



NATIVITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4517 Mt. Royal Blvd., Allison Park, PA 15101
(412) 346-4971 e-mail: NativityLC@verizon.net

www.nativitylutheranchurch15101.org

Caring, Witnessing, Serving



2nd Sunday after Pentecost

10:15 a.m.

June 22, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ELW - SETTING IV

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INTRODUCTION

This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

P: = Pastor

W: = Worship Assistant

A: = All in Attendance

**indicates congregation should stand if able.*

PRELUDE

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, ☩ 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.

***GATHERING HYMN: “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**

ELW #886



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



- the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.



- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

***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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray. O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen

FIRST READING: Isaiah 65:1-9

The prophet announces God's impatience. The people's self-absorption is idolatry, and images of practices that displease God fill this reading. Like a vintner who crushes the grape to release the wine, God will use Israel's exile to establish a new community of the faithful.

¹ I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,
to be found by those who did not seek me.

I said, "Here I am, here I am,"
to a nation that did not call on my name.

² I held out my hands all day long
to a rebellious people,
who walk in a way that is not good,
following their own devices;

³ a people who provoke me
to my face continually,
sacrificing in gardens
and offering incense on bricks;

⁴ who sit inside tombs,
and spend the night in secret places;
who eat swine's flesh,
with broth of abominable things in their vessels;

⁵ who say, "Keep to yourself,
do not come near me, for I am too holy for you."

These are a smoke in my nostrils,
a fire that burns all day long.

⁶ See, it is written before me:
I will not keep silent, but I will repay;

I will indeed repay into their laps
⁷ their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together,
says the LORD;

because they offered incense on the mountains
and reviled me on the hills,

I will measure into their laps
full payment for their actions.

⁸ Thus says the LORD:
As the wine is found in the cluster,
and they say, "Do not destroy it,
for there is a blessing in it,"

so I will do for my servants' sake,
and not destroy them all.
⁹ I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,
and from Judah inheritors of my mountains;
my chosen shall inherit it,
and my servants shall settle there.

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 22:19-28

In the midst of the assembly I will praise you. (Ps. 22:22)

W: ¹⁹ But you, O LORD, be not ¹ far away;
O my help, hasten ¹ to my aid.

A: ²⁰ **Deliver me ¹ from the sword,
my life from the power ¹ of the dog.**

W: ²¹ Save me from the ¹ lion's mouth!
From the horns of wild bulls you have ¹ rescued me.

A: ²² **I will declare your name ¹ to my people;
in the midst of the assembly ¹ I will praise you.**

W: ²³ You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's ¹ line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- ¹ spring of Israel.

A: ²⁴ **For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither is the LORD's face hid- ¹ den from them;
but when they cry out, ¹ the LORD hears them.**

W: ²⁵ From you comes my praise in the ¹ great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who ¹ fear the LORD.

A: ²⁶ **The poor shall eat ¹ and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts ¹ live forever!**

W: ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn ¹ to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow ¹ before God.

A: ²⁸ **For dominion belongs ¹ to the LORD,
who rules o- ¹ ver the nations.**

SECOND READING: Galatians 3:23-29

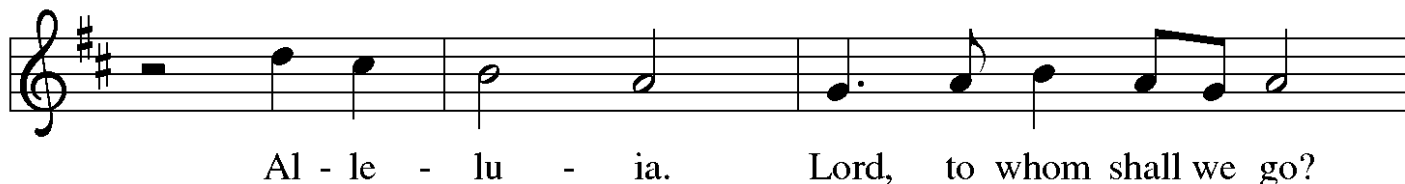
For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people not only with God but with other believers. Those who call themselves children of God experience a transformation that removes prejudices of race, social class, or gender in favor of true unity in Christ.

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the eighth chapter.

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

***GOSPEL: Luke 8:26-39**

Jesus' mission includes foreigners and his authority extends to the casting out of demons. Some who witness Jesus' work are seized with confusion and fear, but the man who was healed is commissioned to give testimony to God's mercy and power.

²⁶ Then [Jesus and his disciples] arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"—²⁹ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

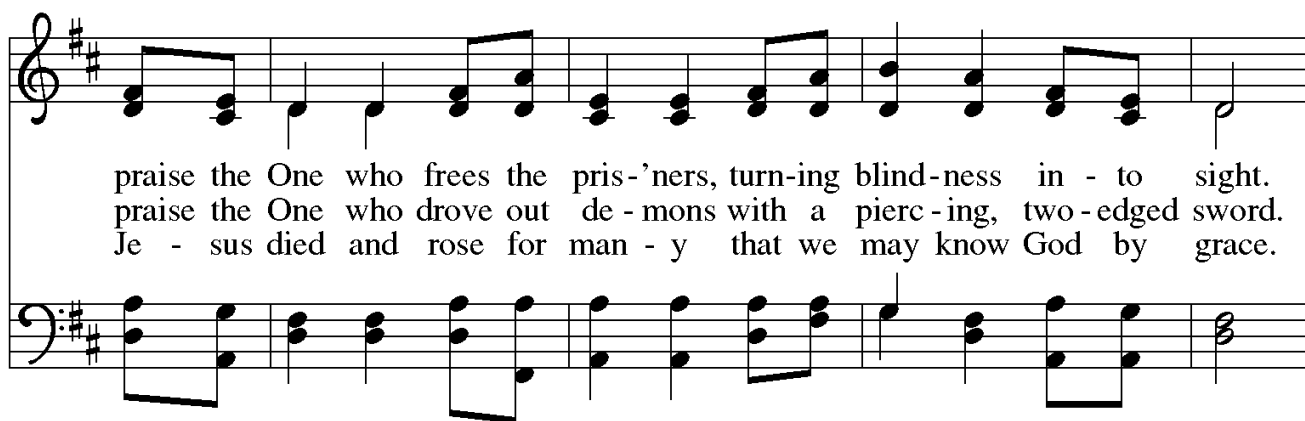
P: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

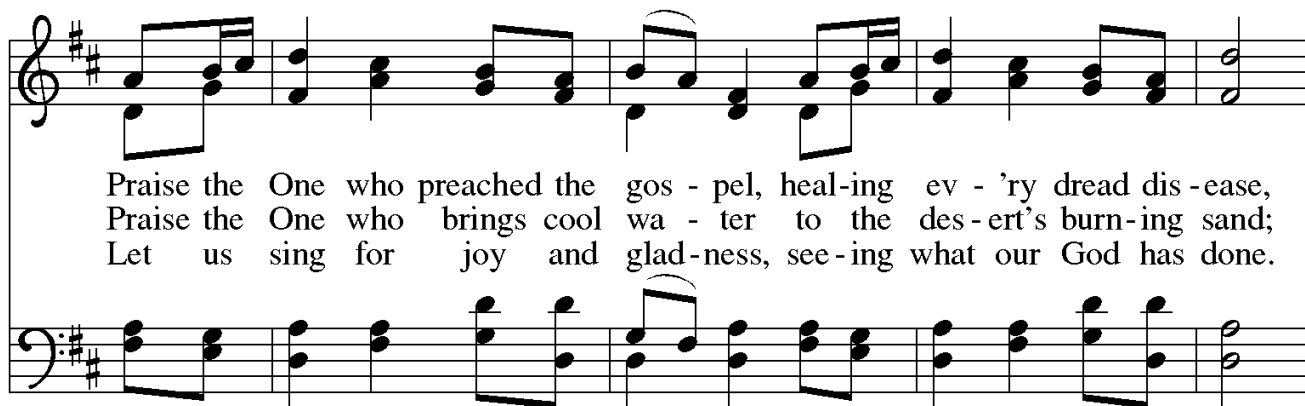
SERMON



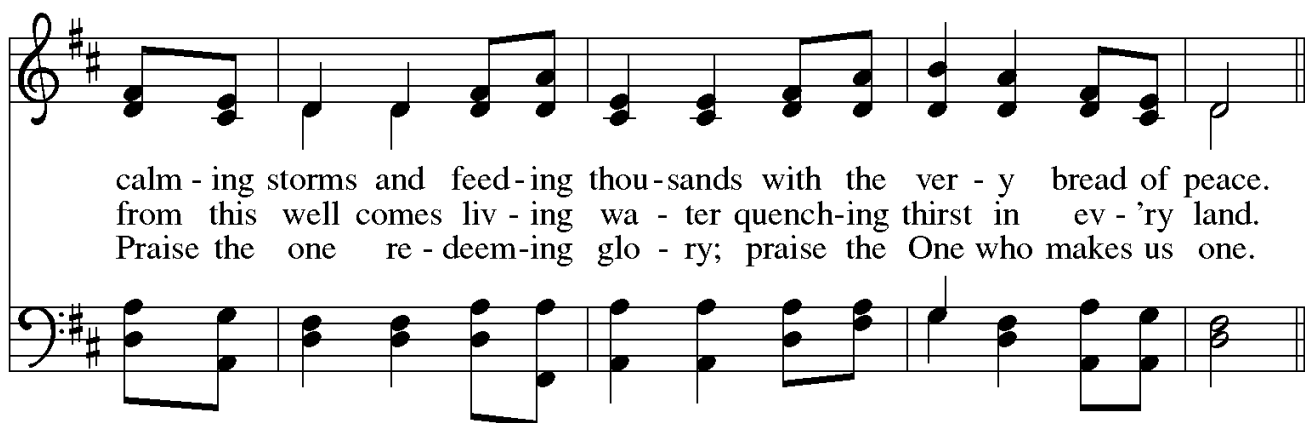
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
 praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

P: 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: Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

W: We pray for the church. Clothe us in Christ, shower us in mercy, send us in love. Strengthen the faith and witness of Christians across the planet and Christians in our community. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

W: We pray for creation. Deliver the earth from disaster, bring forth life amid uncertainty, inspire wonder at all you have made. Sustain all people who delight in the well-being of your creation: farmers, agricultural workers, gardeners, birdwatchers, conservationists, scientists, advocates, and policy makers. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

W: We pray for the nations. Pave a way to justice, drown the forces of oppression, bring peace on earth. Give leaders the will to turn from war and violence. We pray for all those who witness and experience violence, especially the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Iran, and wherever conflict and war exist in the world. When people must flee their homes, guide them to safety. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

W: We pray for people in need. Satisfy all who are poor, soothe those in pain, accompany all who are sick, especially for *Carol Johnson, Cynthia Pulkowski, Nancy Coon, Matthew Frankovich, Anna Mae Webb, Linda Halcoussis, Andy & Katy Greer, Carol Bednar, Pr. John Cawkins, Pr. Tony Schneck* and all those whom we name in our hearts before you. Give perseverance to each of us living with mental illness, and shield us from discrimination due to race, class, gender, or any other human distinction. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

W: We pray for this assembly. Listen to our cries, come to our aid, make us one. Weave among us the fabric of belonging so that we rejoice in each person gathered here, and enliven our proclamation of how much you have done for us. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

W: We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Keep them in your peace, comfort us in sorrow, raise us to new life. As we remember their faith and witness, may we trust your promise that we are yours forever. God of grace,

A: hear our prayer.

P: Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

A: Amen.

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

OFFERTORY INTERLUDE

OFFERTORY*“Create in Me a Clean Heart”****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.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right'. The second staff continues: 'spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your'. The third staff continues: 'pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -'. The fourth staff continues: 'store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,'. The fifth staff concludes: 'and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.' The score ends with a double bar line.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

W: Let us pray together.

A: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING:

The musical score is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The notes are quarter notes, mostly beamed in pairs or groups of four. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

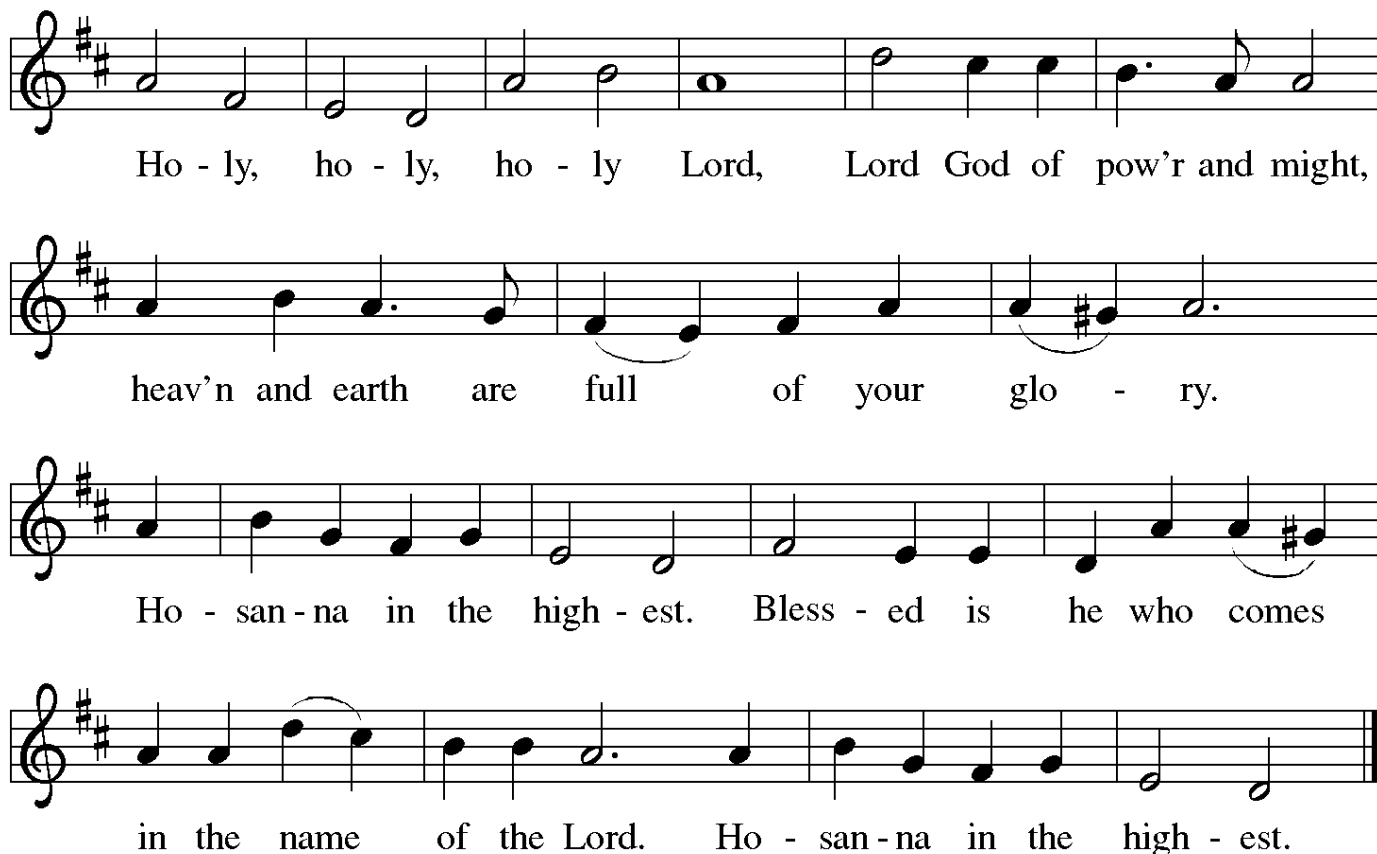
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; 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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY:



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.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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:



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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 HYMN:

“One Bread, One Body”

ELW#496

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of
bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y
through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.
1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,
Refrain
wom - an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath - ered to one for all.

*TABLE BLESSING

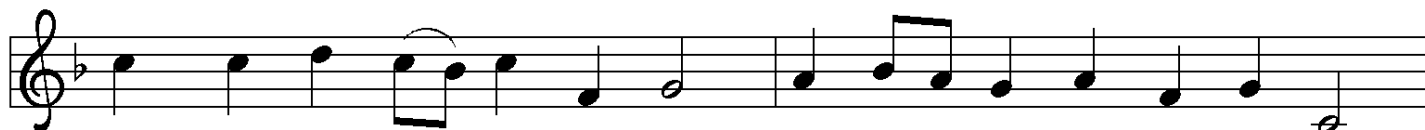
P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

A: Amen

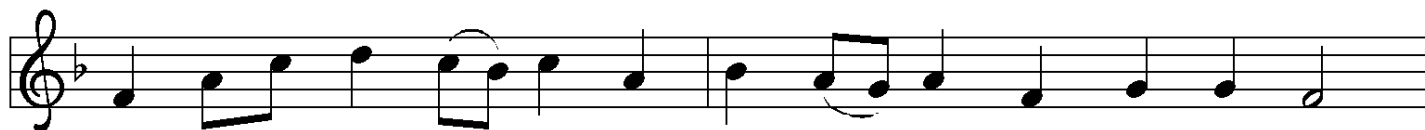
***POST COMMUNION CANTICLE:**

“Thankful Hearts”

ELW#204



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom-is - es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

W: Let us Pray. Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

A: Amen.

* BLESSING



Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you.



May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may



Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the



Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for



all of our days. _____



A - men.



***SENDING HYMN:** “Wash O God, your sons and daughters”

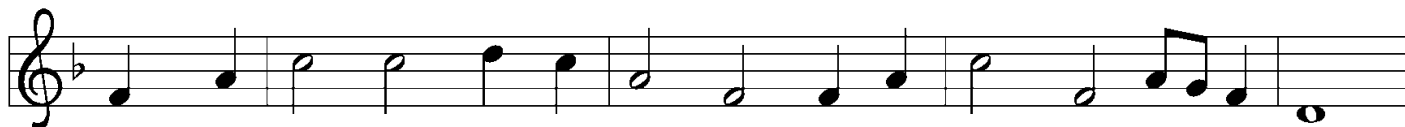
ELW #445



- 1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
- 2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
- 3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

* Announcements *

Our **next newsletter will be a combined July/August edition**, which is tentatively scheduled to be published the first week of July. Please have any articles and items of interest into the office **BY SUNDAY, JUNE 29**.

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](#). Additionally, **weekly worship helpers are also needed**.

On June 26, Pr. Bowser (Nativity's first pastor) will celebrate his **100th birthday**. Let's help him celebrate! You may send him Happy Birthday greetings at the following address: Pr. Mont Bowser, 6 Garden Center Dr. , Greensburg, PA 15601

NATIVITY QUILT SQUARES - During the WELCA sponsored Coffee Hour on May 18 we passed out quilt squares for individuals and families to design. We would like to have these returned to church by NEXT SUNDAY so that they can be sewn together to make our special "Nativity Quilt." If you did not get a square to design, you may still pick up a blank square after worship on the table in the Narthex.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY OFFERING - Each year the collected offering supports a ministry special to the heart of our synod. The 2025 Offering Designation: The Levi Fund is a new synod fund created in honor of Bishop Kurt Kusserow's tenure as our synod's bishop. In Numbers, the Lord told Moses, "Bring the tribe of Levi near, and set them before Aaron the priest so that they may assist him." It was a demonstration that leaders do not work alone. And so, by underwriting the salaries of critical synod staff positions, the goal of the Levi Fund is to ensure that our next bishop is able to have the necessary support to fulfill the duties of the office. If you wish to donate to this fund, please designate it on your envelope as "The Levi fund" and we will be sure to send it to the synod. Thank you.

We are collecting for NCHO's **Back to School collection** which runs through the end of July. You can place donations in the bins under the coatrack in the hallway. Specific items include: pens, pencils, sharpeners, highlighters, markers, binders, pocket folders, TI graphing calculators, loose leaf paper, notebooks, 24 packs of crayons, erasers, glue sticks, rulers, scissors, colored pencils and new backpacks. See the flyer on the bulletin boards for more information.



NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.nativitylutheranchurch15101.org

The Rev. Jennifer Soltis, Pastor



Organist: Alex Bednar
Worship Assistant: Kim Brandt
Lector: Jim Shuey
Usher: Nan Shuey
Greeter: Charlie Brandt
Videographer: Merlinda Bisese
Altar Guild: Carol Huffman
Offering Tellers: Merlinda Bisese & Tom Beecher

~**~

The flowers in the sanctuary are presented by the Brandt's in honor Kim's birthday

~**~

For the Week of June 22 - 28

MONDAY

Art Group – 1p

TUESDAY

AA meeting – 7p

WEDNESDAY

WELCA – 10a

Gathered in Grace Prayer Group – 1p

~**~

	<u>In-person</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Offering</u>
June 15	45	12	\$ 5,785

YTD Financial Summary as of May 31, 2025

Revenue YTD \$ 154,758

Expenses YTD \$ 187,003

Difference YTD (-\$32,245)*

**includes the \$20,000 roof repair project*

For Pastoral care, you can contact Pastor Jennifer:
pastorjennifersoltis@gmail.com
(570) 401-1764