

NATIVITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



3rd Sunday of Easter

10:15 a.m.

April 14, 2024

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ELW - SETTING III

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INTRODUCTION

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

P: = Pastor W: = Worship Assistant A: = All in Attendance *indicates congregation should stand if able.

PRELUDE: Prelude on "Eventide" - C H H Parry

(During the procession and recession please turn to face the Processional Cross and follow its movements to and from the Altar).

GATHERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship:

(a moment of silence for reflection as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.)

*ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

pg. 94

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, \pm one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

A: Amen

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Most merciful God,

A: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.



*GREETING

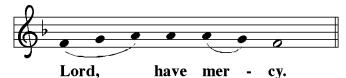
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

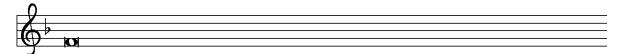
A: And also with you.



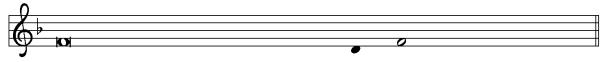


For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

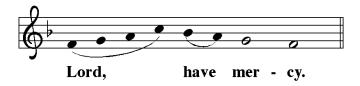


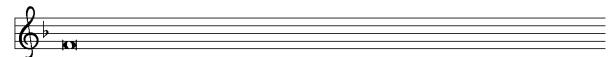


For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.





For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,







Continued on next page



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen

FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 4

The LORD does wonders for the faithful. (Ps. 4:3)

- W: ¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender ¹ of my cause; you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and ¹ hear my prayer.
- A: 2"You mortals, how long will you dishon- or my glory; how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?"
- W: ³Know that the LORD does wonders ¹ for the faithful; the LORD will hear me ¹ when I call.
- A: ⁴Tremble, then, and ¹ do not sin; speak to your heart in silence up- ¹ on your bed.
- W: ⁵Offer the appointed | sacrifices, and put your trust | in the LORD.
- A: ⁶Many are saying, "Who will show us ¹ any good?" Let the light of your face shine upon ¹ us, O LORD.

W: ⁷You have put gladness ¹ in my heart, more than when grain and ¹ wine abound.

A: 8In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

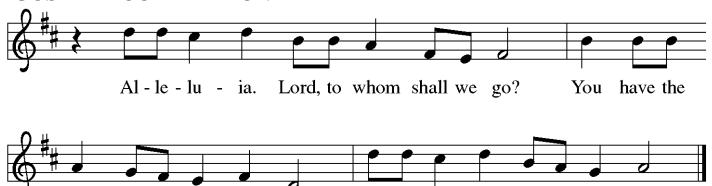
¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



life.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

words of e - ter - nal

Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

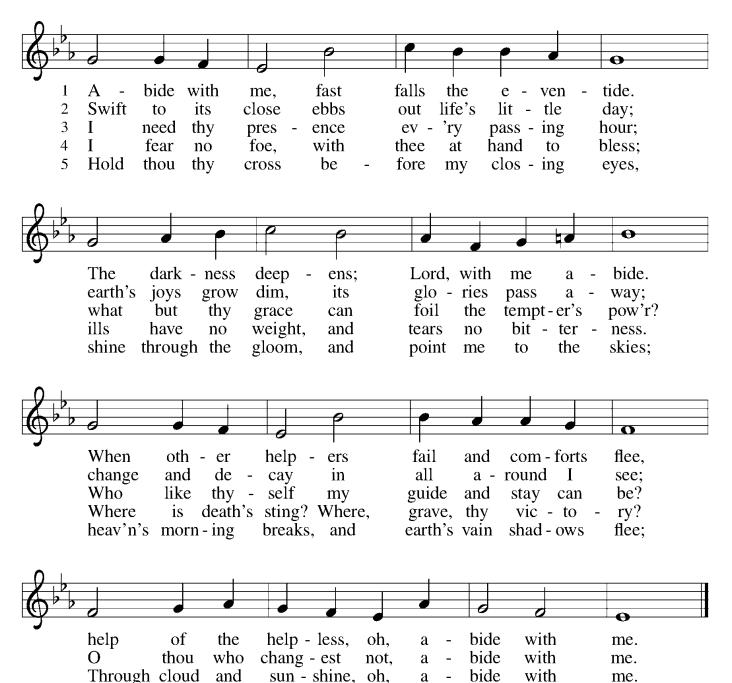
^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON



*THE NICENE CREED

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P: Let us now confess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed.

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A: 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,

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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

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

O God our holy one, you feed our deepest hungers. As we share the holy meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, lead us to share all that we have, and find, in generosity, abundant life. God of grace,

hear our prayer. **A:**

W: O God our creator, you bring forth all life on earth. Calm storms, bring water to parched places, and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in all its variety. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

W: O God our savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct lawmakers, judges, and elected officials to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

W: O God our comforter, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty. We pray for all who witness and experience violence or those who are searching for safety and aid, especially the people of Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, and Russia. We pray for all those who are sick in mind, body, or spirit, especially: Mike Riley, Michael Halcoussis, Shari Stover, Cheryl Kilbert, Dave Nicklas, Tom Eichenlaub, Kathy Schweikart, Paul Scalamogna, John Dillon, and all those whom we name in our hearts before you. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

W: O God our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember our identity and purpose in our ministry. Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in beloved community. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

W: O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember our beloved who have died. As we remember and share their love, comfort those who mourn. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

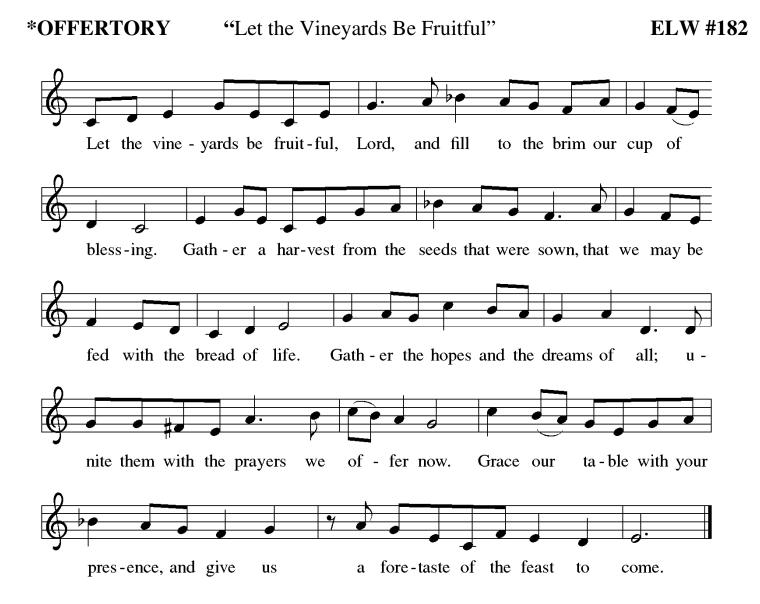
P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

A: Amen.

*PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

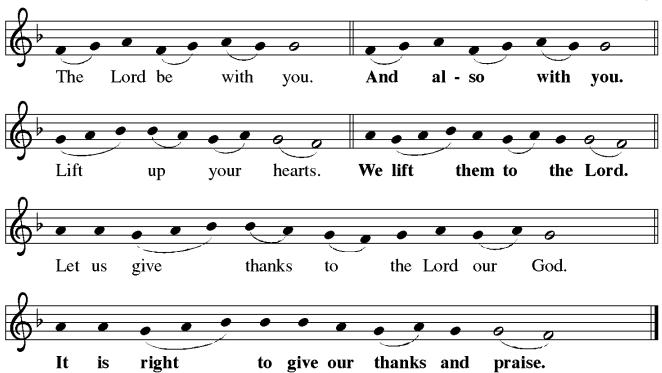
A: And also with you.



*OFFERTORY PRAYER

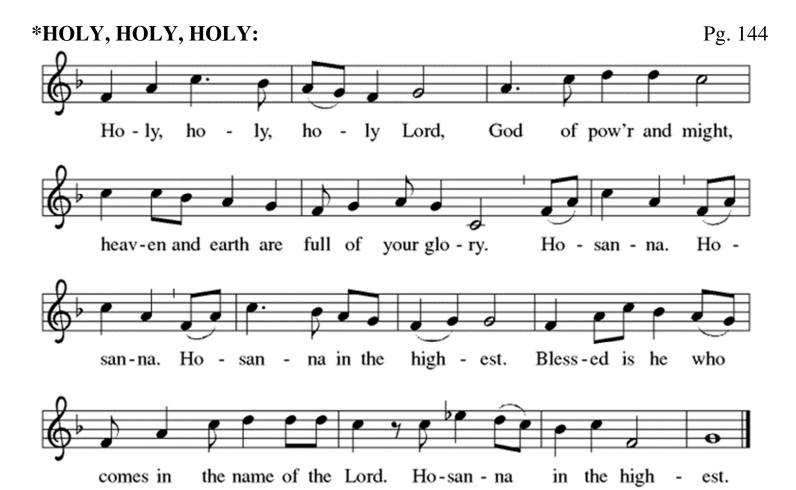
W: Let us pray together. Risen One,

A: you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.



*THE PREFACE

P: 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:



*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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P: 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:

- A: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P: 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.
- A: Come, Holy Spirit.
- P: 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.
- A: Come, Holy Spirit.
- P: With 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.
- A: Amen.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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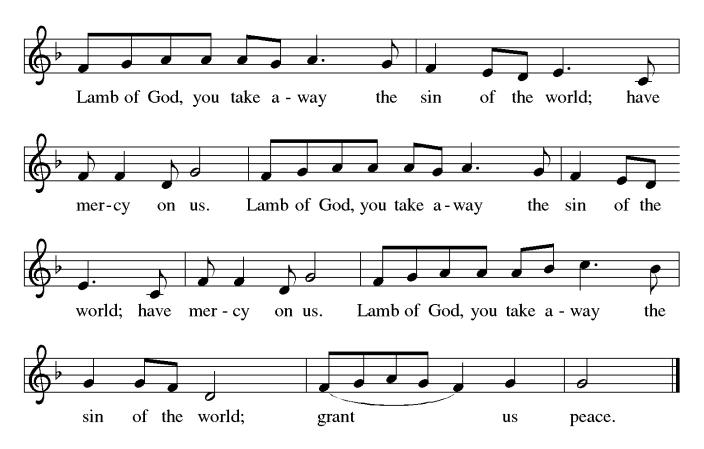
P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

A: 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.

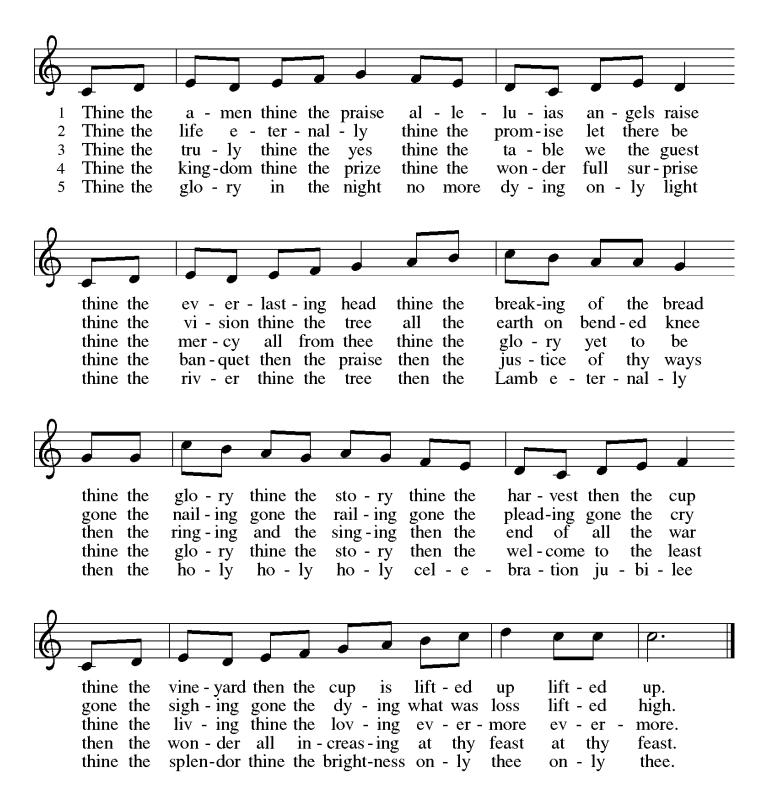
*THE PRESENTATION: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all is now ready.

LAMB OF GOD: Pg. 146



COMMUNION

There is a grape juice option in cups located in the communion trays for those who wish to abstain from wine. If you desire a gluten free wafer in lieu of the bread for communion, please let Pastor know.



*TABLE BLESSING

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

A: Amen

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE "Now the Green Blade Rises" ELW #379 (Stanza #1)



*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

W: Let us Pray, Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

A: Amen.

* BLESSING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

A: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always.

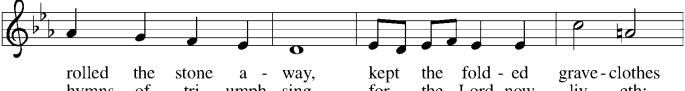
A: Amen.



- 1 Thine is the glo ry, ris en, con-qu'ring Son; end less is the
- 2 Lo, Je sus meets thee, ris en from the tomb! Lov ing ly he
- 3 No more we doubt thee, glo rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! greets thee, scat-ters fear and gloom; out thee; aid us in our strife; An - gels in bright rai - ment let his church with glad - ness make us more than con - qu'rors,



hymns of tri - umph sing, through thy death - less love;

kept the fold - ed grave - clother for the Lord now liv - eth; bring us safe through Jor - dan



where thy bod - y lay. death hath lost its sting! to thy home a - bove.

Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring



*DISMISSAL

W: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

A: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: In Death's Strong Grasp the Savior Lay

- Johann Sebastian Bach

* Announcements *

Next Sunday:

Children's Sunday school will begin at 9:15 am, the class will be learning about Daniel and the Lion's Den.

Join us for our **Adult Faith Formation lunch** at The Clubhouse, after worship (around 12 pm). Let Pastor Jen know if you plan on attending.

There is now a paper sign up sheet across from the nursery by the flower chart, to make it easier for you to sign up as a worship helper each week. On-line via Sign-up Genius is still available for those preferring that method also. Please let Kim or Pastor Jen know if you have any questions or issues with signing up.

As part of Nativity Lutheran Church's Social Ministry outreach, we will be collecting supplies for **NHCO's Spring Cleaning Collection**. Please see the flyer posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen for items needed or visit the Nativity website - Missions- NHCO. Donations can be placed in the bins under the coat rack or there is a QR code available for direct donations from Amazon. The collection runs through June 9th.

North Hills Community Outreach is currently in need of the following: Peanut Butter, Pasta Sauce, Granola Bars/Snacks, Canned Tomatoes, Soups (Chunks & Condensed) & Crackers. Please place all donations in the box labeled NHCO. *updated*: 04/09/24

The strategic planning team wants to hear from you! You are invited to come talk with 2 members of our team, in person at the church, during one of the following dates:

TODAY after church 11:30-12:30 & Wednesday, April 17: 1pm-2pm

If the group thing isn't your thing or if none of these in-person times are convenient, talk to someone on the team and we could set up a zoom meeting or phone call. Team members include: Ray Smith, Tom Beecher, Ruth Kiefer, Kenny Saunders, Alisa Michael, and Pastor Jennifer Soltis.

The conversation will include these questions:

What do you like about our congregation? What do we do well? What are our challenges? Our growth areas? If God has God's way with us, what will we be doing five years from now? What reputation do we want to have in our community?

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The Rev. Jennifer Soltis, Pastor The Rev. Cyril Hurnyak, Kantor

Worship Assistant: Ken Saunders

Lector:

Usher: Carol & Ed Banks

Greeter: Kevin & Pam Hoskins

Videographer: Heather Johnson

Altar Guild: Kim Brandt

Offering Tellers: Heather Johnson & Tom Beecher



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The flowers in the chancel are presented by Ruth Kiefer in memory of her father Ralph Meyer & Joanne Smith in memory of her mother Frances Smith

For the Week of April 14-20

TODAY Strategic Team available after worship

MONDAY AA meeting – 7pm

TUESDAY WELCA – 10am (Bible Study) **WEDNESDAY** Strategic Team available – 1pm

THURSDAY Choir Rehearsal – 7pm

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	<u>In-person</u>	YouTube	Offering
April 7	45	23	\$2,461