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 6, 2025

4th Sunday after Pentecost LBW 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 memory of their parents and grandparents.

The Sanctuary Candle is given by Dot Kelleher in loving memory of Joseph Kelleher.

PRELUDE

Trumpet Tune

R. Lau



Introduction to the day

God is the source of our nourishment. Jesus' invitation to "take and eat . . . take and drink" is a repeated one. In holy communion, in the word read and proclaimed, in the assembly of the people of God, the dominion of God has come near. Rejoice! Your name is written in heaven.

GATHERING

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

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

The assembly stands. 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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (ELW 803)



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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE Shout to the Lord (W&P 124)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 66:10-14 A reading from Isaiah.

Those who returned from the exile found that the hopes for the glorious restoration of Judah were not completely fulfilled. For these disappointed people, the prophet envisions salvation in the image of a nursing woman. Mother Jerusalem and a mothering God remind the community how they are sustained and supported.

Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her;
 rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her—
 that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast;
 that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom.

¹² For thus says the LORD:

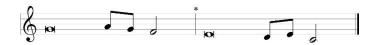
I will extend prosperity to her like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees.

¹³ As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bodies shall flourish like the grass; and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with his servants, and his indignation is against his enemies.

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

PSALM: Psalm 66:1-9 (The Psalm is sung responsively by verse.)



Refrain: All the earth bows | down before you * and sings | out your name. (Ps. 66:4)

Refrain: All the earth bows | down before you * and sings | out your name.

- ¹Be joyful in God, ¹all you lands; * be joyful, ¹all the earth.
- ² Sing the glory | of God's name; * sing the glory | of God's praise.
- ³ Say to God, "How awesome | are your deeds! * Because of your great strength your enemies | cringe before you.
- ⁴ All the earth bows | down before you, * sings to you, sings | out your name." Refrain: All the earth bows | down before you * and sings | out your name.
 - ⁵ Come now and see the | works of God, * how awesome are God's deeds | toward all people.
- ⁶ God turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the wa- | ter on foot, * and there we re- | joiced in God.
 - ⁷ Ruling forever in might, God keeps watch o- | ver the nations; * let no rebels ex- | alt themselves.
 - ⁸ Bless our | God, you peoples; * let the sound of | praise be heard.
 - ⁹ Our God has kept us a- | mong the living * and has not allowed our | feet to slip.

Refrain: All the earth bows | down before you * and sings | out your name.

SECOND READING: Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16 A reading from Galatians.

In the close of his letter to the Galatians, Paul encourages them to live as people made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Here Paul offers practical advice about how believers exercise common concern for one other in "the family of faith."

[¹ My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. ⁴ All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. ⁵ For all must carry their own loads.

⁶ Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.]

⁷ Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸ If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹ So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

¹¹ See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! ¹² It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴ May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! ¹⁶ As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 The holy gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord. Jesus commissions harvesters and laborers to go where he would go and do what he would do. Risking

hardship and danger in exchange for the experience of great joy, they offer peace and healing as signs that the reign of God is near.

¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ² He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' ⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹ cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'"

¹⁶ "Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

¹⁷ The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" ¹⁸ He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. ¹⁹ See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

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

GOSPEL MESSAGE (The Gift of Vulnerability)

A familiar adage says, "It's better to deal with the devil you know than the one you don't know." The idea is that it's safer to deal with something you're familiar with than to take a risk with something new. This new thing can be scary, disarming, even harmful. On the other hand, although it takes work to let go of things that provide security and support self-reliance, vulnerability can also lead to connection, openness, and love.

Jesus asked the seventy disciples to enter the towns ahead of him to proclaim the good news that God's kin-dom was coming near, to care for the sick, to stand with the weak and defenseless, and to love the brokenhearted. He knew he was asking them to make themselves vulnerable to the villagers they would encounter on their mission and that they'd likely receive both negative and positive responses. Although they might face rejection, hate, or dismissiveness, they might also be met with care, appreciation, and affirmation.

Gathering around God's table in memory of Jesus' full embodiment of love is also a vulnerable and tender moment together. The gift of free grace we receive in the holy sacrament of bread and wine is worth the risk to stand close to our neighbor. The gift doesn't require perfection, but it allows for a moment to let go of whatever proverbial baggage and deep-rooted brokenness we live with. Jesus meant for all to be fed and welcomed with gracious hospitality at the table. And when the time comes to leave the gathering spaces, God's hope is that all who gathered feel filled and affirmed so they can go out again into the world of unknowns.

May each one find the courage to embrace the gift of vulnerability as we enter both places of worship and living spaces, remaining in a state of holy wonder about the unknown.

HYMN OF THE DAY We All Are One in Mission (WOV 755 v. 1,3)



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.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Jan Hus, martyr, died 1415 Sunday, July 6, 2025

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 Friday, July 11, 2025

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.

Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931 Saturday, July 12, 2025

A winner of the Nobel Prize for peace for his efforts to unite peoples after the First World War, Söderblom also called attention to the revival of early church worship principles, and helped to lay the groundwork for the World Council of Churches.

PRAYER LIST

Holly & Duane, Dawn Allen, The friends and family of John Austino as they mourn his passing, Hal Battindorf, Nicholas Baud, Wanda Brown, Madelene Budd, Carol Carty, Sal Castelli, Jenn Causey and family, Tracey Causey, Lisa Clark, Baby Landyn and Kristen Compagoni, Sherwood Cotton, Bob Counbs, Craig (diagnosed with cancer), Rocco Cristinzio, Leslie Criston, Milton Cuevas, Sr., Milton Cuevas, Jr., Nicholas Damiani, The family of Tony DelMonte as they mourn his passing, Alicia DiRienzo, Kathy Drew, Barbara Esposito, Barbara Facchine, Scott Fey, Bill Flynn, Francis, Bobby G., Alma Garcia, The friends and family of Susan Gavin as they mourn her passing, Gavin Gigliotti, The family of Michael Gilletti as they mourn his death, Marie Giliberti, Mark Gismondi, Terry Gismondi, Wilma Gismondi, Jay Goheen and family, Randi Gordon, the Hatcher family, Ron Herrmann, the Hogan family, The family of Ken Jakubiak as they mourn his passing, Marilyn Kaiser, The family of Robert Keen as they mourn his passing, Elise Kelm and the Kelm family, Corinne Klotz, The family and friends of Doris Lail as they mourn her passing, Grace Laphan, Pat Larkin, Joseph Lonia, The Lyons family in the loss of their brother, The friends and family of Jessie MacGregor as they mourn her passing, The family of Doris Manogue as they mourn her passing, Joseph Mansfield, The McCall family in their time of grief and loss, Rob and Nona McDonough & family, Caroline Miles, Jim Montisano, The friends and family of Mary Alice Morrison as they mourn her passing, George Muth, The family and friends of Carol Nardi as they mourn her death, Bob and Sue Nevins (suffering with a brain tumor), The family of Robert O'Connor, Janet Ostrowski, The family of Joseph Ostrowski as they mourn his death, Lucas Otey, Otis, Danielle Peters, The Pressley family in the loss of their cousin, Jan Pressley (and all victims of the recent hurricanes), The family of Harry Rees as they mourn his death, The family of Lewis Richards as they mourn his passing, The family of Charles Rust as they mourn his passing, Noreen Ruyuh, Dylan Sauer, Meleta Seher, Billy Shea, The family and friends of Glenn Shirley as they mourn his passing, Helen Simkunas & Family, Joyce and Arvin Skramsdad, Samantha Sumner, Richard Sylvester, Eileen Simpson, Julia Stanz, Nathan Storhoff, Donna Testa, Corey Temean, Ed Tutka, Sharon Walker, The family and friends of Larry Wall as they mourn his passing, Rosie Ward, Winfield Watson, Wayne Weaver, Dolores

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

Whilleson, The family of Michelle Whiting as they mourn her passing, the Wilke family including Tim & Catherine, Sue Willard, Jill Wilt, Jerry, Pat and Kelly who are battling cancer.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation. *A brief silence*.

You send your church into the world with a message of peace. Center the whole church in this peace, and strengthen our faith by the example of (*Jan Hus and*) all those who creatively and faithfully proclaim your good news. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

All the earth sings out your name. Inspire your people to drink deeply from the beauty of (*local natural beauty and*) all your creation. When ecosystems are wounded, bring your healing. When our actions endanger the survival of other species, curb our greed and waste. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You call us to work for the good of all. Give resolve to those who lead, that they do not grow weary in doing what is right. Guide them to seek peace between nations and freedom for all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As a mother comforts her child, so you comfort us. Bring this comfort to those in any pain (*especially*). Carry your people when grief is heavy, and lift burdens of shame and self-doubt. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your harvest is plentiful, O God. Make us laborers and companions with one another in this assembly. Send your peace to rest upon us, heal divisions among us, and open our hearts to receive one another as gifts from you. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered. God of grace, hear our prayer.

You have written our names in heaven, O God, and we rejoice. We thank you for those who have lived and died in your love. Accompany us on our life's journey and draw us at last to life forever in you. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

PEACE (LBW p. 86)

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.

Peace be with you. Peace be with you.

THANKSGIVING

OFFERTORY America the Beautiful arr. C. Berry

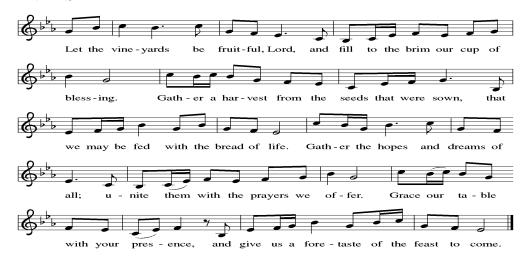
STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE—GO AND DO THE SAME--Give Thanks

Today we're looking at a text that assumes two things, and then puts us in a position to think and choose. The text assumes, first, that God does great things for us. God loves us and offers us that love freely. That is a given. Then, second, the text assumes that we must decide how to respond to God. God's love for you is a given. You cannot choose whether or not God loves you. You can choose how you respond.

In the text, we encounter an unnamed woman who had engaged in sin but whom God had forgiven. She responds one way. We also encounter a Pharisee named Simon. He responds another way. Luke puts you on the spot. Would you rather before be like the Pharisee, or like the woman?

Building on the woman's response to Jesus, we get a little add- on to the main text telling about women who provided for Jesus and the other disciples "out of their own resources." They make possible the continuation of Jesus' ministry. Our choice for generosity enables us to do the same.

OFFERTORY VERSE



CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING (Read 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.

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace

→ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG We All Are One in Mission (WOV 755 v. 2)

2 We all are called for service, to witness in God's name. Our ministries are diff'rent; our purpose is the same: to touch the lives of others with God's surprising grace, so ev'ry folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Offering received June 28th and 29th \$2155.00. (This does not include donations made to Memorial gifts and a donation to Thrivent.) Weekly amount needed to meet the spending plan--\$2498.00. Total received to date—\$60273.06 Amount needed to date--\$64948.00. (We are currently about \$4600.00 behind our spending plan goal. Please don't forget the church if you will be away.)
- 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.
- The food pantry needs laundry detergent. They also need men's briefs and boxers during June. They are also requesting school supplies for school children. They are collecting in July and August and will distribute at the end of August. Thank you for your generosity!
- This year's NJ Synod Bishop's Challenge asks all NJ congregations to engage in the care of God's good creation by choosing one of the following action areas focusing on environmental sustainability, including Building, Grounds, Programs, Worship & Education, Community Action & Activism. Our congregation is already engaged in significant work with our church grounds. If you are interested in sponsoring one of the areas on our property, see the poster in the Narthex or speak to Pastor.
- Shop Rite shopping cards are available for purchase after the services.
- If you are interested in receiving a daily bible reading by email, visit the following website and click the subscribe button: Daily Bible Reading Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (elca.org).
- <u>ST. PETER'S COMMUNITY PANTRY</u> 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 19, 2025.
- Coffee hour <u>between services</u> is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month, hosted by the 8:30 service. Come and join us for coffee and fellowship this Sunday, July 6th.
- Save the following dates:
 - * Sunday, September 7th—God's Work, Our Hands (this is also Wenonah's Fall cleanup event)

- <u>GROWING IN FAITH: THE DIAKONIA PROGRAM</u> 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.
- 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 is on hiatus for the summer. Rehearsals resume on Sunday mornings @ 9:40 in September through June. All are welcome to join us.
- Live Sunday School sessions are also on hiatus until September. Church school resources will continue to be available on our website on a weekly basis throughout the summer months.

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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—Stephen Genovese

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

April Montana—Council Person/President & Christian Education
Vince Montana—Council Person/Vice President/Property/Worship & Music
Joyce Bradbury—Council Person/Secretary
Donna DeFrank—Council Person/Stewardship & Finance
Lori Kershaw—Council Person/Social Ministry--Fellowship
Kim Theriault—Council Person/Social Ministry--Outreach
Juliet Genovese—Council Person at Large
Stephen Genovese—Council Person/Co-Treasurer
Karen Cusack—Council Person/Co-Treasurer
Brett Montana—Council Person/Youth Representative