

# 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, May 17, 2026

7<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 by Tony and Denise DiRienzo in loving memory of their parents and grandparents.

The Sanctuary Candle is given to the Glory of God.

#### PRELUDE

*Morning Has Broken*

arr. R. Blake



#### Introduction to the day

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

#### GATHERING

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

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

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

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 *Oh, Love, How Deep* (LBW 88 v. 1, 6, 7)

1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
2 He sent no an - gel to our race,  
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore  
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught;

be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,  
of high - er or of low - er place,  
his ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;  
for us his dai - ly works he wrought,

that God, the Son of God, should take  
but wore the robe of hu - man frame,  
for us temp - ta - tion sharp he knew;  
by words and signs and ac - tions thus

our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
and to this world him - self he came.  
for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.  
still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,  
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
he bore the shameful cross and death;  
for us he gave his dying breath.
- 6 For us he rose from death again;  
for us he went on high to reign;  
for us he sent his Spirit here  
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

7 All glory to our Lord and God  
for love so deep, so high, so broad;  
the Trinity whom we adore  
forever and forevermore.

## 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 of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, 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 1:6-14** A reading from Acts.

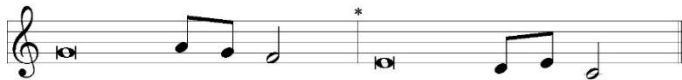
*Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>6</sup> When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup> They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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

**PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35 (The Psalm is sung responsively by verse.)**



Refrain: Sing | to God, \* who rides u- |pon the clouds. (*Ps. 68:4*)

**Refrain: Sing | to God, \* who rides u- |pon the clouds.**

<sup>1</sup> Let God arise, and let God's ene- | mies be scattered; \* let those who | hate God flee.

<sup>2</sup> **As smoke is driven away, so you should drive | them away; \* as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the pres- | ence of God.**

<sup>3</sup> But let the righteous be glad and rejoice | before God; \* let them also be mer- | ry and joyful.

<sup>4</sup> **Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who | rides the clouds; \* I AM is that name, rejoice | before God!**

**Refrain: Sing | to God, \* who rides u- |pon the clouds.**

<sup>5</sup> In your holy habita- | tion, O God, \* you are a father to orphans, defend- | er of widows;

<sup>6</sup> **you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners | into freedom; \* but the rebels shall live in | desert places.**

<sup>7</sup> O God, when you went forth be- | fore your people, \* when you marched | through the wilderness,

<sup>8</sup> **the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the | God of Sinai, \* at the presence of God, the | God of Israel.**

<sup>9</sup> You sent a bountiful | rain, O God; \* you restored your inheritance | when it languished.

<sup>10</sup> **Your people found their | home in it; \* in your goodness, O God, you have made provision | for the poor.**

**Refrain: Sing | to God, \* who rides u- |pon the clouds.**

<sup>32</sup> Sing to God, O kingdoms | of the earth; \* sing praises | to the Lord.

<sup>33</sup> **You ride in the heavens, O God, in the | ancient heavens; \* you send forth your voice, your | mighty voice.**

<sup>34</sup> Ascribe pow- | er to God, \* whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is | in the skies.

<sup>35</sup> **How wonderful you are in your holy places, O | God of Israel, \* giving strength and power to your people! | Blessed be God!**

**Refrain: Sing | to God, \* who rides u- |pon the clouds.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11** A reading from 1 Peter.

*Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.*

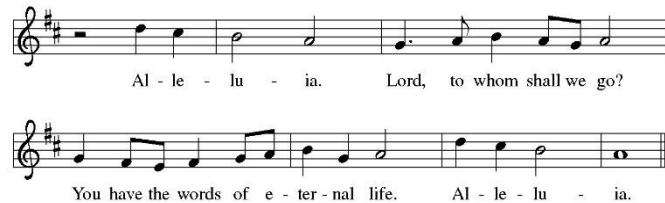
<sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

<sup>5:6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup> And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

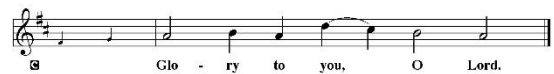
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## WE RISE TO GREET THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. I will not leave you orphaned, | says the Lord. \* I am com | ing to you. Alleluia. (John 14:18)



**GOSPEL: John 17:1-11** The holy gospel according to John.



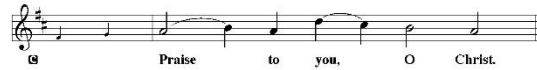
*On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.*

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and

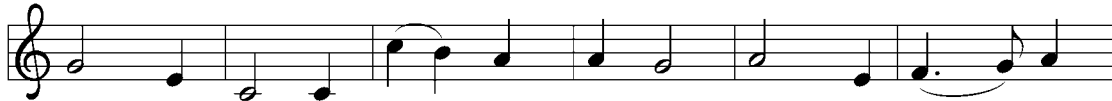
yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

The gospel of the Lord.



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

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *God Is Here!* (WOV 719 v. 1-3)



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

## 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.**

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

## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160 Monday, May 18, 2026**

Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.

**Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330 Thursday, May 21, 2026**

Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.

## 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, The family of Norman Albinson as they mourn his passing, 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 and Juliet Genovese, Gavin Gigliotti, Lauren Stott Gilbert, Mark Gismondi, Terry Gismondi, Wilma Gismondi, Jay Goheen and family, Andrew Gordon, 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, Samantha Sumner, 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.*

O God, your people sing praises throughout the church. By your Holy Spirit, inspire musicians, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim the gospel of Jesus. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your creative power fills the universe. Bring favorable weather, nurture plants and animals, protect us from natural disasters, and guide us to care for all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your justice is exercised in society by those in authority. Instill in political leaders, business leaders, school administrators, and all who care for others a desire for peace and equity. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your compassion and care come through the gifts of medicine and relationships. Soothe the anxious, protect widows and orphans, comfort those living with memory loss and their families, and heal the sick (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your love radiates from communities gathered in your name. Bless those experiencing significant transitions in life such as graduation, retirement, new employment (*other transitions may be named*), and accompany us in our prayers during these times. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

O God, your promise of eternal life is certain and sure. Inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in the assurances you give. 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.

## **CHORAL OFFERTORY**

*The Prayer*

C. Sager & D. Foster

## **OFFERTORY VERSE**



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
 blessing. 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 FOR SUNDAYS OF EASTER

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE, PREFACE AND SANCTUS

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

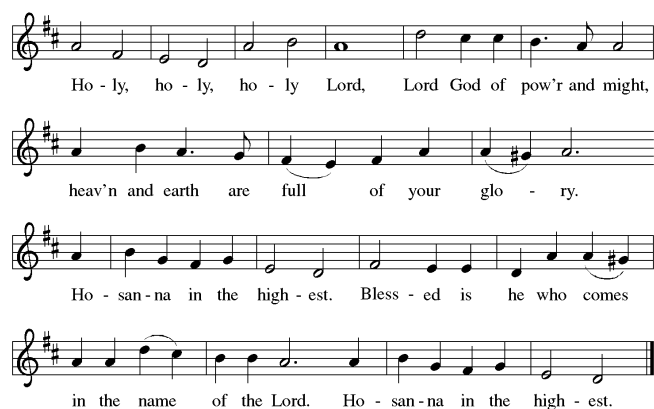
Lift up your hearts.

**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

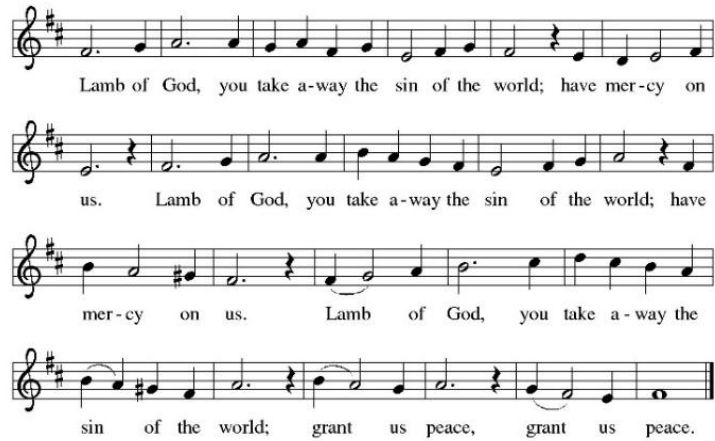
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.

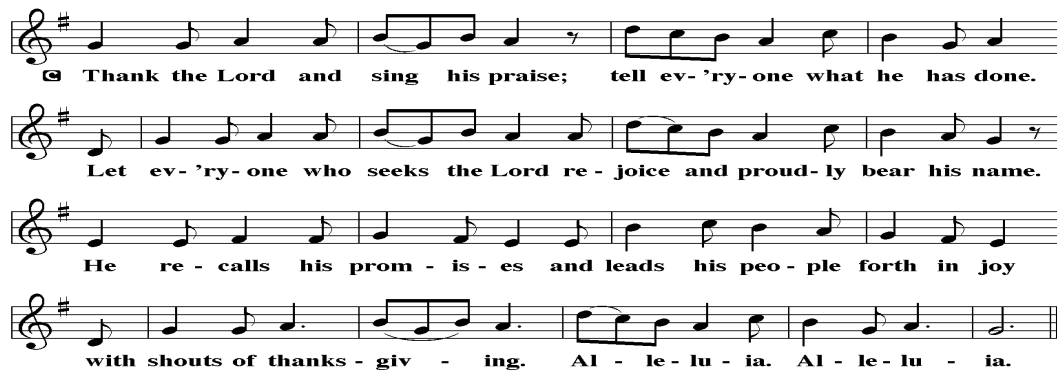
**COMMUNION**

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 *God Is Here!* (WOV 719 v. 4)

4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt,  
keep us faithful to the gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Offering received May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> - \$2490.00. Weekly amount needed to meet the spending plan-- \$2614.00. Total received to date—\$49491.00. Amount needed to date--\$49666.00. (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.
- 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. They will also be distributing school supplies in July, so they are looking for donations. Finally, they give packages of boxers/briefs to men for Father's Day. 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. Come and join us for coffee and fellowship Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Save the following dates:
  - \* Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>—Church BBQ (5-7 pm)



Donate

- \* Sunday, May 31—A Salute to the Music of America—3 pm. Golden Eagle Community Band—Masonic Village Fellowship Center, 1114 Oxmead Rd., Burlington, NJ 08016
- \* 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 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

*God Be With You*

arr. S. Jarrell

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## GOSPEL MESSAGE (A Focus on Relationship)

The prayers of Jesus in today's reading come at the conclusion of what is called the "Farewell Discourse" in John's gospel, which takes place prior to Jesus' arrest in the garden. In this discourse Jesus repeatedly emphasizes themes of relationship, mutual love, and service as he teaches, gives final instructions, and prays for the disciples.

In John, more than in the other three gospels, *relationship* is the ultimate focus of the life of faith. Jesus' mission on earth is to bring people into knowledge of and relationship with God the Father. Jesus exemplifies perfect relationship with the Father and wants all people to know this same intimacy with God. He also prays that his disciples might live in such a loving and mutual relationship with one another. Moreover, he prays that we might be one, so that our unity reflects the unity of the Father and the Son.

Our relationship with God is strengthened and refreshed in faith communities that worship together, attend to each other's needs, and serve others and creation in acts of love and compassion. In the Bantu languages and philosophy of Africa, *ubuntu* refers to the moral conviction that "I am because you are," or "I am because we are." Ubuntu recognizes that our well-being and our futures are bound up in the well-being and the future of others.

Christianity is a religion of relationship, not of self-efficacy. In an increasingly individualistic and fragmented world, our faith in Christ demonstrates a bold witness to the power and beauty of community. How might Jesus be leading us and the church in this subversive work? How might mutual love and interdependence be signs of our faith, forging a path of healing for our broken 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—Diane Yandach

**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