



# NATIVITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4517 Mt. Royal Blvd., Allison Park, PA 15101  
(412) 346-4971 e-mail: [NativityLC@verizon.net](mailto:NativityLC@verizon.net)  
[www.nativitylutheranchurch15101.org](http://www.nativitylutheranchurch15101.org)

*Caring, Witnessing, Serving*



**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**10:15 a.m.**

**July 27, 2025**

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

## **ELW - SETTING IV**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

*Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God’s own. “When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.”*

**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.

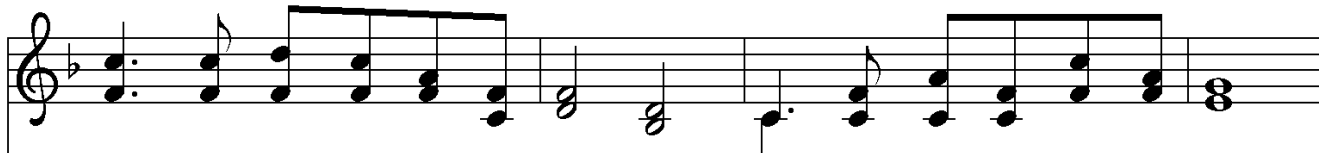
*Silence is kept for reflection*

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.**




1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



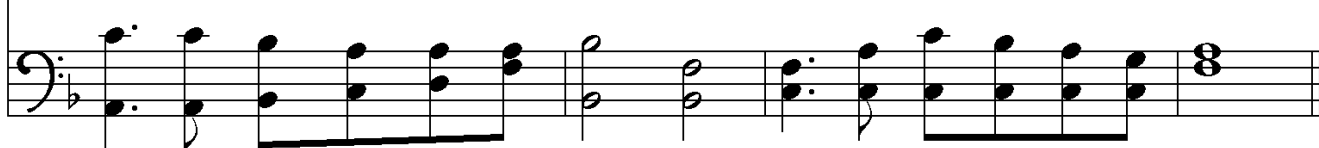

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.




Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?  
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.



## **\*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. Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen

## **FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20-32**

*In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.*

<sup>20</sup> Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup> I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

<sup>22</sup> So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup> Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup> Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup> Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" <sup>26</sup> And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." <sup>27</sup> Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup> Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." <sup>29</sup> Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." <sup>30</sup> Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." <sup>31</sup> He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty

are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” <sup>32</sup> Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 138**

*Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands. (Ps. 138:8)*

W: <sup>1</sup> I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with <sup>|</sup> my whole heart;  
before the gods I will <sup>|</sup> sing your praise.

A: <sup>2</sup> **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast <sup>|</sup> love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word a- <sup>|</sup> bove all things.**

W: <sup>3</sup> When I called, you <sup>|</sup> answered me;  
you increased my <sup>|</sup> strength within me.

A: <sup>4</sup> **All the rulers of the earth will praise <sup>|</sup> you, O LORD, when they have heard the words <sup>|</sup> of your mouth.**

W: <sup>5</sup> They will sing of the ways <sup>|</sup> of the LORD,  
that great is the glory <sup>|</sup> of the LORD.

A: <sup>6</sup> **The LORD is high, yet cares <sup>|</sup> for the lowly, perceiving the haughty <sup>|</sup> from afar.**

W: <sup>7</sup> Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you <sup>|</sup> keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right <sup>|</sup> hand shall save me.

A: <sup>8</sup> **You will make good your pur- <sup>|</sup> pose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works <sup>|</sup> of your hands.**

### **SECOND READING: Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]**

*The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about “the empty lure” of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.*

<sup>6</sup> As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

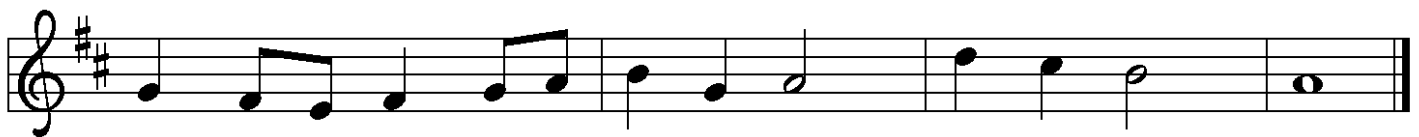
<sup>8</sup> Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup> when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. [

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. <sup>17</sup> These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup> Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, <sup>19</sup> and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.]

**L:** The Word of the Lord.

**A:** Thanks be to God.

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

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

## **\*GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13**

*In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.*

<sup>1</sup> [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."<sup>2</sup> So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup> And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

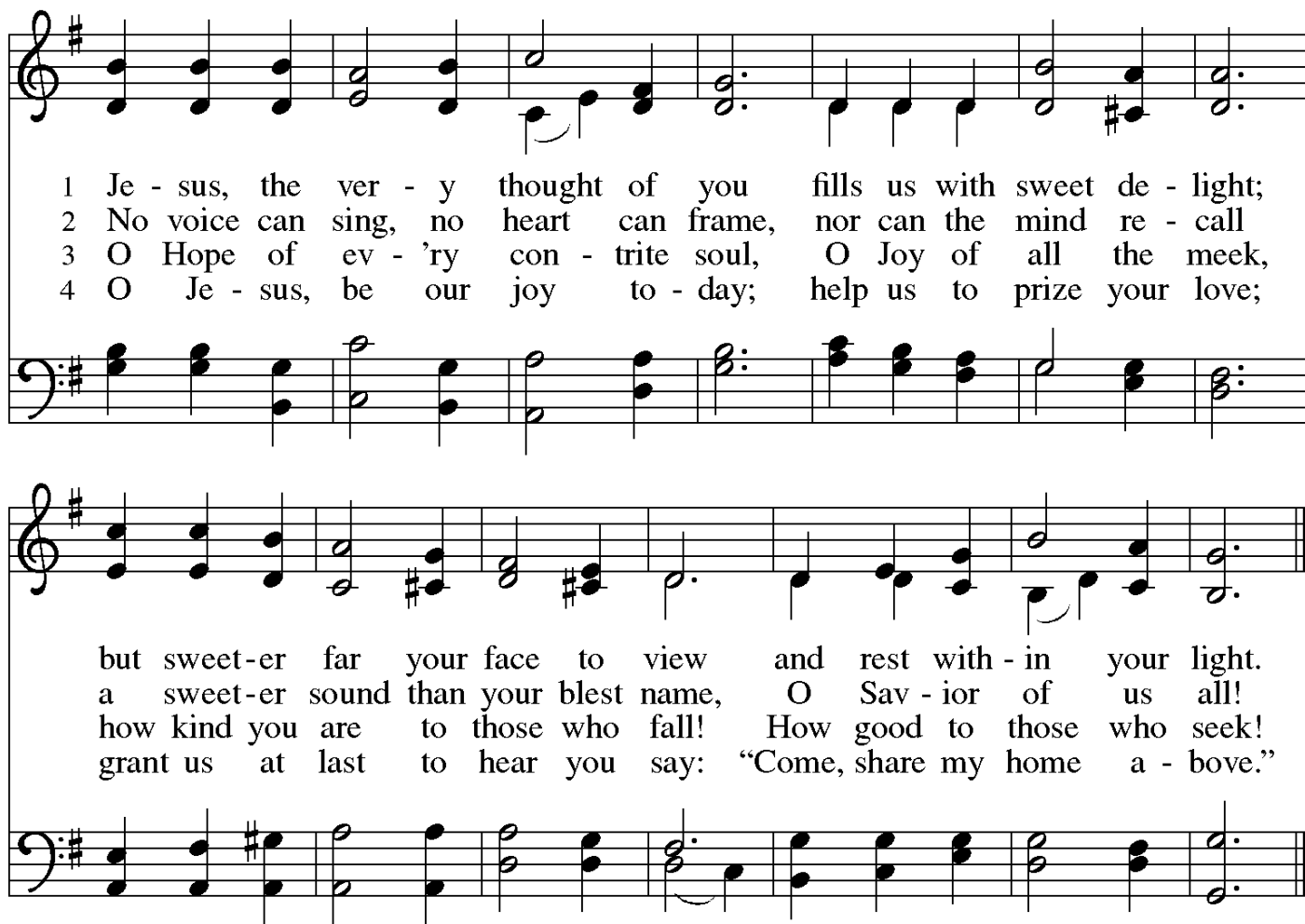
<sup>5</sup> And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' <sup>7</sup> And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup> "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup> Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **SERMON**



1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;  
 2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call  
 3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,  
 4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;

but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.  
 a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!  
 how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!  
 grant us at last to hear you say: “Come, share my home a - bove.”

**\*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: In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

*A brief silence.*

W: Loving God, create in your church a desire for union with you in prayer. Raise up leaders to teach Christ's devotion to prayer and model Christ's way of prayer, until all people experience prayerful intimacy with you. God of grace,

**A: hear our prayer.**

W: Reveal to humanity the sacredness of all creation. With the breath of your Spirit, realign the balances of nature. Grant persistence in prayer and action for the sake of the earth, our common home. God of grace,

**A: hear our prayer.**

W: Teach rulers of the earth to sing of your ways, caring for the lowly and having no preference for the powerful. Direct the heart of every person to seek your will on earth as in heaven. 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. God of grace,

**A: hear our prayer.**

W: To all whose prayers are cries for help, give your good gifts, and satisfy their deepest needs. We especially pray for *Beth Neese, Burke Sullivan, Gia Owens, Hank Ablauf, Carol Johnson, Anna Mae Webb, Linda Halcoussis, Andy & Katy Greer, Pr. John Cawkins, Pr. Tony Schneck, the family and friends of Thelma Firman* and all those whom we name in our hearts before you. Gather them to your constant, loving presence, that they may rest in the confidence of life with you. God of grace,

**A: hear our prayer.**

W: Center the ministries of this assembly on prayer and service. Guide our relationships in the wider community, being ready to assist those who seek help. Strengthen feeding, clothing, and housing ministries and community partnerships. God of grace,

**A: hear our prayer.**

W: We give thanks for all who have gone before us. May we trust your steadfast love and continue in hope until we are united with all your saints. God of grace,

A: **hear our prayer.**

P: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

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

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff in G minor (three flats). It consists of five lines of music. The lyrics are: "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 melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the last line.

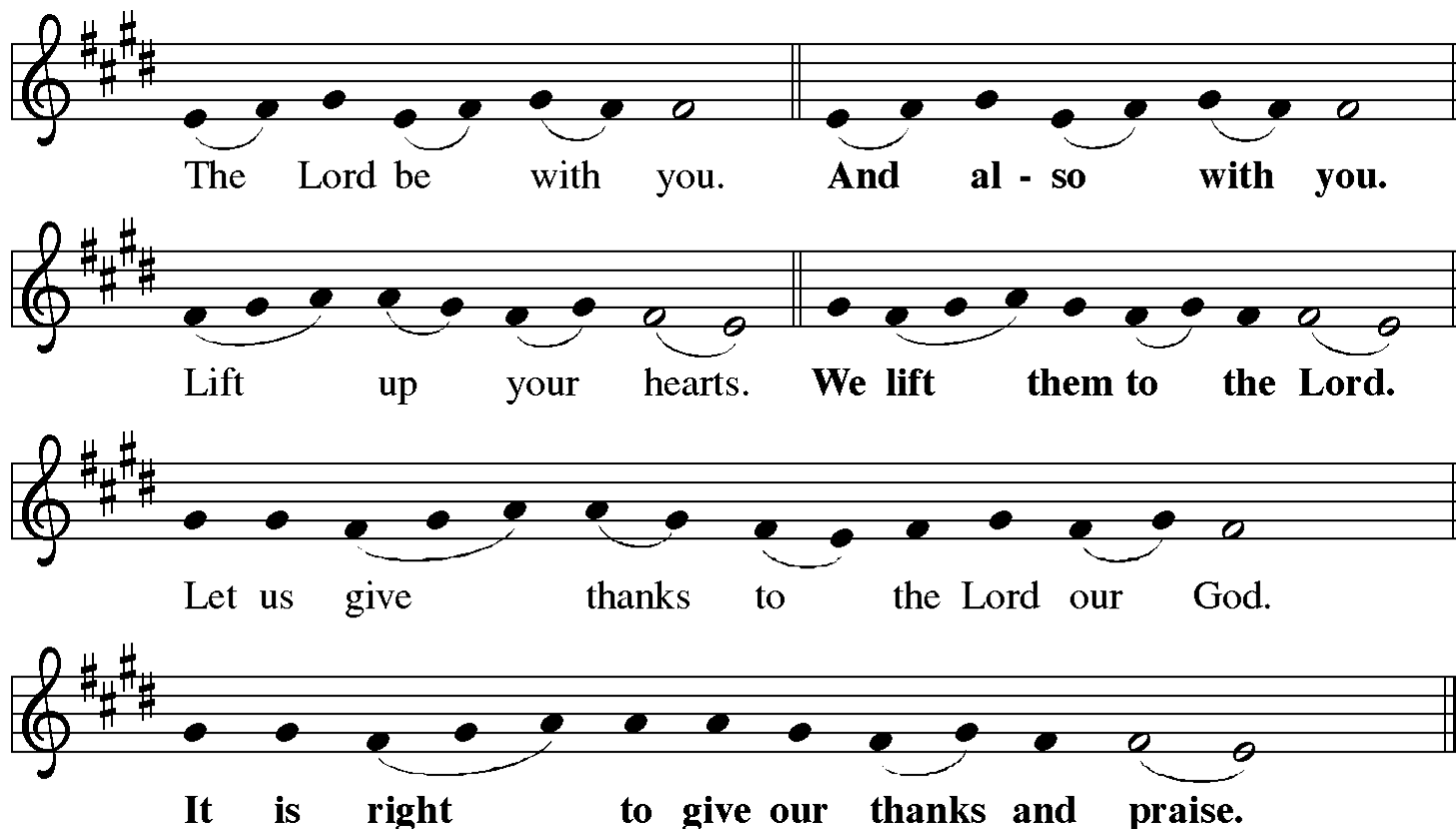
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

W: Let us pray together.

**A: 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 notation consists of 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.

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

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

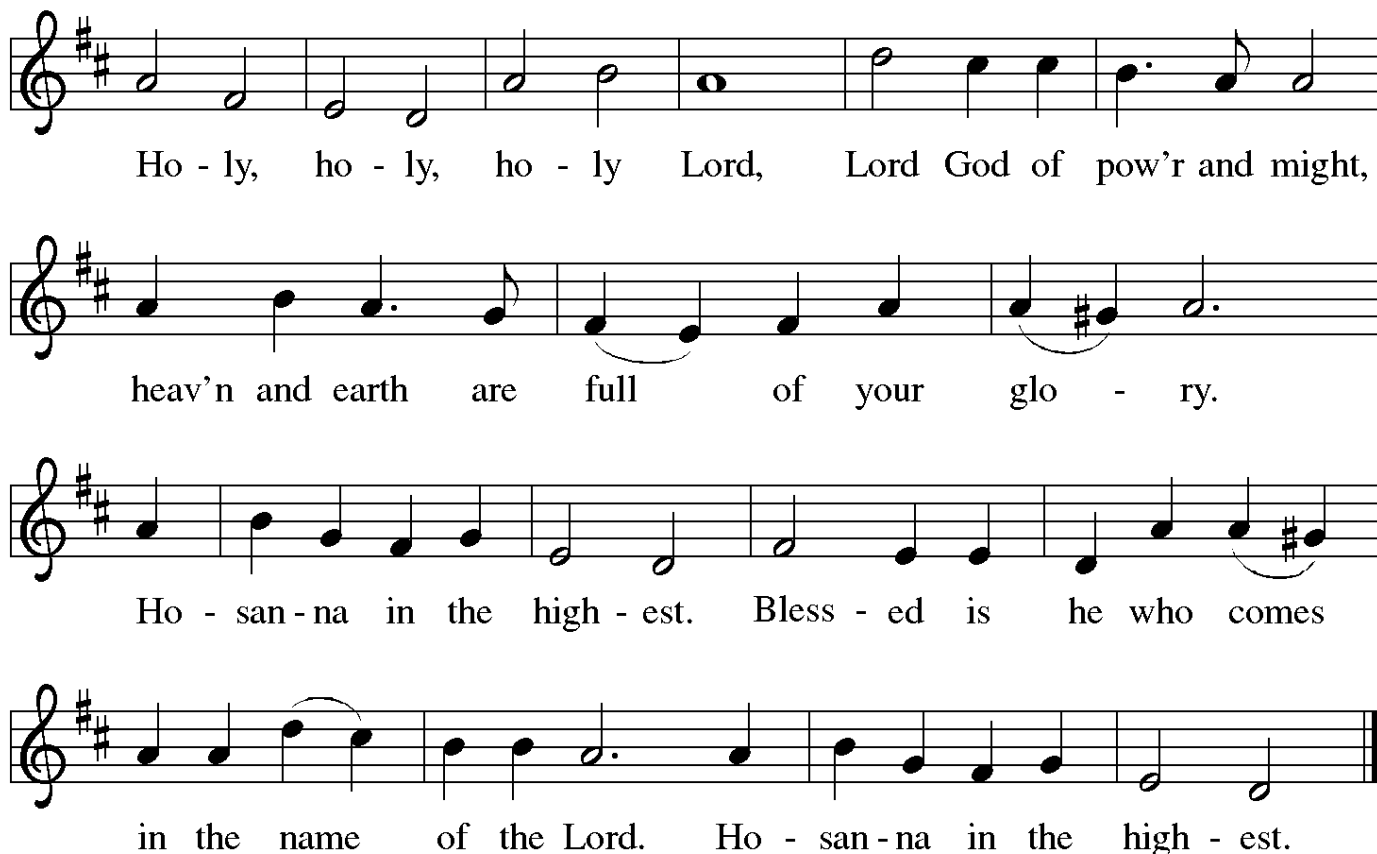
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:

### “Let All Mortal Flesh”

ELW#490



- 1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
- 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
- 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;
- 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,  
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,  
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.  
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.  
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.  
“Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!”

## \*TABLE BLESSING

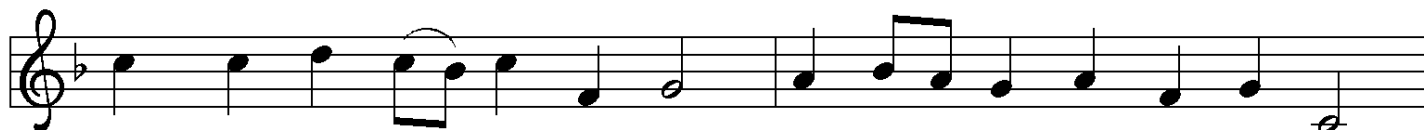
**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**A:** Amen

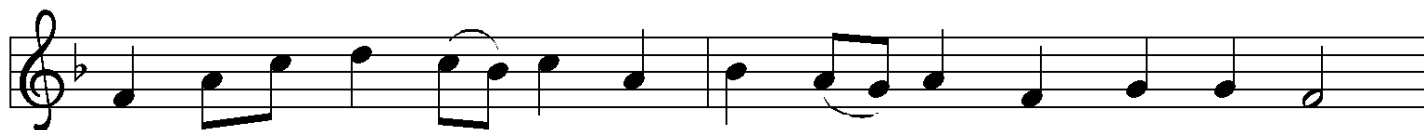
**\*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE:**

**“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:**

**“Now Thank We All our God”**

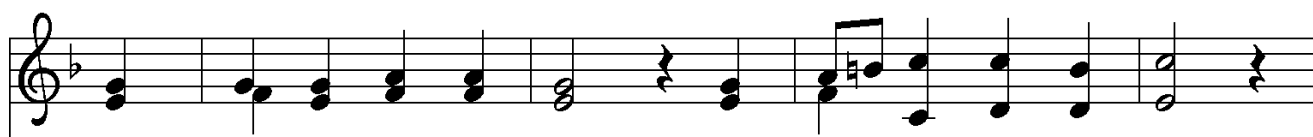
**ELW #840**



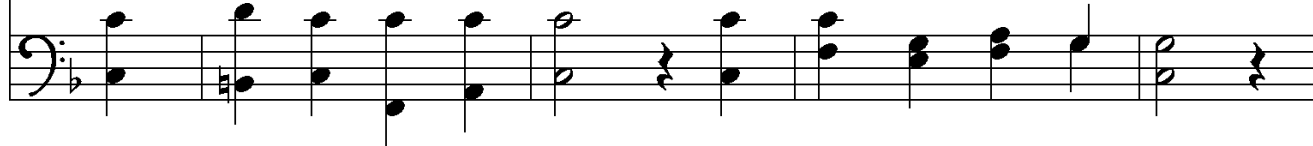
1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
 2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,




who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
 the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,

who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;




with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.  
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.



## **\*DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

**A:** Thanks be to God.

## **POSTLUDE**

### **\* Announcements \***

We welcome with us this morning **Pastor Jennifer McCurry**. Pastor Jennifer is a Lutheran pastor who currently serves as the Program Director of Religious and Spiritual Life at Carnegie Mellon University.

**Take me out to the Ballgame!** The fellowship committee has planned a Pirate BB game for all of us to enjoy! Mark your calendars for **Friday, August 8** at 6:40pm. A free Pirate Bucket hat for the first 20,000 fans who enter! The cost is only \$30. **Deadline to sign up is NEXT SUNDAY August 3.** Invite your family and friends to come along too! PNC park is recognized as the best ball park in the major leagues. Please signup across from the kitchen or on-line via Signup Genius. See Jerry Sever for payment or questions. Let's all get behind this event and have a large turnout. We're going to have so much fun!

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](#).

**Weekly worship helpers are also very much needed.**



# NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

[www.nativitylutheranchurch15101.org](http://www.nativitylutheranchurch15101.org)

The Rev. Jennifer Soltis, Pastor



Organist: Alex Bednar  
Worship Assistant: Kim Brandt  
Lector: Jane Dollhopf  
Usher: Joe Coon  
Greeter: Dan & Jean Chantz  
Videographer:  
Altar Guild: Joanne Smith  
Offering Tellers: Diana Mitchell

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The flowers in the sanctuary are presented by Joanne Smith in memory of her husband  
Thomas Gismondi

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## For the Week of July 27 – Aug 2

### MONDAY

Art Group – 1p

### TUESDAY

AA meeting – 7p

WELCA – 10a

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|                | <u>In-person</u> | <u>YouTube</u> | <u>Offering</u> |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>July 20</b> | 35               | 18             | \$ 1,921        |

Pastor will be on vacation July 24 – 28 & Aug 4 - 7

Please contact the office during this time if you need Pastoral care and Kim will put you in touch with the Pastor on call.

Pastor Jen's Office Hours:

July 30 & 31: 11-1