

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, August 16, 2026

12th Sunday after Pentecost LBW Holy Communion Setting One

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 and the Sanctuary Candle are given to the Glory of God.

PRELUDE

The Lord's Prayer

A. Malotte



Introduction to the day

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

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

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **(+)** one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God, we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (LBW 559 v. 1-4)



1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He breaks the pow'r of can - celled sin; he sets the pris-'ner free.
5 To God all glor - y, praise, and love be now and ev - er giv'n



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
sings mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
His blood can make the foul-est clean; his blood a - vails for me.
by saints be - low and saints a - bove, the church in earth and heav'n.

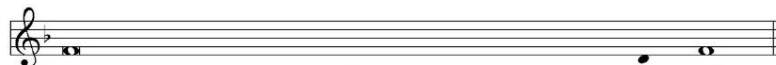
GREETING (LBW p. 57)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE (LBW p. 57)



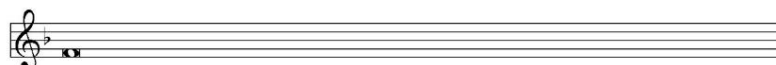
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



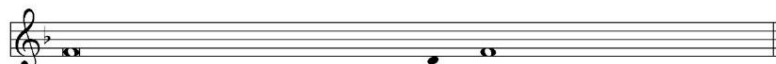
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



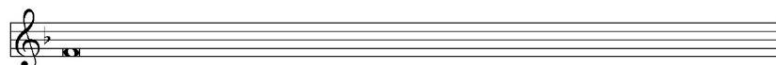
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



G Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. **G** A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE (LBW p. 58)

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. I Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was
 slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. II Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
 strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. I Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and
 join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, 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. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. III For the Lamb who was
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (LBW p. 62)

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

Let us pray. . . Almighty and ever-living God, **you have given great and precious promises to those who believe. Grant us the perfect faith which overcomes all doubts, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**
Amen

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 The First Lesson is from the 56th chapter of Isaiah.

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

¹ Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

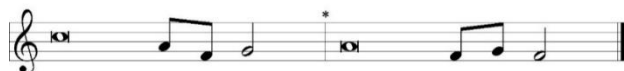
⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Here ends the reading. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 67 (The Psalm is sung responsively by verse.)



Refrain: Let | all the peoples * praise | you, O God. (*Ps. 67:3*)

Refrain: Let | all the peoples * praise | you, O God.

¹ May God be merciful to | us and bless us, * show us the light of his countenance, and | come to us.

² **Let your ways be known | upon earth, * your saving health a- | mong all nations.**

³ Let the peoples praise | you, O God; * let all the | peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy, * for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations | upon earth.**

Refrain: Let | all the peoples * praise | you, O God.

⁵ Let the peoples praise | you, O God; * let all the | peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought | forth her increase; * may God, our own God, give | us his blessing.**

⁷ May God give | us his blessing, * and may all the ends of the earth stand in | awe of him.

Refrain: Let | all the peoples * praise | you, O God.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 The Second Lesson is from the 11th chapter of Romans. *God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.*

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Here ends the reading. **Thanks be to God.**

WE RISE TO GREET THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. Jesus preached the good news | of the kingdom* and cured every sickness a- | mong the people. Alleluia. (*Matt. 4:23*)



GOSPEL: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28 The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 15th chapter.

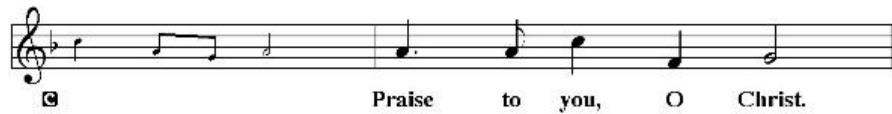


Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

[¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶ Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

The Gospel of the Lord.



HOMILY (LBW p. 63) *Silence for reflection may follow.*

HYMN OF THE DAY *In Christ There Is No East or West* (LBW 359)



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where their high com - mu - nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
All chil-dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

APOSTLES' CREED (LBW p. 64)

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

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

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

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

**Or, He descended to the dead.*

UPCOMING COMMEMORATION

Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153 Thursday, August 20, 2026

Bernard, a Cistercian monk, was a man of great spirituality who wrote mystical works and criticized those whom he thought took an overly intellectual approach to the faith. He became an abbot, and wrote several hymns that are still beloved today.

PRAYER LIST

Prayers for former President Joe Biden, Prayers for the friends and family of Lindsay Graham as they mourn his passing, Prayers for Bishop Christa Compton and her family with the passing of her mother Nancy, Prayers for St. Ambrose in Pennsville as they continue their pastoral search, Prayers for our service men and women serving in the current military actions, especially for those we have lost, Holly & Duane, The family of Norman Albinson as they mourn his passing, Dawn Allen, Anna-Beth Arnes, The family of Anthony Assante as they mourn his passing, Nicholas Baud, Jessica Black, Lorraine Brecht, Wanda Bryan, Madelene Budd, Mike Bundy, Justin Buzby and family, Sal Castelli, Jenn Causey and family, Tracey Causey, Lisa Clark, Josh Clarke, Maverick 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, The family of Nicholas Damiani as they mourn his passing, Lou Deaine, The

family of Tony DelMonte as they mourn his passing, Dylan Dinh, Kathy Drew, the family of Harry Duckinfield as they mourn his passing, Kristen Dymond, Barbara Esposito, Barbara Facchine, Bill Flynn, Francis, Jeannie Gapinski, Alma Garcia, Stephen and Juliet Genovese, Walter Gifford, Gavin Gigliotti, Lauren Stott Gilbert, Jay Goheen and family, Randi Gordon, Collet Grasso, The family and friends of Gretchen Gravinese as they mourn her passing, The family of Steve Harris as they mourn his passing, the Hatcher family, The friends and family of Jim Hynes as they mourn his passing, the Hogan family, Ed Jeffers, The friends and family of Tom Jones as they mourn his passing, Marilyn Kaiser, Chaley Klotz, Prayers for the friends and family of Ralph Konschak as they mourn his passing, Martha Kryzwonas, John Lafferty, William & Adrienne Lafleche, Grace Laphan, Pat Larkin, Joe Lewandowski, Desmond Licata, Joseph Lonia, Bill Ludwig, Bill Mann, Joseph Mansfield, John Markovski, Janaq Minzy and her family, Jim Montisano, The friends and family of Mary Alice Morrison as they mourn her passing, George Muth, Bob and Sue Nevins, Janet Ostrowski, Lucas Otey, Otis, Donna Paone, Rita Paul, Danielle Peters, Debbie Post, Lauren Rebstock, The family of Bill Reese as they mourn his passing, The family of Lewis Richards as they mourn his passing, Jen Rossi, 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 Skramsad, The family of Deb Solt as they mourn her passing, Julia Stanz, Claudia Storhoff, Nathan Storhoff, Samantha Sumner, Donna Testa, Ed Tutka, The friends and family of Lynne Rasmussen Walker as they mourn her passing, Sharon Walker, Wayne Weaver, The Wilke family including Tim & Catherine, Jill Wilt, Glenn Wrigley, The family of Kevin Yandach as they mourn his passing.

THE PRAYERS

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

For believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

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

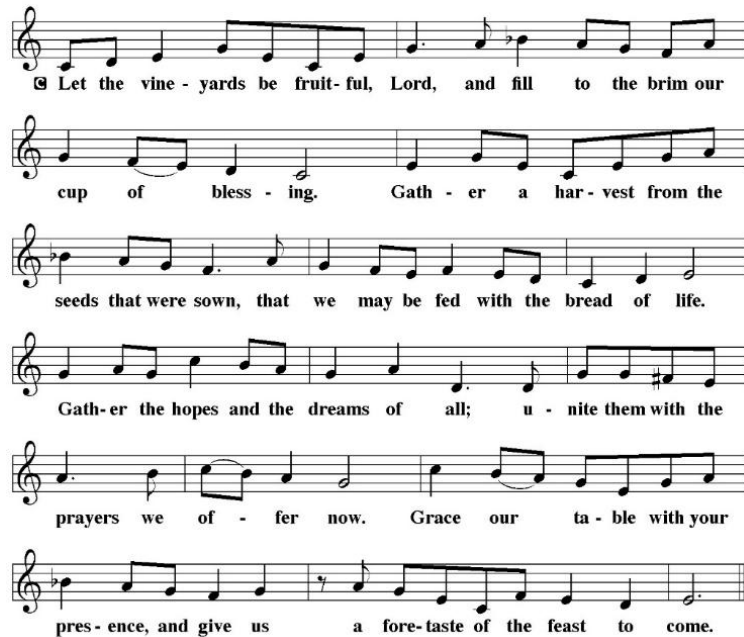
The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

OFFERTORY

O Rest in the Lord

F. Mendelssohn

OFFERTORY VERSE (LBW p. 66)



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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

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 him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
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 (LBW p. 69)

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

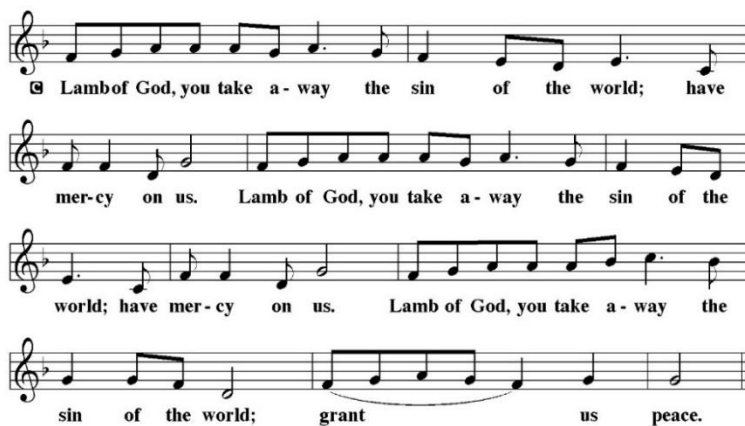
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

COMMUNION HYMN (LBW p. 72)



COMMUNION

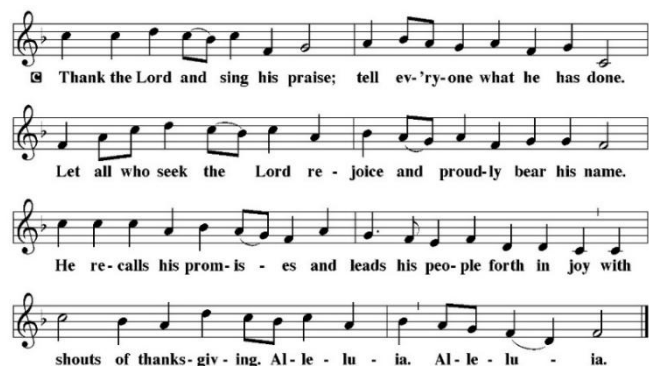
The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

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

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (LBW p. 72)



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Compassionate God, **through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING RITE 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

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, (+) one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Jesus Shall Reign* (LBW 530 v. 1, 3, 5)



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Offering received August 8th and 9th--\$2698.00. Weekly amount needed to meet the spending plan--\$2614.00. Total received to date--\$81935.81. Amount needed to date--\$83648.00. **(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.

- Reminder! If you sign up to sponsor altar flowers (\$35) or sanctuary candle (\$10), please remember your payment. Also, please let the church office know how you would like your dedication to read in the bulletin.
- BREAKFAST MINISTRY—Christ Episcopal Church in Woodbury has launched a new breakfast ministry. It offers free cold breakfast to the Woodbury community on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 8 am to 10 am in the Parish Hall at 62 Delaware Avenue. Please keep this ministry in your prayers. The next date is September 19, 2026.
- IT'S GLEANING TIME—The Greater Woodbury Cooperative Food Ministries is seeking volunteers to sort fresh vegetables for our food pantry. A schedule and complete information can be found at www.bushelsofblessings.org. Questions? Contact Lori Kershaw (609-221-3880) Or Lenore Cronlund (609-220-4079).
- Donations through Venmo and PayPal--Please note that, per council policy, if you make an electronic donation through Venmo or PayPal, it will not be recorded on your annual giving statement. It is the member's responsibility to track these donations for tax purposes.
- Shop Rite shopping cards are available for purchase after the services.
- ST. PETER'S COMMUNITY PANTRY is here to help serve those facing food insecurity in Gloucester County. If you are having a difficult time buying food for yourself, or your family, please let us try to make a small difference for you. The Pantry is located behind St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 304 Kings Highway in Clarksboro. We are open every 3rd Saturday of the Month from 9 AM to 1 PM. Next distribution date: Saturday, September 19, 2026.
- GREATER WOODBURY COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES is a joint effort by 13 Faith Communities to serve people within our area. A major part of the services offered by the GWCM is through our Food Pantries and Clothing Distribution Center. Clients in need of assistance are given a standard assortment of grocery items according to the size of their family, plus fresh fruits and vegetables and special treats. They are also now asking for donations of laundry detergent. They will also be distributing school supplies in July, so they are looking for donations. These donations may be left in the basket in the Narthex and we will deliver them to the Cooperative Ministries.
- Coffee hour between services is scheduled for the first Sunday of each month, hosted by the 8:30 service. Please come and join us for coffee and fellowship on Sunday, September 13th. (Please note this is a rescheduled date due to the Labor Day holiday,)
- Save the following dates:
 - * 1st and 3rd Thursdays through September—Wenonah Farmer's Market. Vendors, food trucks, etc.
 - * Saturday, August 29th—Potluck following the service, sponsored by the Saturday night attendees. All are welcome.
 - * Tuesday, September 29th—Red Cross Blood Drive (1-6pm.)
- HOLY NATIVITY MEMORIAL GARDEN ENGRAVED PAVERS--Our congregation created a memorial garden in our back yard years ago to honor or memorialize loved ones. We are offering the opportunity once again to purchase a paver to honor a loved one(s). The cost of each engraved paver is \$60. If you are interested in purchasing one please fill out the form found in the narthex and include it with payment in the offering plate or deliver to Pastor Andy or Kim Theriault. Each paver can have up to 5 lines/ 15-17 characters per line. There is a sample paver in the narthex for viewing. All pavers purchased by September 15th will be dedicated on All Saint's Day (Nov. 1st). Any questions, please see or contact Kim Theriault (609)420-8453.
- GROWING IN FAITH: THE DIAKONIA PROGRAM Growing in Faith is a ministry within the ELCA committed to fostering learning environments for followers of Jesus to grow in faith. Lay members of 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.



Donate

- There are two Planet Aid clothing bins in the parking lot. Clean items may be placed in the yellow bins: including clothing, shoes, bedding, towels, curtains, sleeping bags, socks, underwear, bras. They do not accept items that are tattered beyond repair, dirty, wet or moldy.
- If you have someone that you would like on the prayer list, please fill out a form in the narthex and place it in the offering plate or contact the church office email: hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com.
- The choir is on hiatus until fall. The first rehearsal is September 27th. (Choir rehearsals are on Sunday mornings @ 9:40.) All are welcome to join us.
- Live Sunday School sessions are on hiatus until September. Sessions will resume on September 13th. Church school resources continue to be available on our website on a weekly basis.

DISMISSAL (LBW p. 74)

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

God the Almighty

arr. G. Davidson

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

GOSPEL MESSAGE (Breaking Boundaries)

Jesus did not stay within the boundaries of his time, much to the frustration of authorities. He broke through not just geographic boundaries but religious, ethnic, and social boundaries as well.

Jesus intentionally broke geographic and ethnic boundaries in visiting the Canaanite communities of Tyre and Sidon. Canaanites and Jews had often been in conflict, so it was not that surprising when the disciples attempted to prevent a Canaanite woman from seeing Jesus. She was breaking boundaries herself in asking that Jesus heal her child. Jesus' first response seems harsh, but as the woman persisted and acknowledged him as "Lord" (something the disciples had been slow to grasp), he healed her child.

In this encounter, Jesus demonstrated that God's love cannot be held back by boundaries created by humans based on who we are, where we are from, what we have done, our background, our position in society, and more. God's grace and restoration are available to all, with no exceptions.

And yet, history is filled with accounts of bias, discrimination, oppression, segregation, persecution, and genocide. Tragically, this continues today in a multitude of ways and a multitude of places.

As present-day disciples, we are called to follow Christ in breaking boundaries, challenging biases, and welcoming all to celebrate God's love at the font and the table. So, what boundaries do we need to break to work for peace and proclaim the good news? How are we and our congregations fighting bias, discrimination, oppression, and persecution wherever we can? How are we persistently asking Christ to heal and restore fractured communities and nations around the world?

HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 Lenape Trail

Wenonah, NJ 08090

856-468-5760

hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com

Pastor: Andy Gordon Music Director: Chris Robinson

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

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

April Montana—Christian Education

Vince Montana—Property

Joyce Bradbury—Secretary Pro Tem

Donna DeFrank—Stewardship

Lori Kershaw—President/Social Ministry and Outreach
Kim Theriault—Vice President/Social Ministry and Outreach
Juliet Genovese—Council Member
Stephen Genovese—Council Member
Karen Cusack—Finance
Brett Montana—Youth Representative
Caryl Carthew—Financial Secretary/Worship and Music
Diane Yandach—Treasurer