

# 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 26, 2026**

4<sup>th</sup> 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 to the Glory of God.

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

**PRELUDE**

*'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

arr. T. Kendall



### **Introduction to the day**

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

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

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM LITANY (The congregation responds with text in bold print.)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **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.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

**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 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!* (LBW 144)



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the  
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; bring flow'rs of  
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that  
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to -



tri - umph of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
song to strew his way; let all the world re - joice and say:  
life which can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
day with one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, 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

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister



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

All



1 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.

*Refrain*



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



2 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.

*Final refrain*



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

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

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

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## WORD

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

**FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47** A reading from Acts.

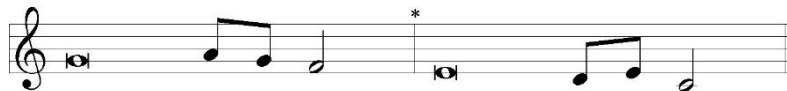
*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

<sup>42</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

**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.**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD | is my shepherd; \* I shall not | be in want.

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

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

<sup>4</sup> **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.**

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

<sup>6</sup> **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 Peter 2:19-25** A reading from 1 Peter.

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

<sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we

might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord. **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)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
 You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL: John 10:1-10** The holy gospel according to John.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**HOMILY** *Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Have No Fear, Little Flock* (LBW 476)

1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle  
 2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle  
 3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -  
 4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to

flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to  
 flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in  
 bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -  
 God, for he stays close be - side you, in

give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!  
 his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!  
 lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!  
 all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

---

\*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380 Wednesday, April 29, 2026**

This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

**Philip and James, Apostles Friday, May 1, 2026**

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.

**Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373 Saturday, May 2, 2026**

Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views.

## PRAYER LIST

*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, 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, Carol Carty, Sal Castelli, Jenn Causey and family, Tracey Causey, Lisa Clark, Josh Clarke, Sean Cleavenger, Baby Landyn and Kristen Compagoni, Sherwood Cotton, Bob Counbs, Craig (diagnosed with cancer), Rocco Cristinzio, Leslie Criston, Milton Cuevas, Sr., Milton Cuevas, Jr., The family of John Cusack as they grieve his passing, Nicholas Damiani, Lou Deaine, The family of Tony DelMonte as they mourn his passing, Alicia DiRienzo, Kathy Drew, Kristen Dymond, Barbara Esposito, Barbara Facchine, Bill Flynn, Francis, Bobby G., Jeannie Gapinski, Alma Garcia, Stephen Genovese, Gavin Gigliotti, Lauren Stott Gilbert, Mark Gismondi, Terry Gismondi, Wilma Gismondi, Jay Goheen and family, Randi Gordon, Collet Grasso, The family of Steve Harris as they mourn his passing, the Hatcher family, the Hogan family, Ed Jeffers, The friends and family of Tom Jones as they mourn his passing, Marilyn Kaiser, Corinne Klotz, Clara Kuter, William & Adrienne Lafleche, The family and friends of Doris Lail as they mourn her passing, Grace Laphan, Pat Larkin, Joseph Lonia, Bill Ludwig, The friends and family of Jessie MacGregor as they mourn her passing, The family of Doris Manogue as they mourn her passing, Joseph Mansfield, Caroline Miles, Jim Montisano, The friends and family of Mary*

*Alice Morrison as they mourn her passing, George Muth, Bob and Sue Nevins, Laz Orosze, Janet Ostrowski, Lucas Otey, Otis, Donna Paone, Danielle Peters, Debbie Post, Lauren Rebstock, The family of Lewis Richards as they mourn his passing, Dan Richardson, The friends and family of Carole Rund as they mourn her passing, The family of Charles Rust as they mourn his passing, The family of Scott Rust as they mourn his passing, Noreen Ruyuh, Dylan Sauer, 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, Nathan Storhoff, 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 the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation. *A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured (*especially*). Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.* Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

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

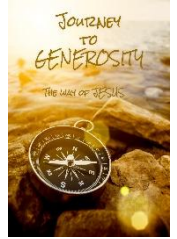
**MEAL** God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## **OFFERTORY**

*Ave Maria*

F. Schubert, arr. W. Stickles

## STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE—*Journey to Generosity—Jesus is the Gate*



### John 10:1-18

Jesus is the gate that opens a way that leads to abundant life. Jesus infuses the community with power and takes the lead of the flock as a shepherd. As the Word, Jesus dwells with the community. Like a host at the wedding, Jesus keeps their communion cups filled with wine. Like a companion at the well, Jesus gives them living water (i.e. the Holy Spirit). As the bread of life and the vine nourishing the branches which bear the fruit, Jesus feeds and sustains them. As a shepherd, Jesus cares for the sheep and leads them. Jesus infuses them with the things that sustain life.

The more we engage in stewardship and generosity—the more we love in the way that Jesus loves—the more we discover Jesus' continuing and empowering presence. The more we give, the more satisfying is the act of giving. How can our church budget—and our use of time, talent, and resources—join Jesus in revealing life, love, forgiveness, grace, Spirit, truth, sight (deep perception), abundance, fullness, freedom, community/oneness, and salvation? In the midst of the world with its opposite qualities (death, hate, sin, law, falsehood, misperception, hunger, scarcity, brokenness, fractured community, and condemnation) our generosity is a gateway to abundant life.

### OFFERTORY VERSE

The image shows five staves of musical notation for the Offertory Verse. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes.

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

Let us pray. Blessed are you, **O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE, PREFACE AND SANCTUS

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

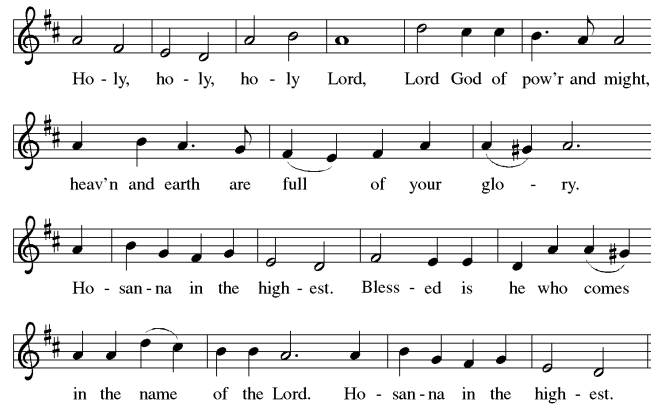
Lift up your hearts.

**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 LITANY**

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

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

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

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

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

**Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.**

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

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

**Do this for the remembrance of me.**

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

**Do this for the remembrance of me.**

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

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

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

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

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

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With [ name/s and ] your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures,

with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

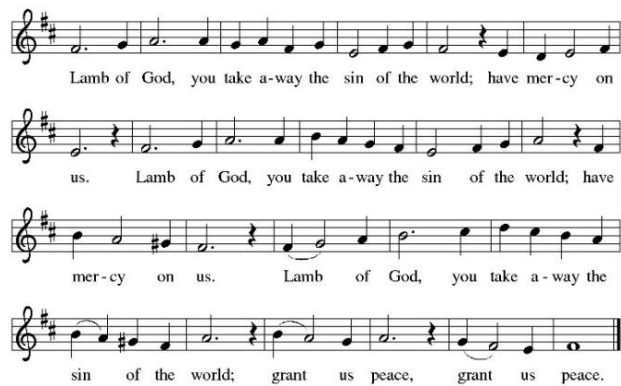
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

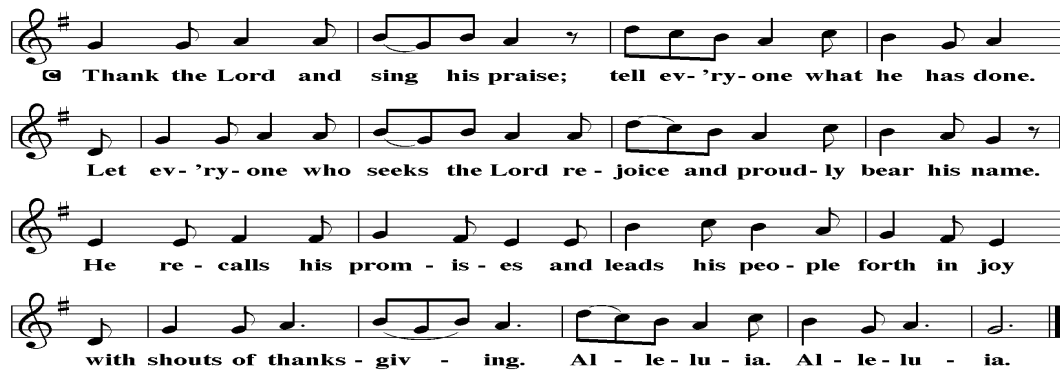
The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

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

## COMMUNION BLESSING

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

## THE POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.  
Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.  
He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy  
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Life-giving God, **in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

## SENDING

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

## SENDING OF COMMUNION

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

## BLESSING

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 *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* (WOV 780)



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,  
last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

*Refrain*



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Offering received April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> - \$2874.00. (This does not include a donation made to purchase shopping cards.) Weekly amount needed to meet the spending plan--\$2614.00. Total received to date—\$41313.00. Amount needed to date--\$41824.00. (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.
- 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.
- Thank you to all who helped with our church clean-up day. Your generosity contributes to the maintenance of the church property.
- Thank you to Lori Kershaw and her family for donating the flowers that decorated the sanctuary for Easter. It was much appreciated and added to the festiveness of the celebration!
- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month from 9 AM to 1 PM. Next distribution date: Saturday, May 16, 2026.
- GREATER WOODBURY COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES is a joint effort by 13 Faith Communities to serve people within our area. A major part of the services offered by the GWCM is through our Food Pantries and Clothing Distribution Center. Clients in need of assistance are given a standard assortment of grocery items according to the size of their family, plus fresh fruits and vegetables and special treats. They are also now asking for donations of laundry detergent.
- Coffee hour between services is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month, hosted by the 8:30 service. Come and join us for coffee and fellowship Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Save the following dates:
  - \* Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>—Wenonah Town Wide Yard Sale (8 am)—tables are \$5 each.
  - \* Sunday, April 26—Chicken BBQ at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in West Deptford. (Take out only—11 am to 2 pm.) Check out the details on their website-- [Chicken BBQ Dinner April 26 — Loving God, Our Neighbors, and Each Other](#)
  - \* Sunday, April 26—Bill Mitchell and his brother are giving a piano/organ recital at 2 pm in the sanctuary of Pitman UMC. All are welcome. (Bill is one of our substitute organists.)
  - \* Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> or Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>—Spring Choral Concert by the College/Community Chorus of Rowan College of South Jersey--Celebrating *America at 250*. (Sunday at Trinity UMC, Clayton—7 pm; Tuesday at First Presbyterian Church of Merchantville—7:30 pm)
  - \* Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>—Funny Farm Rescue Spring Festival—9 am-4 pm—6908 Railroad Blvd., Mays Landing 08330.
  - \* Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>—Wenonah Clean Communities Day (8:30 am-10:30 am)
  - \* Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>—Church BBQ (5-7 pm)
  - \* Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>—4<sup>th</sup> Annual Baud/Strong Golf Outing (8:30 am start time)
  - \* Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>—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](http://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](mailto:hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com).
- Choir rehearsals are on Sunday mornings @ 9:40. All are welcome to join us.
- Live Sunday School sessions are held every Sunday at 9:30. We welcome students of all ages. Church school resources continue to be available on our website on a weekly basis.

## **EASTER DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**            *Victory Through Jesus*            arr. L. Smith

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE (Our Good Shepherd)**

The images in today's texts provide us with much food for thought and action. Psalm 23 tells of a shepherd who leads us to green pastures and refreshing waters, walks alongside us as we face challenging times, takes us to a table already set, and anoints us with oil to mark each of us as chosen. We are heard, seen, known, valued, and loved, and remain in the Shepherd's presence for all time.

Jesus' words in the gospel reading add to the image of a loving and caring shepherd. The shepherd calls each sheep by name, while the sheep follow because they recognize that voice. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows us well and calls each of us by name. Jesus also serves as the gate for the sheep, guarding and protecting us in the sheepfold, while also providing access to pastureland. This protection and access give us the space to be who we are, with no need to play games or pretend to be someone we are not. And when it comes right down to it, the Good Shepherd comes to give us abundant life—new life in relationship with God, others, and all creation.

The reading from Acts 2 provides an image of abundant life among the early Christians, a life with an extravagance of worship, fellowship, prayer, generosity, service to others, and thankfulness.

How does the image of the Good Shepherd sit with you? How do you picture the relationship between you and Jesus—with shepherd and sheep imagery, or something else? Where and how do you recognize the Good Shepherd's voice? Do you know someone who has abundant life in Christ—a life of faith, joy, and love? What would such a life look like for you, and for your faith community?

## **HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3 Lenape Trail

Wenonah, NJ 08090

856-468-5760

[hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com](mailto: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