinski, Alma Garcia, Maureen Garrett and family, Stephen and Juliet Genovese, Gavin Gigliotti, Lauren Stott Gilbert, Mark Gismondi, Terry Gismondi, Wilma Gismondi, Jay Goheen and family, Andrew Gordon, Randi Gordon, Collet Grasso, The family of Steve Harris as they mourn his passing, the Hatcher family, The friends and family of Jim Hynes as they mourn his passing, the Hogan family, Ed Jeffers, The friends and family of Tom Jones as they mourn his passing, Marilyn Kaiser, Chaley Klotz, Corinne Klotz, Clara Kuter, John Lafferty, William & Adrienne Lafleche, The family and friends of Doris Lail as they mourn her passing, Grace Laphan, Pat Larkin, Joe Lewandowski, Joseph Lonia, Bill Ludwig, The friends and family of Jessie MacGregor as they mourn her passing, Bill Mann, The family of Doris Manogue as they mourn her passing, Joseph Mansfield, John Markovski, Caroline Miles, Janaq Minzy and her family, 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, Debbie Post, Lauren Rebstock, The family of Bill Reese as they mourn his passing, The family of Lewis Richards as they mourn his passing, Dan Richardson, Jen Rossi, 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, Ken Sauer, The Sauer family, Mark Sauer, Joseph Schiffer, Meleta Seher, Billy Shea, Helen Simkunas & Family, Joyce and Arvin Skramsdad, The family of Deb Solt as they mourn her passing, Julia Stanz, Claudia Storhoff, Nathan Storhoff, Samantha Sumner, Jane Tallman, Donna Testa, Ed Tutka, Lynne Rasmussen Walker, Sharon Walker, Wayne Weaver, The Wilke family including Tim & Catherine, Jill Wilt, Glenn Wrigley, The family of Kevin Yandach as they mourn his passing.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's steadfast love, let us pray for the church, the nations, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Gathering God, send your Spirit on the church you have called out from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions we have caused. Overcome our timidity to witness and act in the public square when your purpose is being thwarted. Bless rostered and lay leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

All your works praise you, O God. From the Arctic to the Caribbean, from the Atlantic to the western islands, these lands and waters have sustained its peoples over many centuries. As we take our part in creation's praise, revive our wonder at what you have fashioned, and enliven our will to ensure its health for future generations. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Trinity, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We come from many nations with many languages; make us a united people that delights in our many different gifts. As the United States of America marks its declaration of independence, give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, and curb every abuse of that trust, so that both here and abroad, justice, humility, and peace may flourish. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are the Mother of exiles, O God. Extend your arms to all who are tired, who live with poverty, the tempest-tossed, all who yearn to breathe free. Embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated, detained, or disappeared; and neighbors fearing those they once trusted. Give healing and hope to people in any oppression and need, especially these we name before you now (*a brief silence*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

And for what else shall we pray ... ? God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember before you those who have died in every generation: Jan Hus, executed for protesting the ecclesial system; Benedict, teacher of a prayerful life; and those who have died ensuring the freedoms of this country: people in the armed services, peace officers, advocates, and activists. (*Here specific names may be mentioned.*) Gather us, together with those who have gone before us (especially ...), and with saints of every tribe and nation, into the holy city you have prepared. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The Peace is shared at this time or after the Lord's Prayer, prior to the distribution.

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

OFFERTORY

Statue of Liberty N. Enloe

Solo by Laurie Brown

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE-- *Jesus' yoke (caring for community) is light and refreshing*

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

According to many of the intelligent and the wise in the world, a major life purpose is to accumulate money and other resources as a hedge against insecurity, and to use time and talent for one's own pleasure. While not denying the need for long-term security (not only for oneself but for all in the community), and while rejoicing in the gifts of life, the steward recognizes that one of the most important acts in life is the deeply symbolic act of placing something in the offering plate. That is a commitment to the welfare of all. The invitation to accept a new yoke – the yoke of Jesus - is a bidding to reject the old ways of the old realm that were life denying and to instead embrace way that is life giving. As it pertains to stewardship, the old age is exhausting, and ill-

fitting. The more we have, the more we want. And seldom do we have enough. By contrast, life in the community that is centered on Jesus is a journey to world that creates positive, life-affirming, meaning-bestowing energy that is “easy” and a “good fit” for those who will try it as a discipline for ordering their existence.

Investing time, talent, money, and other resources in the values and practices of the Realm both helps to enact qualities of the Realm in the present and thereby helps keep alive for future generations the possibility that things can be different—in a good way—in comparison to the way they are now.

OFFERTORY VERSE



☞ Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING (Read together in unison.)

Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever. Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe; just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations. Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name? Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever. For you alone are the Holy One, and blessed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All praise and thanks to you, holy God! Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory 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.

SENDING

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

AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION IN CIVIC LIFE

People of God, you are chosen and named as God's beloved. You have received the gift of Christian vocation, a holy calling lived out in various dimensions of your life, your relationships and communities, your work and your rest. Daily and richly we live in the promises of holy baptism, sustained by grace to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. I ask you, therefore:

Will you endeavor to pattern your life on Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others?

Response: **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you strive to pursue the common good in public life, nurturing mutual care among neighbors near and far? Response: **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Will you pledge to bear witness in word and action, commending what is true and right, renouncing what is unjust and harmful, and working to mend what is flawed?

Response: **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Sovereign God, your Son Jesus lived within the structures of society even as he spoke truth to those in power and challenged systems of oppression. Give to your people courage, patience, and vision in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Empower us all in our Christian vocation to be courageous disciples and responsible citizens. Grant that our life in the public realm be grounded in love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable, and respect for the common life we share, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, (+) one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *God Bless Our Native Land* (LBW 569)



1 God bless our na - tive land; firm may it ev - er stand
2 So shall our prayers a - rise to God a - bove the skies,



through storm and night. When the wild tem - pests rave, Rul - er of
on whom we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, guard - ing with



wind and wave, do thou our coun - try save by thy great might.
watch - ful eye, to thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Offering received June 27th and 28th - \$2976.00. Weekly amount needed to meet the spending plan-- \$2614.00. Total received to date—\$66768.06. Amount needed to date--\$67964.00. **(Please don't forget the church if you will be away!)**
- 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.
- **BREAKFAST MINISTRY**—Christ Episcopal Church in Woodbury has launched a new breakfast ministry. It offers free cold breakfast to the Woodbury community on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 8 am to 10 am in the Parish Hall at 62 Delaware Avenue. Please keep this ministry in your prayers. The next date is July 18, 2026.
- **IT'S GLEANING TIME**—The Greater Woodbury Cooperative Food Ministries is seeking volunteers to sort fresh vegetables for our food pantry. A schedule and complete information can be found at www.bushelsofblessings.org. Questions? Contact Lori Kershaw (609-221-3880) Or Lenore Cronlund (609-220-4079).
- 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.
- **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, July 18, 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. They will also be distributing school supplies in July, so they are looking for donations. Finally, they give packages of boxers/briefs to men for Father's Day. These donations may be left in the basket in the Narthex and we will deliver them to the Cooperative Ministries.
- Coffee hour between services is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month, hosted by the 8:30 service. **(Please note: Due to the upcoming holiday and vacation schedules, there will not be a coffee hour in July.)** Please come and join us for coffee and fellowship on Sunday, August 2nd.
- Save the following dates:
 - * 1st and 3rd Thursdays through September—Wenonah Farmer's Market. Vendors, food trucks, etc. (Next dates—July 2nd and 16th.)
 - * Tuesday, September 29th—Red Cross Blood Drive (1-6pm.)
- **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



Donate

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.

- 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.
- The choir is on hiatus until fall. Watch for details on the first rehearsal. (Choir rehearsals are on Sunday mornings @ 9:40.) All are welcome to join us.
- Live Sunday School sessions are on hiatus until September. Church school resources continue to be available on our website on a weekly basis.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Let Freedom Ring

arr. D. Paxton

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HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 Lenape Trail

Wenonah, NJ 08090

856-468-5760

hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com

Pastor: Andy Gordon Music Director: Chris Robinson

5:00—Harriet Vico; 8:30—Lori Kershaw; 10:30—Vince Montana

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