

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, October 12, 2025

18th Sunday after Pentecost LBW Holy Communion Setting Two/Rite of Baptism

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

In response to God's overwhelming love, we stand in awe of the wideness of God's mercy and by God's Spirit we welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. In faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, mindful of our Lutheran emphasis on grace, and rejoicing in the celebration of our shared baptismal journey, we welcome all as members of our church family including any who have ever felt excluded by the Church for any of the reasons that too often divide us.

We are so glad you have joined us today!

First-time guests: *Please fill out a Communion Card and place it in the offering plate.* Newcomer orientations are held on various days several times a year for those who are interested in learning more about HNLC.

Restrooms are located in the hallway between the lobby and our fellowship hall.

Today's Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of the baptism of James Aaron Nelson.

The Sanctuary Candle is given by Dot Kelleher in loving memory of her husband Joseph Kelleher.

PRELUDE

Hiding in Thee

arr. H. DeCou



Introduction to the day

It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in holy communion have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.

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, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful and loving God, **we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of (+) Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* (LBW 549 v. 1 & 2)



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet your trib - ute bring.
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis - tress.
3 Tend - er - ly he shields and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows.
4 An - gels help us to a - dore him, who be - hold him face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais-es sing.
Praise him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
In his hands he gent - ly bears us, res-cues us from all our foes.
Sun and moon bow down be - fore him; all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

GREETING (LBW p. 78)

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. 78)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE (LBW p. 79)

Refrain
Assisting minister



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

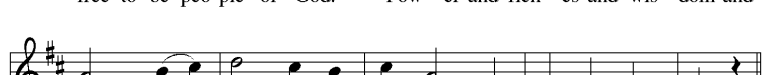
All



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

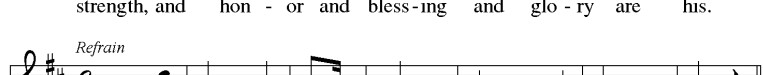


free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and

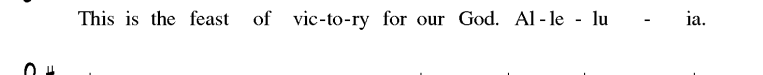


strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

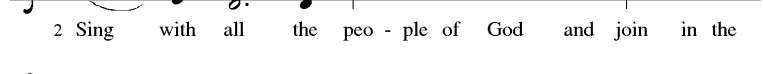
Refrain



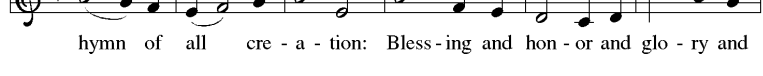
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



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

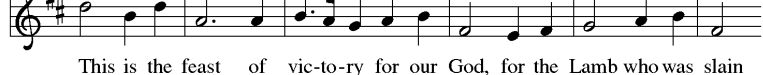


might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

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 (LBW p. 82)

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

Let us pray. . . Almighty God, **source of every blessing, your generous goodness comes to us anew every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

FIRST LESSON: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c The First Lesson is from the 5th chapter of 2nd Kings.

Naaman, a Syrian general, suffers from leprosy. In this passage Elisha miraculously cures his illness, but only after Naaman realizes, with the help of his servants, that he also needs healing for his pride. This foreign general then acknowledges the sovereignty of the God of Israel.

¹ Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from a skin disease. ² Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she

served Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his skin disease."

⁷ When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his skin disease? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

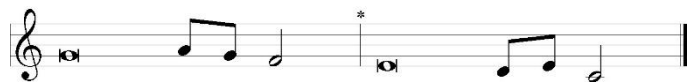
⁸ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel."

⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean." ¹¹ But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God and would wave his hand over the spot and cure the skin disease! ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" ¹⁴ So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

^{15a, b, c} Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel."

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

PSALM: Psalm 111 (The Psalm is sung responsively by verse.)



Refrain: I will give thanks | to the LORD * with | my whole heart. (*Ps. 111:1*)

Refrain: I will give thanks | to the LORD * with | my whole heart.

¹ Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart, * in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

² **Great are the deeds | of the LORD! * They are studied by all who de- | light in them.**

Refrain: I will give thanks | to the LORD * with | my whole heart.

³ His work is full of majes- | ty and splendor, * and his righteousness en- | dures forever.

⁴ **He makes his marvelous works to | be remembered; * the LORD is gracious and full | of compassion.**

⁵ He gives food to | those who fear him; * he is ever mindful | of his covenant.

⁶ **He has shown his people the power | of his works * in giving them the lands | of the nations.**

Refrain: I will give thanks | to the LORD * with | my whole heart.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful- | ness and justice; * all his command- | ments are sure.

⁸ **They stand fast forev- | er and ever, * because they are done in | truth and equity.**

⁹ He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his cove- | nant forever; * holy and awesome | is his name.

¹⁰ **The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom; * those who act accordingly have a good understanding. His praise en- | dures forever.**

Refrain: I will give thanks | to the LORD * with | my whole heart.

SECOND LESSON: 2 Timothy 2:8-15 The Second Lesson is from the 2nd chapter of 2nd Timothy.

Though Paul is chained as a prisoner, the word of God is never shackled or confined. Timothy is encouraged to proclaim that word of freedom in an honest and upright life as well as in his teaching and preaching.

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, ⁹ for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹ The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

he cannot deny himself.

¹⁴ Remind them of this, and warn them before the Lord that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

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

WE RISE TO GREET THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. Give thanks in all | circumstances;* for this is the will of God in Christ Je- | sus for you. *Alleluia.* (1 Thess. 5:18)



GOSPEL: Luke 17:11-19 The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 17th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.** *Jesus' mission includes making people clean again. Unexpectedly, a Samaritan healed of leprosy becomes a model for those who would praise and worship God and give thanks for God's mercy.*

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³ they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself at Jesus’s feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

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

HOMILY (LBW p. 83) *Silence for reflection may follow.*

HYMN OF THE DAY *Now Thank We All Our God* (LBW 534 v. 1&2)



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

PRESENTATION OF JAMES AARON NELSON FOR HOLY BAPTISM

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

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

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

I present James Aaron Nelson for baptism.

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

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

Response: I do.

As you bring *your child* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:
to live with *him* among God's faithful people, bring *him* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *him* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in *his* hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture *him* in faith and prayer, so that *your child* may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through
word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *your child* grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

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

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support James Aaron and pray for *him* in *his* new life in Christ?

We do.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

*The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children.
The assembly may join in the responses.*

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

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

Response:

I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

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

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

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

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

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

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

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

*James Aaron Nelson, I baptize you in the name of the Father,**

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

and of the Son,

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

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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

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

The presiding minister continues:

Let us pray.

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

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

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

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

*James Aaron Nelson, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.***

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

WELCOME

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

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

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

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

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

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Teresa of Avila, teacher, renewer of the church, died 1582 Wednesday, October 15, 2025

A mystical writer and reformer of the monastic order (Carmelites) to which she belonged, Teresa may also be commemorated with John of the Cross on December 14. Latino Christians traditionally remember her on this date.

Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr, died around 115 Friday, October 17, 2025

Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch in Syria, the city where the name "Christians" originated. Ignatius is known to us from his letters, which encouraged Christians to live in love, yet stand firm in true doctrine.

Luke, Evangelist Saturday, October 18, 2025

Identified as the author of both Luke and Acts, Luke was careful to place the events of Jesus' life in their social and religious contexts. His gospel gives us some of the most beloved parables, as well as the songs of Zechariah, Mary, the angels, and Simeon.

PRAYER LIST

For the family of Charlie Kirk and praying for an end to all forms of political violence, The Community of Annunciation Parish in Minneapolis, MN, in the wake of the recent shooting, The victims, families and first responders of the Texas floods, Holly & Duane, Dawn Allen, Hal Battindorf, Nicholas Baud, Madelene Budd, Carol Carty, Sal Castelli, Jenn Causey and family, Tracey Causey, Lisa Clark, 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 Rosemarie Daffin as they mourn her passing, Nicholas Damiani, The family of Tony DelMonte as they mourn his passing, Alicia DiRienzo, Kathy Drew, Barbara Esposito, Barbara Facchine, Scott Fey, Bill Flynn, Francis, Bobby G., Alma Garcia, Gavin Gigliotti, Lauren Stott Gilbert, The family of Michael Gilletti as they mourn his death, Marie Giliberti, Mark Gismondi, Terry Gismondi, Wilma Gismondi, Jay Goheen and family, Randi Gordon, the Hatcher family, The family and friends of Ron Herrmann as they mourn his passing, the Hogan family, The family of Ken Jakubiak as they mourn his passing, The friends and family of Tom Jones as they mourn his passing, Marilyn Kaiser, The family of Robert Keen as they mourn his passing, Elise Kelm and the Kelm family, Corinne Klotz, Clara Kuter, The family and friends of Doris Lail as they mourn her passing, Grace Laphan, Pat Larkin, Joseph Lonia, The friends and family of Jessie MacGregor as they mourn her passing, The family of Doris Manogue as they mourn her passing, Joseph Mansfield, The McCall family in their time of grief and loss, Rob and Nona McDonough & family, Caroline Miles, Jim Montisano, The friends and family of Mary Alice Morrison as they mourn her passing, The family of Linsey Mullin as they mourn her death, George Muth, The family and friends of Carol Nardi as they mourn her death, Bob and Sue Nevins (suffering with a brain tumor), Janet Ostrowski, The family of Joseph Ostrowski as they mourn his death, Lucas Otey, Otis, Donna Paone, Danielle Peters, The family of Lewis Richards as they mourn his 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, Meleta Seher, Billy Shea, Helen Simkunas & Family, Joyce and Arvin Skramsdad, Richard Sylvester, Eileen Simpson, Julia Stanz, Sarah Stanz, Nathan Storhoff, Donna Testa, Corey Temean, Frank Temean, Ed Tutka, Sharon Walker, Rosie Ward, Winfield Watson, Wayne Weaver, Dolores Whilleson, The family of Michelle Whiting as they mourn her passing, the Wilke family including Tim & Catherine, Sue Willard, Jill Wilt, Shirley Yancer, Jerry, Pat and Kelly who are battling cancer.

THE PRAYERS

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation. *A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you lead your people to faith. Remind the church that your word flows into the world. By your Spirit, teach the church to share the word of God for the sake of the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Creating God, you provided cleansing and healing waters for Naaman. Water the earth's lands in parched places. Restore clean water to all communities, and guide the work of all who advocate for safe and abundant water supplies. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous One, you bring justice and wholeness throughout the world, and your righteousness endures forever. By your spirit, guide leaders of all nations and lands to right relationship with you and with one another. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, you know the needs of your people. Show mercy to those suffering in the world. Comfort those in need of your healing (*especially*). God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, you free us by your word. Help us, by your Spirit, to be transformed to live your word of freedom honestly and uprightly in our teaching, preaching, and serving. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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

Holy God, thank you for the witness of those who have died in faith (*especially*). Guide us to trust in the baptismal promise of resurrection in Christ. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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.

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

OFFERTORY

Here in This Place

Marty Haugen, arr. Joe Powell

Bells—Leo Montana / Alto Recorder—Joe Powell

OFFERTORY VERSE

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE, PREFACE AND SANCTUS (LBW p. 87)

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. 89)

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

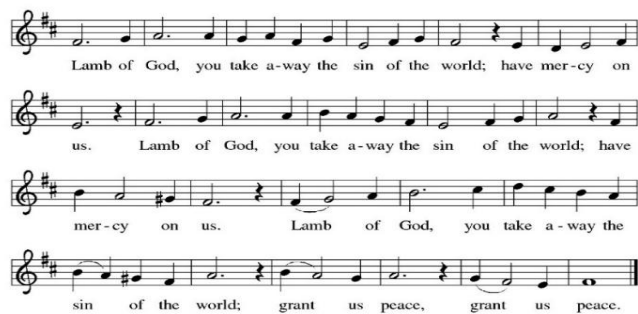
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

COMMUNION HYMN (LBW p. 92)



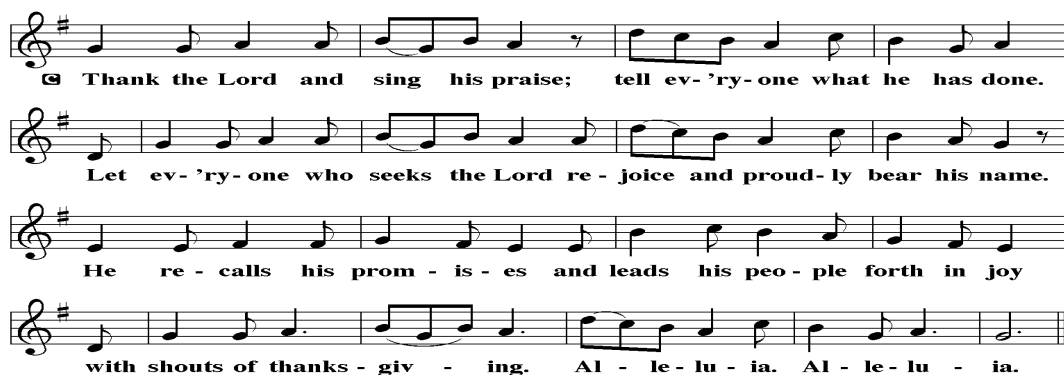
COMMUNION (LBW p. 91)

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

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

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (LBW p. 92)

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



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

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 righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, (+) bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Now Thank We All Our God (isometric)* (LBW 534 v. 3)

3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Offering received October 4th and 5th - \$4720.00. Weekly amount needed to meet the spending plan--\$2498.00. Total received to date--\$92290.95. Amount needed to date--\$9920.00. (We are currently about \$7600.00 behind our spending plan goal. Please don't forget the church if you will be away.)
- 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.

- We are looking to add some members to our offering counting team. We would like to set up a rotating schedule to make it convenient for everyone. We typically count the offering on Sundays after the 10:30 service, but we could also count on Mondays if needed. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Caryl Carthew (856-905-2830 or carthew99@comcast.net).
- Due to a data corruption, we have lost the list of birthdays and anniversaries. As a result, we need to rebuild the database. We typically include birthdays and anniversaries in the monthly newsletters. If you would like to be included in this listing, please fill out a slip and drop it in the offering plate. The slips can be found on the table at the rear of the church. If you will not be at church, you can also email the information to the church account (hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com). (We are only looking to collect month and day, not year.)
- Thank you to all who helped with the blood drive or donated. The Red Cross was able to collect 19 units of blood which will potentially help ~ 57 patients. They are very appreciative of our willingness to host these drives. The next one is scheduled for March 3, 2026.
- Feed The Northeast 2025--For the month of October, we are collecting non-perishable food items to donate to the Food Pantry. You should bring your items this month to the church and they will be placed in front of the altar.
- We will again be assembling hygiene kits this year. If you have a THRIVENT account, please consider setting up an Action Team Grant to help with this project. This will enable us to have the funds to purchase items to fill the kits. If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Andy.
- The GWCM food ministry is requesting Thanksgiving donations to be distributed 11/18, 11/20 and 11/25. Please drop your turkey donation on those dates between 8:30am and 11am. There is not a lot of room to store so they will be given out as they are collected. Each family will receive a holiday bag with 7 items, donations are needed for those. Items are: cake mix, icing, stuffing, gravy, cranberries, canned vegetables and pumpkin.
- This year's NJ Synod Bishop's Challenge asks all NJ congregations to engage in the care of God's good creation by choosing one of the following action areas focusing on environmental sustainability, including Building, Grounds, Programs, Worship & Education, Community Action & Activism. Our congregation is already engaged in significant work with our church grounds. If you are interested in sponsoring one of the areas on our property, see the poster in the Narthex or speak to Pastor.
- 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, October 18, 2025.
- 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, November 2nd.
- Save the following dates:
 - * Wednesday, October 22—Chili Night (5:00-7:00 pm). Look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.
 - * Tuesday, March 3—Red Cross Blood Drive
- 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.
- Choir rehearsals resumed on September 7 @ 9:40. All are welcome to join us.

- Live Sunday School sessions resumed September 7th. Church school resources also continue to be available on our website on a weekly basis.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God.**

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GOSPEL MESSAGE (On Common Ground)

Ten people are healed by Jesus, but only one returns to thank him. That is the central tension of today's gospel story. But there is also a twist, one we may have missed if we were not listening closely: the one who thanked Jesus was a Samaritan.

The faithful of Jesus' time would have known all about the hostility between Judeans and Samaritans. The conflict between the two groups stretched back generations and generations. It was animosity so entrenched that people probably did not remember the specifics of the fight. They just knew they hated the other side. A Judean would never associate with a Samaritan, much less heal one of them.

But as we see in this story and others throughout the gospels, Jesus did not seem to care about the labels the world assigned to people: scribe or Pharisee, sinner or tax collector. Jesus also did not stop to consider whether the person was from Judea or Samaria. He looked into the eyes of all who came to him and saw directly to their humanity. He brought healing and wholeness to everyone.

Just as Jesus told the Samaritan, he could tell us, too, that our faith makes us well. God gives us faith that overcomes the destructive words of the world, allowing us to transcend barriers and labels and to recognize the humanity in each individual. God is also calling us as a whole community to go and seek out the Samaritans of our own time and place—anyone whom the rest of the world rejects and reviles—and show them the same compassion and mercy we have received.

God's love makes us whole. Words can hurt, but thanks to Jesus, words can heal too. More often than not, we will find common ground through God's power to heal, even among the Samaritans.

HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Wenonah, NJ 08090
856-468-5760

hnlc.secretary@hotmail.com

Pastor: Andy Gordon Music Director: Chris Robinson
5:00—Harriet Vico; 8:30—Lori Kershaw; 10:30—Stephen Genovese

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

April Montana—Council Person/President & Christian Education
Vince Montana—Council Person/Vice President/Property/Worship & Music
Joyce Bradbury—Council Person/Secretary
Donna DeFrank—Council Person/Stewardship & Finance
Lori Kershaw—Council Person/Social Ministry--Fellowship
Kim Theriault—Council Person/Social Ministry--Outreach
Juliet Genovese—Council Person at Large
Stephen Genovese—Council Person/Co-Treasurer
Karen Cusack—Council Person/Co-Treasurer
Brett Montana—Council Person/Youth Representative