



NATIVITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Caring, Witnessing, Serving



9th Sunday after Pentecost

10:15 a.m.

July 21, 2024

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Today's service will be a Service of the Word.
There will not be Holy Communion during worship today.

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INTRODUCTION

Mark's gospel makes clear how great is the press of the crowd, with its countless needs to be met, on Jesus and his disciples. Yet in today's gospel Jesus advises his disciples to get away and rest, to take care of themselves. Sometimes we think that when others are in great need we shouldn't think of ourselves at all; but Jesus also honors the caregivers' need. We are sent from Christ's table to care for others and for ourselves.

L: = Lay Leader **W:** = Worship Assistant **A:** = All in Attendance

**indicates congregation should stand if able.*

PRELUDE: *Prelude on "Westminster Abbey" Charles Callahan*

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

GATHERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

L: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

A: Amen

L: 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.

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

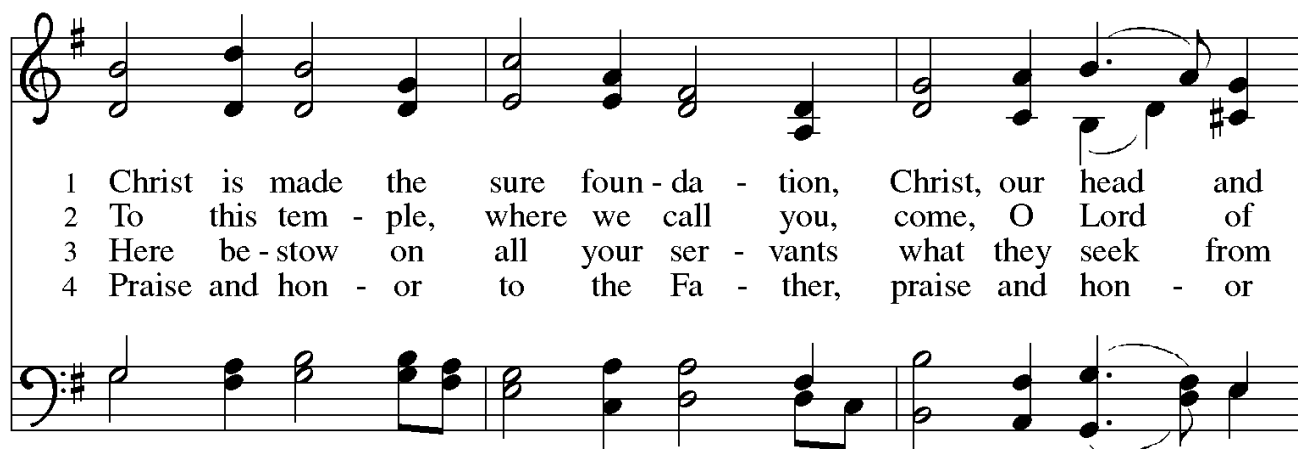
Silence is kept for reflection

L: Most merciful God,

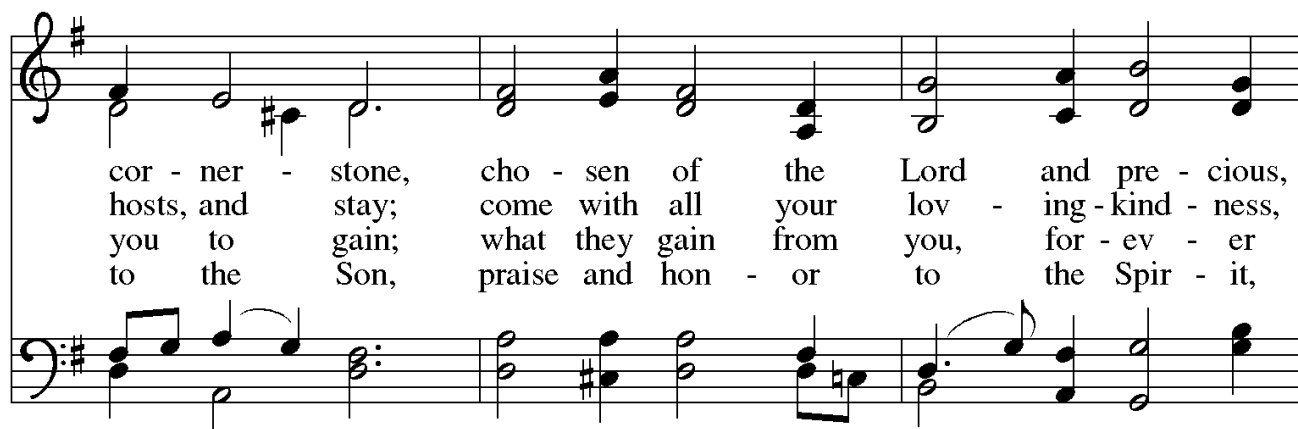
A: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, 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.

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. Amen.

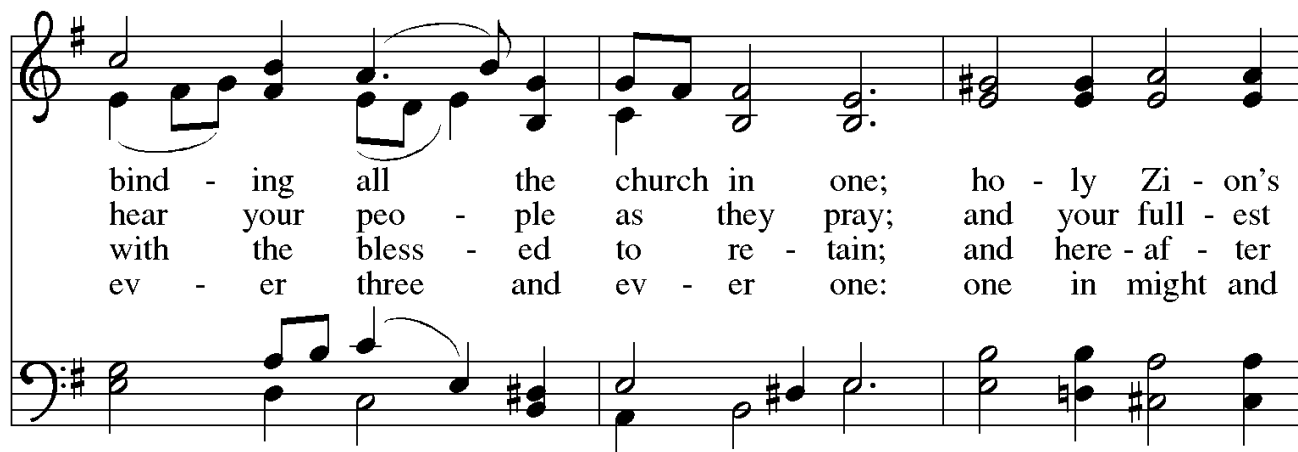
A: Amen.



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

***GREETING**

L: 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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Let us pray. O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Jeremiah prophesied before the exile in 587 BCE. In this passage, he uses the metaphor of a shepherd to describe the bad kings who have scattered the “flock” of Israel. God promises to gather the flock and to raise up a new king from David’s line to save Israel and Judah.

¹ Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ² Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

PSALM: Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

W: ¹ The LORD¹ is my shepherd;
I shall not¹ be in want.

A: ² **The LORD makes me lie down ¹ in green pastures and leads me be- ¹ side still waters.**

W: ³ You restore my ¹ soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways ¹ for your name's sake.

A: ⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall ¹ fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they ¹ comfort me.**

W: ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence ¹ of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is ¹ running over.

A: ⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days ¹ of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the ¹ LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:11-22

The author of this letter reminds his audience that originally they were not part of God's chosen people. Through Jesus' death, however, they are included in God's household of faith, whose cornerstone is Jesus Christ.

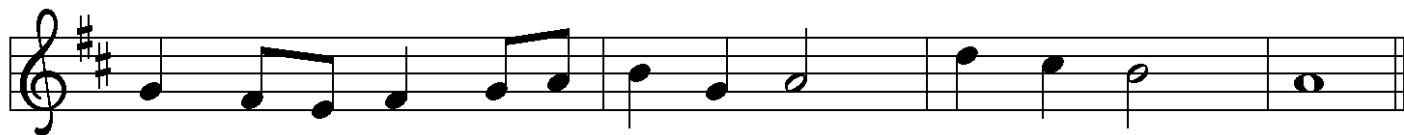
¹¹ Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—¹² remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵ He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷ So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: **Thanks be to God.**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the sixth chapter.

A: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

***GOSPEL: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56**

When Jesus sends his disciples out to teach and heal, they minister among large numbers of people. Their work is motivated by Christ's desire to be among those in need.

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹ He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

⁵³ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴ When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵ and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

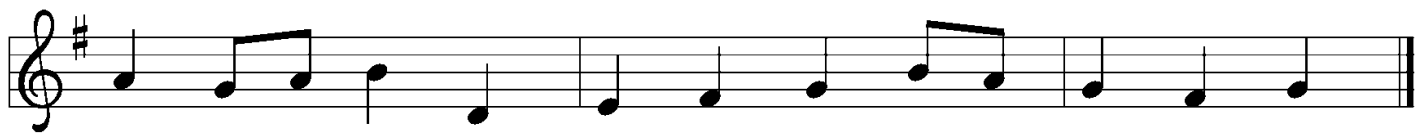
*HYMN OF THE DAY: "Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak" ELW#676



1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in
2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the
3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the
4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that
pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that
til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and



let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y•a heart.
glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

L: Let us now confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

**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.**

**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. Amen.**

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

W: One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

A brief silence.

W: For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land: Through the One who is the cornerstone of a firm foundation, join us together and build us up as a temple of mercy and peace. In your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

W: For the creation: Cause new trees to be planted. Restrain the melting of polar ice caps. Save land from destruction. Like a shepherd tends her sheep, raise up from among us caretakers of all you have made. In your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

W: For the leaders of nations and heads of tribes. Where peace seems far off, bring it near. Where justice seems fleeting, bring it to light. Where discord seems relentless, bring harmony. We pray for all those who witness and experience violence; especially those living amongst the cruelty and chaos of war. We pray especially for the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, and Palestine. In your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

W: For the health and well-being of family, friends, and neighbors: Heal those who are sick. Give courage to all who struggle with addiction. Touch with your tender care all who reach out to you in pain. We especially pray for *Rev. Kirk Bish, Bob Emmert, Cheryl Kilbert, Maryann Gilbert, Rev. Mont Bowser, Janet Liotta, Dan Chantz, Caitlin Boris, Rev. Jim Dollhopf, Tim Wargo, Matt Fickes, Ray Banks, Barb Grance, Tom Eichenlaub*, and those we name in our hearts before you. In your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

W: For this assembly and for the faith communities represented this week at the ELCA Youth Gathering: Nurture the faith of young people as they encounter new experiences and people. Break down dividing walls and inspire collaboration among people of every age. In your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

W: In thanksgiving for those who have died. Make us certain that in Christ we are no longer strangers and aliens but citizens with the saints in the household of God. In your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

L: Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

*PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

*OFFERTORY

“Create in Me”

ELW #188



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -



store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,



and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

W: Let us pray together.

A: God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

***THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD:**

L: Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: You spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, And brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

A: We give you thanks and praise.

L: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

A: We give you thanks and praise.

L: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your selfgiving love. For your Word of life, O God,

A: We give you thanks and praise.

L: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

A: Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

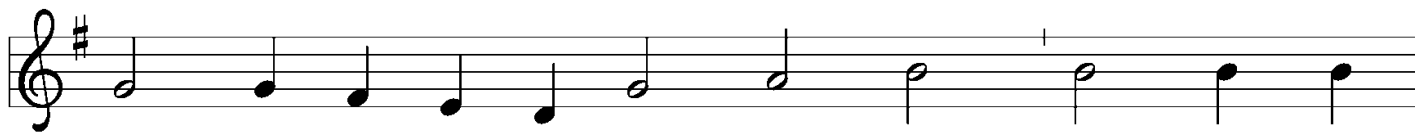
A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*** BENEDICTION**

L: The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord's face shine on us with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon us with favor and + give us peace.

A: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: "All People that on Earth Do Dwell" ELW#883**



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our
3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with
4 For why? The Lord our God is good: his mer - cy
5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his
aid he did us make. We are his folk, he
joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times
heav'n and earth a - dore, from us and from the



praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - jice.
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.
an - gel host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

***DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Maestoso* - Herman Schroeder



* Announcements *

We welcome back and thank Janice Jeletic for leading us in worship today. Janice is a trained lay leader for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod.

Next Sunday, July 28, please join us for a **special coffee hour** celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Ordination of Rev. Jim Dollhopf.

Calling all gardeners, we are requesting used garden tools and a garden hose that still have life left in them. As you might be cleaning out your garages, sheds, and basements this summer and come across some equipment that we can use at the church, we'll be happy to use it. Please see Tom Beecher if you have any questions.

Save the dates:

August 10 – Adult Picnic at the home of ILO & Heather. Detail's and signups will be posted across from the kitchen and on-line in the coming weeks.

August 17 – Kuhn's Grocery Collection from 9:00a - 3:00p. Your presence at this event for an hour shift or two would be much appreciated. Please sign up either on the bulletin board sheet or with [Sign-Up genius](#). Please see Carol Huffman with any questions

August 8 - Tour the Johnstown Flood Museum and The Johnstown Flood National Memorial. Nativity's WELCA group would like to invite any members of the congregation and/or friends to join us in a day trip to Johnstown, PA where we will tour two historic sites which relate to our reading of a fictional account of this event in our book review group. We will be carpooling from Nativity at about 8:30 a.m. on August 8. We will enjoy lunch at a local area restaurant. Anyone interested in joining our group for this trip should contact Ruth Kiefer or Judy Beecher by Sunday, August 4.

We are looking for offering tellers to assist with counting the weekly offering. You will count with a council member. Signups are posted across from the Nursery and also available on-line.

We are collecting supplies for the **NHCO Back to School Supplies** sharing project through August 4th. Donations can be placed in the bins under the coat rack.

North Hills Community Outreach Food Pantry Needs: Cereal, Boxed Sides, Pasta Sauce, Granola Bars/Snacks, Cooking Oil, Peanut Butter. Please place all donations in the box labeled NHCO. *updated: 07/02/24*

