

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 9, 2026

11th 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

Thy Strong Word



Introduction to the day

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

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 *Shout to the Lord* (ELW 821)



My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.

All of my days I want to praise the won - ders of your might - y love.

My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;

let ev - 'ry breath, all that I am nev - er cease to wor - ship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise

to the King. Moun - tains bow down and the seas will roar at the

sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;

for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.

Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

GREETING (LBW p. 57)

The minister greets the congregation.

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. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

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

C 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.

C 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. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

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

HYMN OF PRAISE (LBW p. 58) See next page.

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. [II] 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.

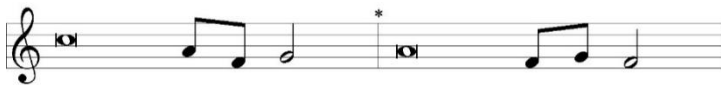
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

FIRST LESSON: 1 Kings 19:9-18 The First Lesson is from the 19th chapter of 1st Kings.

⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there.

¹¹ He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

PSALM 85:8-13 (The Psalm is sung responsively by verse.)



Refrain: I will listen to what * the LORD God is saying.

⁹ Truly, his salvation is very near to ¹ those who fear him, * that his glory may dwell ¹ in our land.

¹⁰ Mercy and truth have | met together; * righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹ **Truth shall spring up | from the earth, * and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

¹² The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity, * and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness shall | go before him, * and peace shall be a pathway | for his feet.**

Refrain: I will list- | en to what * the LORD | God is saying.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 10:5-15 The Second Lesson is from the 10th chapter of Romans.

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
in your mouth and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

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

WE RISE TO GREET THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. I wait for | you, O Lord; in your word | is my hope. Alleluia. (Ps. 130:5)



GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33 The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 14th chapter.



Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray.

When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸ Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



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

HYMN OF THE DAY *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* (WOV 781)



1 My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion,
2 Through all the tu-mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv-eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre-a-tion.
It finds an ech-o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

APOSTLES' CREED (LBW p. 64)

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

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

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

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

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

*Or, He descended to the dead.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Lawrence, deacon, martyr, died 258 Monday, August 10, 2026

As one of the seven deacons of the church at Rome, Lawrence was responsible for the church's financial matters and for the care of the poor. Asked by the emperor to gather the church's treasure, he presented a collection of orphans, lepers, and the like. The enraged emperor had him put to death.

Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, died 1253 Tuesday, August 11, 2026

A contemporary of Francis of Assisi, Clare and a growing number of companions established a women's Franciscan community, called the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She inspired other women to pursue spiritual goals.

Florence Nightingale, died 1910; Clara Maass, died 1901; renewers of society Thursday, August 13, 2026

Nightingale was born in England, and horrified her wealthy family by deciding to become a nurse. She led a group of nurses in ministering in the midst of the Crimean War, and worked for hospital reform. Maass, a native of New Jersey, was also a war nurse, and volunteered as a subject for research on yellow fever. She died of the disease.

Maximilian Kolbe, died 1941; Kaj Munk, died 1944; martyrs Friday, August 14, 2026

Father Kolbe was a Franciscan priest arrested by the Nazis and confined in Auschwitz. Kolbe gave generously of his meager resources, and finally volunteered to be starved to death in place of another man. A Danish Lutheran pastor and playwright, Munk strongly denounced the Nazis who occupied Denmark in the Second World War. His sermons and articles helped to show the anti-Christian nature of the movement.

Mary, Mother of Our Lord Saturday, August 15, 2026

The church (including Martin Luther) honored Mary with the title theotokos, meaning "God-bearer," for her role in giving birth to the Son of God. Her song, the Magnificat, speaks eloquently of God's lifting the lowly and feeding the hungry.

PRAYER LIST

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, Carol (daughter of Laurie Brown), 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, 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, 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 friends and family of Carole Rund as they mourn her passing, The family of Scott Rust as they mourn his passing, Noreen Ruyuh, Dylan Sauer, Ken Sauer, The Sauer family, Mark Sauer, Joseph Schiffer, Meleta Seher, Billy Shea, Helen Simkunas & Family, Joyce and Arvin Skramsdad, The family of Deb Solt as they mourn her passing, Julia Stanz, Claudia Storhoff, Nathan Storhoff, Samantha Sumner, 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.

We pray for the servants of your gospel in every place, that your word may be heard. Where your voice is scorned and your people persecuted, strengthen the church in its faithful witness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this world you have created, that all life may flourish. Preserve biodiversity in all its variety and help ecosystems to survive the extremes of a changing climate. Move our hearts with compassion to join in this work. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For leaders of towns, states, nations, and organizations, and all who are in positions of authority, that they lead with justice and integrity. Teach us to respond with Christlike mercy to all who are afraid or in danger. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all who struggle amid the storms of life, that they find peace and hope in your loving presence. Comfort any who are lonely and grieving and all who suffer (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this congregation and its ministries, that they reflect your love and life amid a turbulent world. Guide council members, elders, and other church leaders with your still, calm voice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

We give thanks for the faithful who have gone before us. Guide us in our earthly journey, that we may one day join them in your eternal kingdom. 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.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE—*Journey to Generosity*



Matthew 14:22-32

It is easy to feel discouraged within the mainline church these days. We hear about decline and we know that the culture has changed around us. Many congregations are not attracting young people and are experiencing financial stress. It feels like a storm is raging! Our boat seems to be taking on water and Jesus seems far away. Matthew's church had that same sense that everything not nailed down was coming apart. It is into that very situation that our gospel story speaks. Matthew's church needed more than simple words of encouragement – they needed to know that Jesus was in the storm with them to be courageous!

The good news is that in midst of the storm Jesus appears in the boat. The storm does not immediately cease, but the disciples find courage – enough so that Peter is willing to leave the boat and venture into the stormy

water with complete trust in Jesus. Sometimes the Risen Jesus sustains the church while the church is battered and facing into a wind that is against us.

Our willingness to continue to point toward the Realm of God by investing in mission is a way of giving testimony to our belief that Jesus is still present with us. Our practice of stewardship says we believe that the values of the Realm can reshape the world and bring calm to the chaos that otherwise might envelop us. Like Peter, the strong arm of Jesus is there to lift us up should we falter. Be of good courage!

OFFERTORY VERSE



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.**

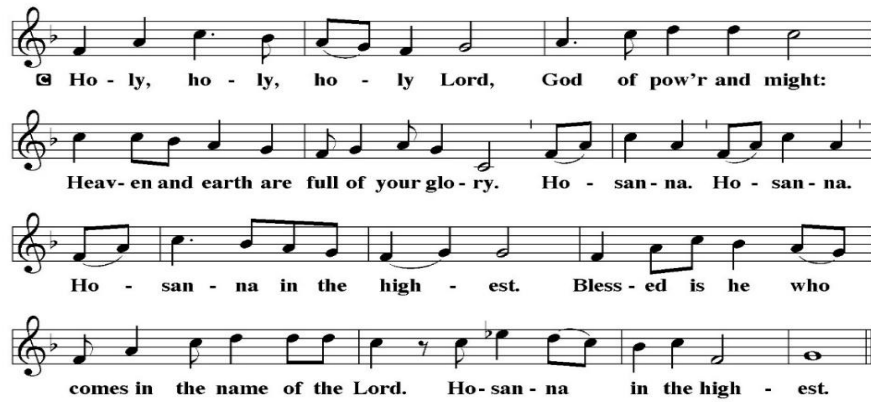
DIALOGUE, PREFACE AND SANCTUS

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:



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

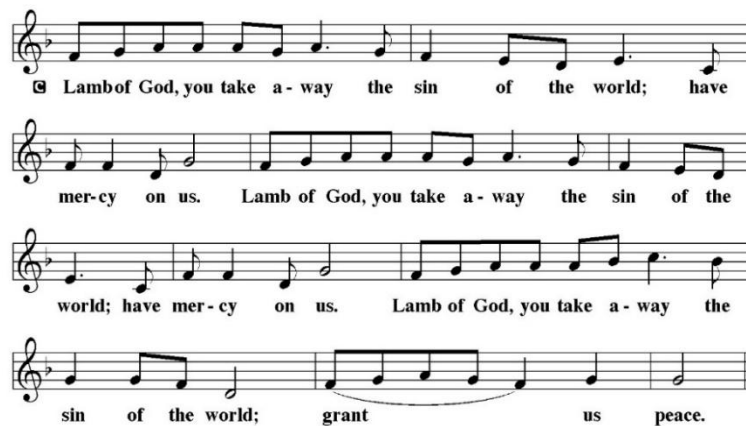
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 MUSIC

One Bread, One Body

COMMUNION

The presiding minister and the assisting ministers receive the bread and wine and then give them to those who come to receive. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

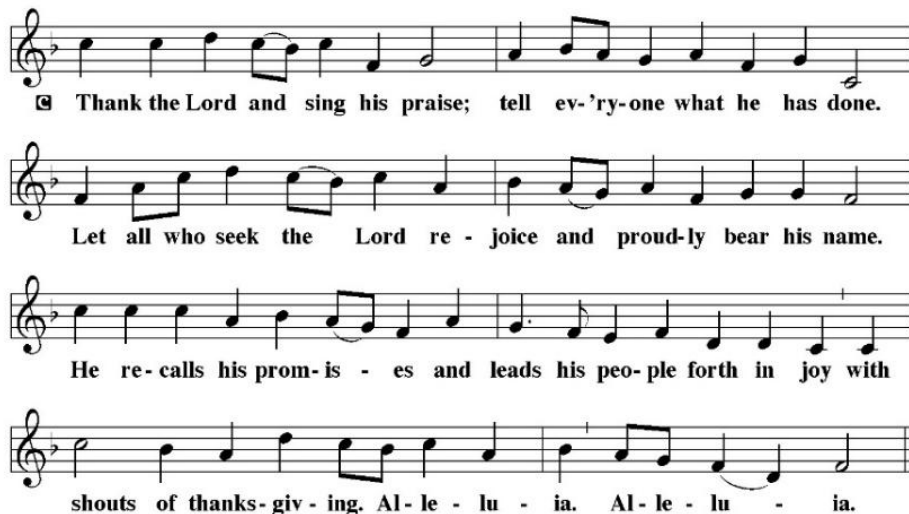
The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

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)



Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek 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.

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 -- 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 *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 August 1st and 2nd - \$3392.00. Weekly amount needed to meet the spending plan-- \$2614.00. Total received to date--\$79237.81. Amount needed to date--\$81034.00. **(Please don't forget the church if you will be away!)**
- The weekly bulletin is emailed to members each Thursday or Friday prior to the weekend. If for some reason you did not receive the email or have trouble opening the file, you can also access the bulletin on the church's website.
- **BREAKFAST MINISTRY**—Christ Episcopal Church in Woodbury has launched a new breakfast ministry. It offers free cold breakfast to the Woodbury community on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 8 am to 10 am in the Parish Hall at 62 Delaware Avenue. Please keep this ministry in your prayers. The next date is August 15, 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.



Donate

- 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, August 15, 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 this 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.
- 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

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

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GOSPEL MESSAGE (Take Heart)

Can you recall a time in your life when something happened that was so strange or out of place that your initial reaction was fear? Maybe you doubted what you were experiencing or seeing and even thought, *This is not possible. This can't be.*

The disciples must have been terrified when they saw something so strange that it should have been impossible—someone walking on water, toward their boat, during a storm. They thought they were seeing a ghost until Jesus said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:27).

Some say seeing is believing, but sometimes belief comes through experiencing. So, with Jesus’ encouragement, Peter stepped out of the boat and began to walk on the water. But when he realized how hard the wind was blowing, Peter started sinking and shouted, “Lord, save me!” Jesus reached out, steadied Peter, and said, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” (vv. 30-31). Then the storm ended.

We may be more like Peter than we realize. Maybe there are times when it’s relatively easy to trust in God—until we face something unexpected, frightening, or out of our control. Then doubts immediately overwhelm us.

The good news is that Jesus hears our cries and saves us. He is with us in our weakest moments, holding us even as our spirits sink. Take heart—Jesus is always with you, bringing peace amid the storms, faith amid your doubts, and new life out of death.

HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 Lenape Trail
Wenonah, NJ 08090
856-468-5760

hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com

Pastor: Andy Gordon Music Director: Chris Robinson
Guest Organist: Joe Powell

5:00—Harriet Vico; 8:30—Lori Kershaw; 10:30—Fay Stafford-Rambo

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