

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, April 21, 2024

4th Sunday of Easter 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 to honor our Pastor, our organists and our choir.

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

PRELUDE

In the Glow of Early Morning

arr. J. Prentiss



Introduction to the day

The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.

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

PRESENTATION (The congregation responds with text in bold print.)

Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font. The assembly is seated.

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words:

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors for each candidate, in turn, present the candidates:

I present Raelyn Veronica Raucci for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses candidates who are able to answer for themselves:

Raelyn Veronica Raucci, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

Each candidate responds: I do.

The presiding minister addresses parents or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that she may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help her grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Raelyn in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Raelyn and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

We do.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children.

The assembly may join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Water may be poured into the font before or during the thanksgiving. At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, and 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 the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

The presiding minister baptizes each candidate. The candidate is immersed into the water, or water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:

Raelyn Veronica Raucci, I baptize you in the name of the Father,*

The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a second time:

and of the Son,

The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a third time:

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

Clothed with Christ in baptism, the newly baptized may receive a baptismal garment.

The presiding minister continues:

Let us pray. **We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.**

Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays for each:

Sustain Raelyn with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Raelyn, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

*Or, "Name is baptized in the name of the Father, . . ."

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to each of the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation says:

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

GATHERING SONG *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing* (LBW 210 v. 1)



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
2 Praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



B Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12 A reading from Acts.

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

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

PSALM: Psalm 23 (The Psalm is sung responsively by verse.)



Refrain: The LORD | is my shepherd; * I shall not | be in want. (*Ps. 23:1*)

Refrain: The LORD | is my shepherd; * I shall not | be in want.

¹The LORD | is my shepherd; * I shall not | be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures * and leads me be- | side still waters.**

³You restore my | soul, O LORD, * and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil; * for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**

Refrain: The LORD | is my shepherd; * I shall not | be in want.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies; * you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life, * and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.**

Refrain: The LORD | is my shepherd; * I shall not | be in want.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24 A reading from 1 John.

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater

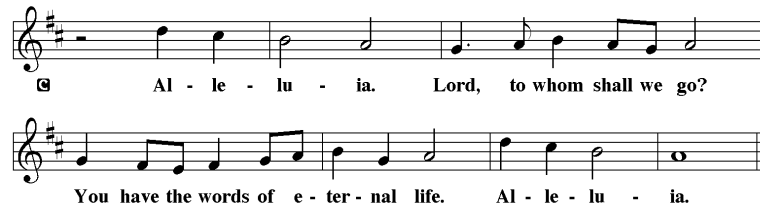
than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

WE RISE TO GREET THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. Jesus says, I am | the good shepherd.* I know my own and my | own know me. Alleluia. (John 10:14)



GOSPEL: John 10:11-18 The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

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

SERMON *Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

HYMN OF THE DAY *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing* (LBW 210 v. 2)

2 Praise we him, whose love divine
gives his sacred blood for wine,
gives his body for the feast—
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.
Alleluia!

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109 Sunday, April 21, 2024

This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to make the necessary payment for our sin.

Day of the Creation (Día de la Creación) (LLC) Monday, April 22, 2024

This observance invites us to notice and give God thanks for the wonders of the created universe. As stewards of that creation, we are also challenged to be careful in our use of it.

Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960 Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.

Mark, Evangelist Thursday, April 25, 2024

He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.

PRAYER LIST

John Austino, The family of Bill Bartleson as they mourn his death, Nicholas Baud, John Brecht, The family of 3 year-old Cameron Bruder as they mourn his death, Max Belko, The family of Kaz Bielecki's son-in-law as they mourn his death, Cathy Buccarelli, Sal Castelli, Sherwood Cotton, The friends and family of Gladys Crooker as they mourn her death, Milton Cuevas, Jr., Barbara Facchine, The family of Anne Fatum as they mourn her death, Scott Fey, Francis, John Forsman, Bobby G., Alma Garcia, Gavin Gigliotti, The family of Michael Gilletti as they mourn his death, Mark Gismondi, Terry Gismondi, Wilma Gismondi, the family of Doris Gordon as they mourn her death, Randi Gordon, The family of Don Halterman as they mourn his death, The family of Jennifer Jeffers as they mourn her death, Marilyn Kaiser, The family of Robert Keen as they mourn his passing, The family of Joseph Kelleher as they mourn his passing, The family of George Lofmark as they mourn his death, Joseph Lonia, Jessie MacGregor, Joseph Mansfield, The McCall family in their time of grief and loss, Michael McKee, The family of Robert O'Connor, The O'Donald family as they mourn the passing of their young adult female family member, Lazslo Orosze, Janet Ostrowski, The family of Joseph Ostrowski as they mourn his death, Otis, Danielle Peters, Harry Rees, Carole Rund and family on the death of her sister Joan, Billy Shea, Ken Silver, Brian Solt, Joy Stagliano, Samantha Sumner, Richard Sylvester, Eileen Simpson, Dot Stagg, Julia Stanz, Nathan Storhoff, Corey Temean, Sue Willard, The family of Madeline Williams as they mourn her death, Jerry, Pat, who are battling cancer, and Jerry, Pat and Kelly who are battling cancer.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. *A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith (*including Anselm of Canterbury and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel*). Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE (LBW p. 86)

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

Peace be with you. **Peace be with you.**

MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY *Choir Anthem—O Lord, My God, You Are My Refuge* J.S. Bach, arr. H. Hopson

OFFERTORY CANTICLE



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 dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE, PREFACE AND SANCTUS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

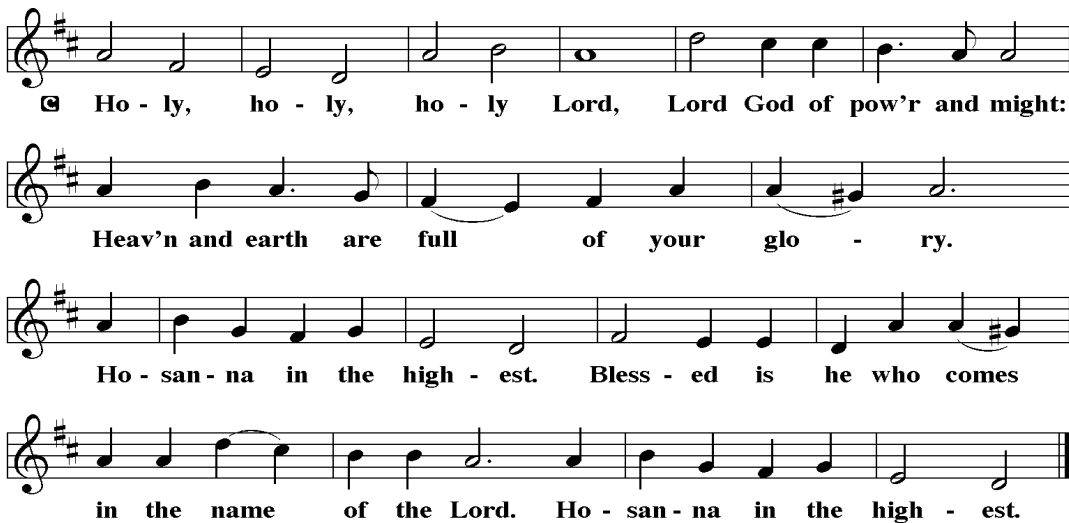
Lift up your hearts.

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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

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 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


Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

EASTER INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

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.**

BLESSING OF COMMUNION

May the body and blood of our risen savior Jesus Christ (+) strengthen you and keep you now and forever in God's Grace. **Amen**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let

ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.

Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

EASTER PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. 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 FOR EASTER

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ? bless you now and always. Amen.

SENDING HYMN *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing* (LBW 210 v. 3)

3 Where the paschal blood is poured
death's dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
through the wave that drowns the foe.
Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Offering received April 13 and 14 -- \$1591.00. Weekly amount needed to meet the spending plan-- \$2725.00. Total received year-to-date--\$39485.30. Amount needed to meet the spending plan-- \$40875.00.
- Don't forget that we have ACME and ShopRite cards for sale after the church service.
- If anyone is interested in attending a Narcan class at Holy Nativity, please text or call Lori Kershaw at 609-221-3880 or lori@kershawinst.com (email). Narcan is an opioid interceptor that is administered via nasal spray.
- 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 \(elca.org\)](http://DailyBibleReading-EvangelicalLutheranChurchinAmerica.elca.org).
- St. Peter's Community Pantry is one of our ministry partners in the Gloucester County Faith in Prevention initiative. They are here to help serve those facing food insecurity in Gloucester County. If you (or someone you know) are having a difficult time buying food for yourself, or your family, please let St. Peter's try to make a small difference for you. The Pantry is located behind St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 304 Kings Highway in Clarksboro. They are open every 4th Saturday of the Month from 9 AM to 1 PM.
- Coffee hour between services is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month, hosted by the 8:30 service. Come and join us for the next coffee and fellowship Sunday, May 5.
- Save the following dates:
 - * Tuesday, April 30—5:30-7 pm Meatball Hoagie Dinner (See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or call the office to sign up.)
 - * Saturday, May 11—8 am to noon Wenonah Clean Community Day of Service
 - * Saturday, May 18--Wenonah Porchfest—2:00-10:30 pm

- * Tuesday July 30—5:30-7:00 pm Church Picnic; Burgers, hot dogs, sides, etc.
- * Sunday, September 8—God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday—Fall clean-up at church

- **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 church now has two Planet Aid clothing bins in the parking lot. The following clean items may be placed in the yellow bins: clothing, shoes, bedding, towels, curtains, sleeping bags, socks, underwear, bras. They cannot accept items that are tattered beyond repair, dirty, wet or moldy. They do not accept yarn, thread-bare items, spools of thread or similar cast-offs. They also do not accept toys, stuffed animals, furniture or electronics.
- 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 rehearses on Sunday mornings @ 9:40. Anyone is welcome to join us. We sing at the 10:30 service on a regular basis (usually monthly).
- Sunday School meets every Sunday during the school year in person at 9:30 am and is simulcast via Facebook LIVE. Church school resources are available on our website.
- At this time, the food pantry needs boxed cereal, pancake mix, syrup, grape jelly, loaves of bread and toilet paper. Other needed items include canned goods, non-perishable items, toiletries, laundry soap, etc.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Recessional

arr. H. Kihlken

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GOSPEL MESSAGE (Always Room for One More)

When Jesus says “I am” in the Gospel of John, he unlocks a new perspective on his love. In today’s reading, when Jesus declares, “I am the good shepherd,” we can imagine our Lord caring for us and guiding us. We picture ourselves as his sheep. It’s reassuring to hear that we aren’t alone to navigate the dangers and challenges of this world. We have a loving shepherd who is looking out for us.

Jesus loves us so much that he goes above and beyond the shepherd’s role as a caretaker. He gives up his own life so our sins can be forgiven and we can receive eternal life. That’s what being a good shepherd means—having such a close relationship with the sheep that the shepherd will stop at nothing to protect them. The shepherd will lay down his own life so his sheep can have life.

When we hear Jesus’ promise to be our good shepherd, we must not miss his commitment to gather up the sheep that aren’t yet part of his flock. They, too, will listen to Jesus’ voice. Responding to his loving call, they will become part of the one flock that follows Jesus as their good shepherd, their Savior, and their Lord. No matter how many sheep are already jostling for space, there is always room for one more. Just like there is always room at our holy communion table for one more person to eat the bread, drink the wine, and receive the gifts of God’s mercy and grace. We can always squeeze closer to the sheep around us to let one or more sheep enter Jesus’ flock, thankful that the flock is growing and that we get to listen to the loving voice of our good shepherd, together.

HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Wenonah, NJ 08090

856-468-5760

hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com

Pastor: Andy Gordon Music Director: Chris Robinson

8:30—Lori Kershaw; 10:30—Steve Genovese

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

April Montana—Council Person/President/Christian Education

Joyce Bradbury—Council Person/Secretary

Caryl Carthew—Council Person/Worship and Music/Financial Secretary

Donna DeFrank—Council Person

Sandy Lonia—Council Person

Stephen Genovese—Council Person/Co-Treasurer

Karen Cusack—Council Person/Co-Treasurer

Brett Montana—Youth Representative