Easter

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**Nativity Lutheran Church**

1079 Bethlehem Church Road

Bethlehem, GA 30620

770-307-4628

**GATHERING**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Just as God’s work of creation never ends, so the gifts received in baptism are renewed every day. Let us give thanks together for the life given in baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life: for water to bathe in, water to drink, for waters to play in and waters that inspire wonder, for water that gives life to our planet.

**We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of life.**

We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place: for water from our tap, for rain, for the Apalachee River and Lake Lanier

**We give you thanks, O God, for the waters of this place.**

We give you thanks for your salvation through water: for delivering Noah and his family through the floodwaters, for leading your people Israel through the sea into freedom, for preserving your prophet Elijah through the time of drought, for guiding your people across the Jordan into a new land, for quenching the Samaritan woman’s thirst with living water.

**We give you thanks for your salvation through water.**

We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized, and for all who gather here; for godparents and baptismal sponsors, for children and grandchildren, for those newly baptized in this holy season; for our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we have never seen but to whom we are bound.

**We give you thanks for the life of all the baptized.**

We give you thanks for life in Christ through your Holy Spirit: for our entry into Jesus’ death through these waters, for our new birth into a life of freedom and service, for our calling to be your people, sent out for the life of the world.

**We give you thanks, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN 656**



**Greeting**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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**

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**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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**

### FIRST READING Acts 1:6-14

6When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8But 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.” 9When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11They 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.”  
  12Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. 13When 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. 14All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

**WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE THANKS BE TO GOD**

### PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35

1Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered;  
 let those who hate him flee before him.  
 2As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;  
 as wax melts before the fire,  
 let the wicked perish before God.  
 3But let the righteous be joyful;  
 let them exult before God;  
 let them be jubilant with joy.  
 4Sing to God, sing praises to his name;  
 lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds —   
 his name is the LORD —   
 be exultant before him.  
 5Father of orphans and protector of widows  
 is God in his holy habitation.  
 6God gives the desolate a home to live in;  
 he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,  
 but the rebellious live in a parched land.  
 7O God, when you went out before your people,  
 when you marched through the wilderness,  
 8the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain  
 at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,  
 at the presence of God, the God of Israel.  
 9Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;  
 you restored your heritage when it languished;  
 10your flock found a dwelling in it;  
 in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.  
 32Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;  
 sing praises to the LORD,  
 33O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens;  
 listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.  
 34Ascribe power to God,  
 whose majesty is over Israel;  
 and whose power is in the skies.  
 35Awesome is God in his sanctuary,  
 the God of Israel;  
 he gives power and strength to his people.  
 Blessed be God!

**SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

12Beloved, 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. 13But 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. 14If 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.  
 5:6Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. 7Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. 8Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. 9Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. 10And 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. 11To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

**WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE THANKS BE TO GOD**

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**GOSPEL** John 17:1-11 **Glory to you, O Lord**

1After 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, 2since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. 4I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. 5So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.  
  6“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. 7Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 8for 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. 9I 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. 10All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. 11And 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 Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** 247



**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.**

**Prayers of Intercession:**  Congregational response is “hear our prayer”

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

O God, call your people to be one, as you are one. Unite your church in the truth of your gospel, the love of our neighbor, and the call to proclaim your reign to all people. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Breathe life into your creation. Guide your people as we explore the mysteries of the universe. We pray for the work of scientists and mathematicians whose skill enriches our understanding. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your justice known among the nations of the earth. Protect the vulnerable. Redirect those who use violence and greed as weapons. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Come to the aid of your children. We pray for those engulfed in grief, those without supportive families, and for all who are isolated, powerless, or afraid, that all may rest their anxieties in your care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give courage to all who embark on new ventures. We especially remember this day those who risked their lives to serve in our armed forces. Grant safety to those serving at home or abroad, and assure them of your never-failing strength. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Drawn into the love of God most high, we pray for the congregations of the Magi Conference. This week we pray for Community of Grace Lutheran Church in Grayson and their Pastor Matt Henning. May they be guided by Christ’s love for all people as they love and serve their neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Raise all your saints to eternal life. Until that day, we give you thanks for the faithful examples of those who have listened to your voice and now rest in you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**peace**

The Peace of our Risen Savior be with you all

**And also with You**

**OFFERING**

*We ask you to follow the example of unbridled stewardship and generosity of the early church. Many of us are unable to give as we were before the shelter in place order, and it will take time to recover. God knows and understands. Gifts come in many different forms. If you are able to give, fulfill your pledge, or in some way contribute, we can and will use any gifts you give to be God’s hands in our community, as we always have done and always will do. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity, stewardship, and unselfish love of your brothers and sisters.*

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**OFFERING PRAYER (Please pray together)**

**Be known to us, O Lord, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, who knows no bounds of time and space, let us join together and pray as Jesus taught us***.**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, they 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**

**Blessing**

May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sending Song Hymn 655**



**Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**