



NATIVITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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www.nativitylutheranchurch15101.org
Caring, Witnessing, Serving



Baptism of our Lord

10:15 a.m.

January 11, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ELW - SETTING 1

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INTRODUCTION

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

P: = *Pastor*

W: = *Worship Assistant*

A: = All in Attendance

**indicates congregation should stand if able.*

PRELUDE

(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**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

A: Amen

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

A: you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

A: Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN: “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters” ELW#445**



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh-ters, 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!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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***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.

*KYRIE

pg.98

W:

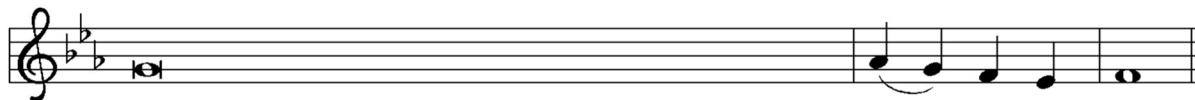


A:

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



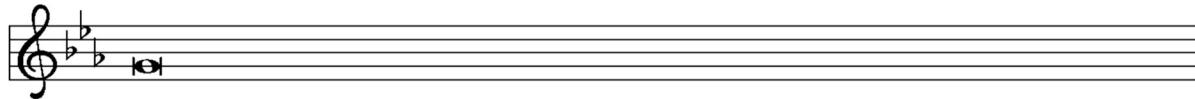
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



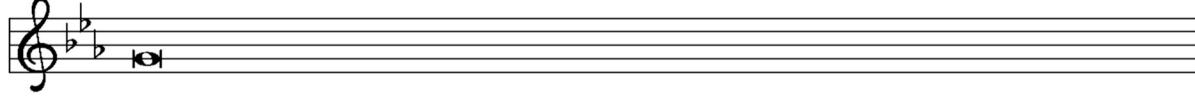
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

pg. 99

Glo - ry to God in the high -
 est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
 Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
 Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
 praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
 Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
 right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -
 lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

pg. 99

Jesus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through 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: Isaiah 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
 he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
 or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;

he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

W: ¹ Ascribe to the ¹ LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- ¹ ry and strength.

A: ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory ¹ due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beau- ¹ ty of holiness.

W: ³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of ¹ glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the ¹ mighty waters.

A: ⁴ The voice of the LORD is a pow- ¹ erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a ¹ voice of splendor.

W: ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the ¹ cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce- ¹ dars of Lebanon;

A: ⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip ¹ like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a ¹ young wild ox.**

W: ⁷ The voice ¹ of the LORD
bursts forth in ¹ lightning flashes.

A: ⁸ **The voice of the LORD ¹ shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- ¹ ness of Kadesh.**

W: ⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the ¹ forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are ¹ crying, “Glory!”

A: ¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned a- ¹ bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- ¹ evermore.**

W: ¹¹ O LORD, give strength ¹ to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- ¹ ings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

pg.102

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

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

*GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

A: Amen.

P: *A reading from the Psalms*: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace. (*Psalm 29:3, 11*)

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, holy and gracious God, for you created the waters of the earth: wide oceans, rushing streams, clear lakes, mighty rivers.

You led your people through the sea and called them to life in covenant with you. Your Son was baptized in the river Jordan to begin his mission among us. You pour out your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth. Through this water remind us of the gift of baptism. Renew us in your promise so that we may serve this world in all its need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen.

P: Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*HYMN OF THE DAY: “Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized” ELW#304

1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
 2 God called you, “My be - lov - ed Son”; you are God's ser - vant
 3 Straight- way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - obeyed the
 4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be

came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
 true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
 call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
 signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may

ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
 ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
 give your life for all, to give your life for all.
 per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

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***THE NICENE CREED**

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

**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,

**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**

W: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

W: Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. We pray for all those who witness and experience violence and those who live amongst the cruelty and chaos of war. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill. We especially pray for *Linda Smith, Melanie Herdlick, Ginny Yeager* and those we name in our hearts before you. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

A: Amen.

*PEACE

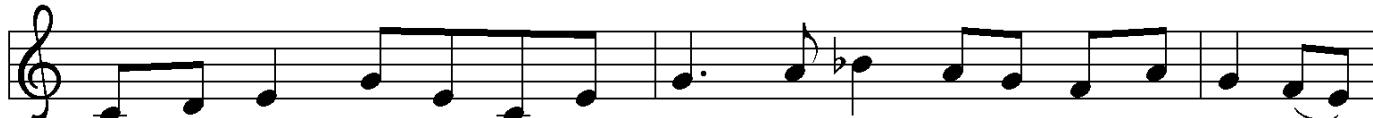
P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also, with you.

let us share that peace with one another

OFFERTORY INTERLUDE

*OFFERTORY HYMN “Let the Vineyards be Fruitful” ELW #182



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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*OFFERTORY PRAYER

W: Let us pray together.

A: **God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING:

Pg. 107

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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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:

Pg. 108

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

pg.110

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

A: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

A: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

A: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Pg. 112

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

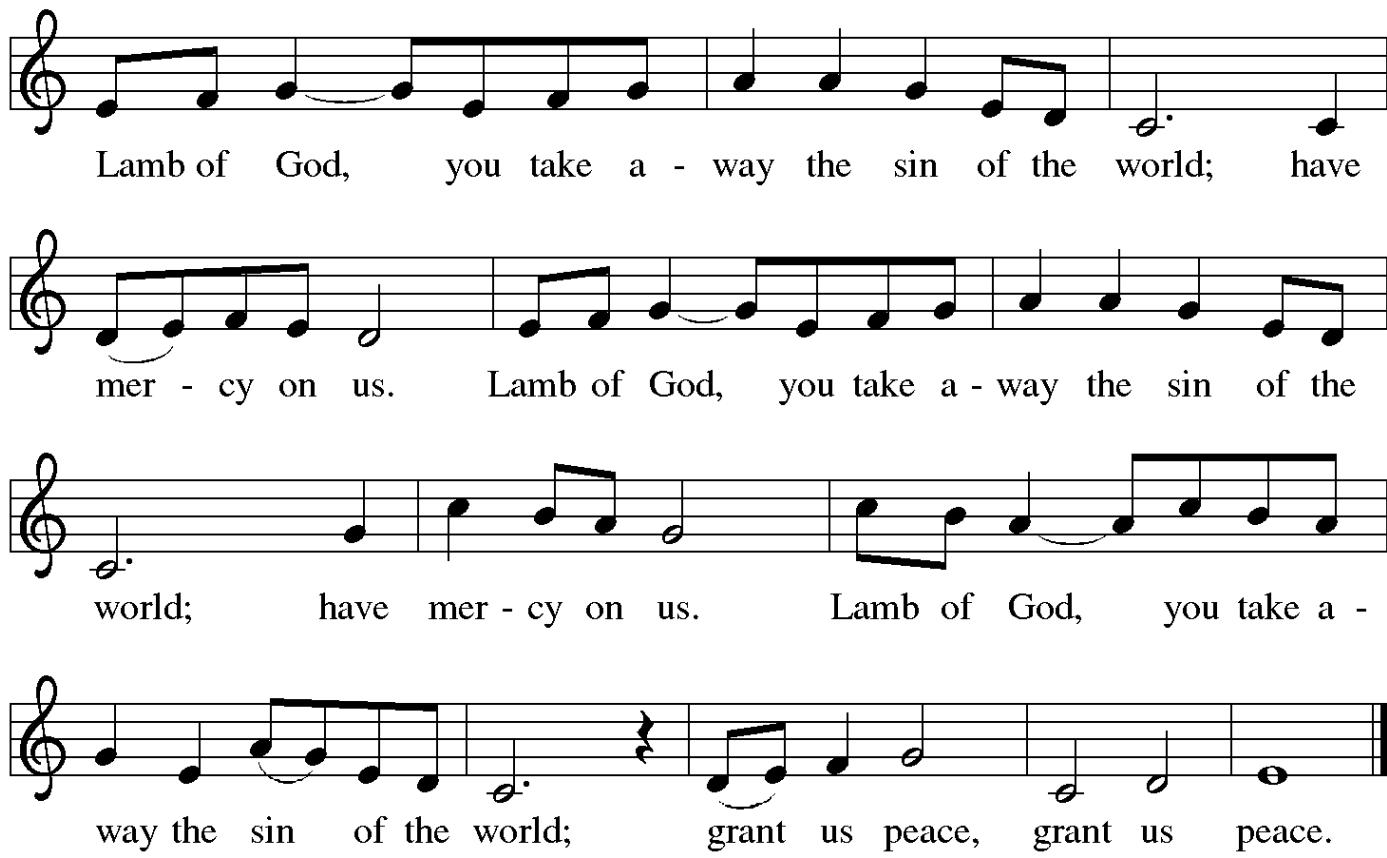
A: Our Father,

**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, 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

Communion will be by intinction. If you desire a gluten free wafer in lieu of the wafer for communion, please let Pastor know.

TABLE HYMN:

“Wade in the Water”

ELW#459

Refrain

All

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,
 wade in the wa - ter, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Leader

All

1 See that host all dressed in white,
 2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the
 3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
 4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

Leader

wa - ter. the lead - cr looks like the Is - rael - ite.
 looks like the band that . . . Mo - ses led.
 the Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me.
 just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.

All

Refrain

God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - - ter.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WADE IN THE WATER, African American spiritual

*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

pg.113



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

W: Let us Pray. Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

* BLESSING

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise  bless you now and forever.

A: Amen.

*SENDING HYMN:

“Songs of Thankfulness of Praise”

ELW#310

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;
 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
 and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
 grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
 man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
 that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,

an - themes be to thee ad-dressed,
 an - themes be to thee ad-dressed,
 an - themes be to thee ad-dressed,
 and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

God in flesh made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.

Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

A: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*** Announcements ***

If you are able to stay after worship today to help take down the **Christmas decorations**, it would be greatly appreciated.

Epiphany was on January 6. If you would like to do an Epiphany blessing for your home, there are printed copies in the Narthex, or you can talk to Pastor Jen. If you would like one emailed or snail mailed to you, just let Kim in the office know.

Social Ministry is looking for volunteers in 2026 to deliver donations collected for the NHCO food pantry and sharing projects. The sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen and on Sign-Up Genius. Please see Carol Huffman with any questions, or if you would like to assist in other ways.

The 2026 Flower chart is now available across from the nursery and on-line. Please remember to fill out a flower card indicating the reason when signing up.

Please consider signing up for one of the weekly **Worship Helper or Offering Counter** positions. See the On-Line Signup or the paper one at church.

For those who use the printed Nativity offering envelopes, the 2026 Envelopes are now in your mailbox. If you need yours mailed to you, please contact Kim at the church office via phone or email.



NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
www.nativitylutheranchurch15101.org
The Rev. Jennifer Soltis, Pastor



Organist: Alex Bednar

Worship Assistant: Merlinda Bisese

Lector: Ruth Kiefer

Usher: Carol Banks

Greeter: Ed Banks

Videographer: Heather Johnson

Altar Guild: Carol Banks

Offering Tellers: Carol Huffman & Joann Smith

~~*~

The flowers in the chancel this morning are presented by Ruth Kiefer in memory of
Mildred Kiefer.

~~*~

For the Week of January 11 - 17

TODAY
MONDAY

Take down inside Christmas decorations

Art Group – 1p

AA meeting – 7p

WELCA – 10a

NA meeting – 6:30p

TUESDAY

~~*~

| <u>In Person</u> | <u>YouTube</u> | <u>Offering</u> |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|

January 4

44

\$ 8,238

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