

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 19, 2025

19th 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 by Corinne Klotz in loving memory of her parents,
Harry & Betty Riding's 71st anniversary..

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

PRELUDE

3 Variations on Praise to the Lord

Charles Callahan



Introduction to the day

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

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 *Jesus, Still Lead On* (LBW 341 v. 1-2)



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al - though the
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,

way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,

guide us by your hand to our Fa - ther's land.
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
till we safe - ly stand in our Fa - ther's land.

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 and everlasting God, **in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations.**

Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 32:22-31 The First Lesson is from the 32nd chapter of Genesis.

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

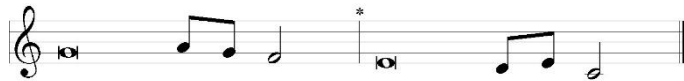
²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had.

²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail

against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.
²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."
²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."
²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed."
²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him.
³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved."
³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

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

PSALM: Psalm 121 (The Psalm is sung responsively by verse.)



Refrain: My help comes | from the LORD, * the maker of hea- | ven and earth. (*Ps. 121:2*)

Refrain: My help comes | from the LORD, * the maker of hea- | ven and earth.

¹ I lift up my eyes | to the hills; * from where is my | help to come?

² **My help comes | from the LORD, * the maker of heav- | en and earth.**

³ He will not let your | foot be moved * and he who watches over you will not | fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, he who keeps watch | over Israel * shall neither slum- | ber nor sleep;**

Refrain: My help comes | from the LORD, * the maker of hea- | ven and earth.

⁵ the LORD himself watches | over you; * the LORD is your shade at | your right hand,

⁶ **so that the sun shall not strike | you by day, * nor the | moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD shall preserve you | from all evil; * it is he who shall | keep you safe.

⁸ **The LORD shall watch over your going out and your | coming in, * from this time forth for- | evermore.**

Refrain: My help comes | from the LORD, * the maker of hea- | ven and earth.

SECOND LESSON: 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5 The Second Lesson is from the 3rd and 4th chapters of 2nd Timothy. *The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.*

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it

¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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

WE RISE TO GREET THE GOSPEL

Alleluia. The word of God is liv- | ing and active,* able to judge the thoughts and intentions | of the heart.

Alleluia. (Heb. 4:12)



GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-8 The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 18th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

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

HYMN OF THE DAY *Day by Day* (ELW 790)



PRESENTATION OF JAMES COOPER CRAWFORD FOR HOLY BAPTISM (ELW p. 227)

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

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words:

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 Cooper Crawford 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 children* 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 Cooper 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 Cooper Crawford, 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 Cooper 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 Cooper Crawford, 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.

The service continues with the prayers of intercession, or, if baptism has taken place in the gathering rite, with the greeting.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATION

James of Jerusalem, martyr, died around 62 Thursday, October 23, 2025

One of three early-church leaders named James, this man is identified in the New Testament and by a historian of the time as a brother of Jesus. Scholars are uncertain whether this means a blood brother. He was a leader of the church in Jerusalem.

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.*

We pray for the church universal. O God, who unites the church across the globe, bring unity and peace to a world divided by hatred and opposition. Turn our hearts toward the gospel of Jesus Christ. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. O God, who made heaven and earth, draw us to the beauty of the whole creation. Turn us toward a right relationship with the entire cosmos. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all nations, states, cities, and towns. O God, you rule over all the earth. Grant our elected officials (*names of officials*) humility in their decision-making for the sake of the entire world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. O God, who heals and strengthens, our help comes from you in times of need. Support, comfort, and heal those who suffer (*especially*). God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for (*name of congregation*). O God, who guides this congregation, encourage us to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Nurture our relationships with the community, that we serve and advocate for those who come to us in need. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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

We offer thanksgiving for the faithful departed. O God, whose promises never end, we thank you for all the saints who have shown us the way of your Son, Jesus Christ (*especially*). 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

Simple Gifts

Wayne Kerr

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.

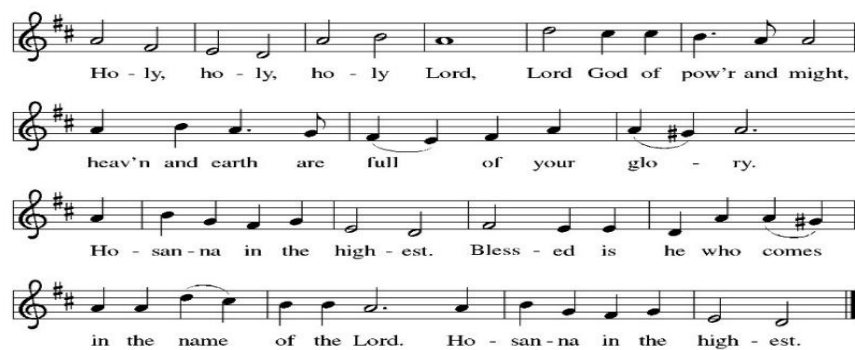
Lift up your hearts.

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:



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 (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 MUSIC

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Robert A. Hobby

COMMUNION HYMN (LBW p. 92)



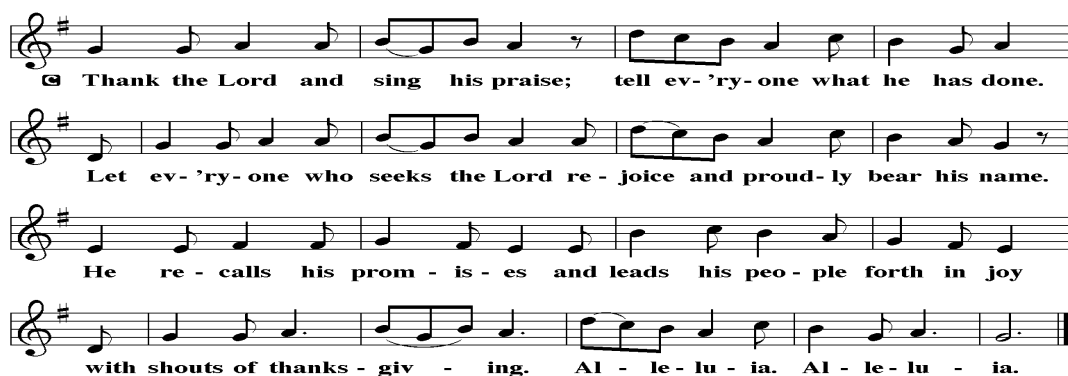
COMMUNION (LBW p. 91)

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 *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* (LBW 230)

1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je-sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, send peace and

by de- ceit or sword would wrest the king-dom from your Son
Lord of lords a-lone; de-fend your ho-ly church, that we
u-ni-ty on earth; sup-port us in our fi-nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e-ter-nal-ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Offering received October 11th and 12th - \$1967.00. Weekly amount needed to meet the spending plan--\$2498.00. Total received to date--\$94257.95. Amount needed to date--\$102418.00. (We are currently about \$8160.00 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.**

POSTLUDE

You Shall Go Out With Joy

Douglas E. Wagner

GOSPEL MESSAGE (Prayerful Perseverance)

How should we pray? What should we pray for? We might sometimes treat prayer like putting coins in a divine vending machine, and some rely on the story of the persistent widow to claim that God will indeed shower us with blessing if only we pray “enough.” Yet, despite fervent prayer, we don’t always get that job, the illness comes anyway, the doubts continue. If we take literally the claims of those who promise prosperity for God’s people, the condition of humanity suggests none of us has been persistent enough. Because, after all, life happens to all of us.

In Jesus’ parable, the woman is not praying strictly for herself; rather, she is praying for justice. A better word may be “vengeance.” The persistent widow is coming to the judge and crying out, “Avenge me! Avenge me against my adversaries!” Her focus is laser-sharp, and she does not give in to distractions. She waits with fervent hope that there will come a day when the judge brings balance, restores what has been lost, and humbles those who have done wrong. The widow is asking for something much larger than her daily needs. She is pleading on behalf of the world.

Like Jacob in Genesis 32, sometimes we wrestle with God, pleading for our own blessing. Our striving can feel overwhelming or even pointless. But Jesus invites us to focus and be persistent, to cry out to him day and night.

Though our prayers are not always answered in the way we want or expect, we can count on God to keep promises. We can count on a day when we are all restored. We can count on a time when God will avenge all of us against the crushing force of death. We can hang our hope on the fact that God receives our persistence with love, patience, and grace.

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—Fay Stafford Rambo

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