



NATIVITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(412) 346-4971 e-mail: NativityLC@verizon.net
www.nativitylutheranchurch15101.org



Celebrating 60 years of Caring, Witnessing, Serving

12th Sunday after Pentecost

10:15 a.m.

August 16, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ELW - SETTING IV

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INTRODUCTION

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

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.)

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

A: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

A: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

A: Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN: "All Are Welcome"

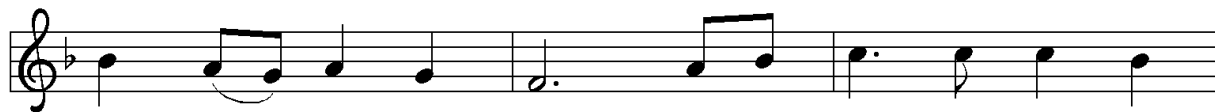
ELW #641



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray. God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

¹ Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,

all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:

I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 67

Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)

W: ¹ May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.

A: ² **Let your way be known | upon earth,
your saving health a- | mong all nations.**

W: ³ Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

A: ⁴ **Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth.**

W: ⁵ Let the peoples praise | you, O God;
let all the | peoples praise you.

A: ⁶ **The earth has brought | forth its increase;
God, our own | God, has blessed us.**

W: ⁷ May God | give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

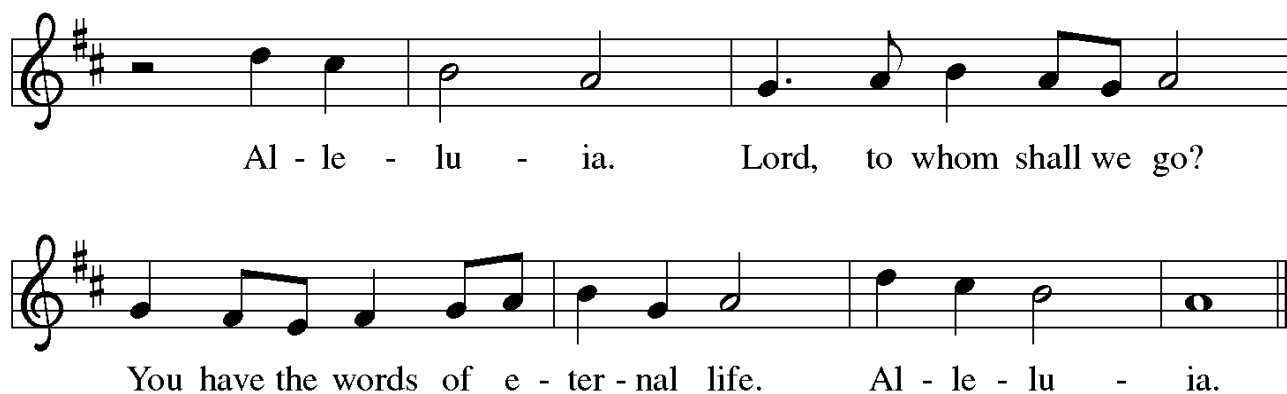
[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 15th chapter.

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

*GOSPEL: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

[¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” ¹³ He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” ¹⁶ Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He

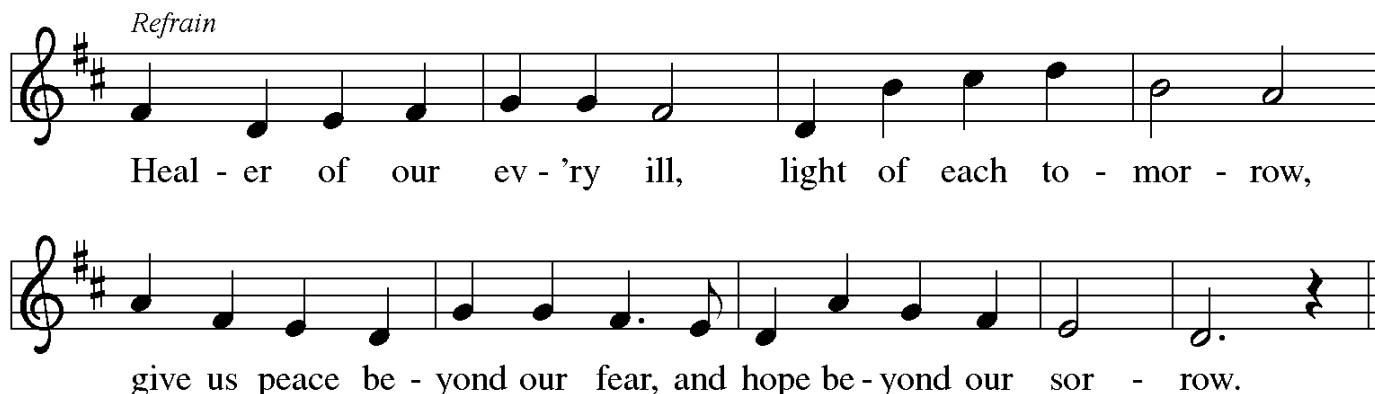
answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Refrain

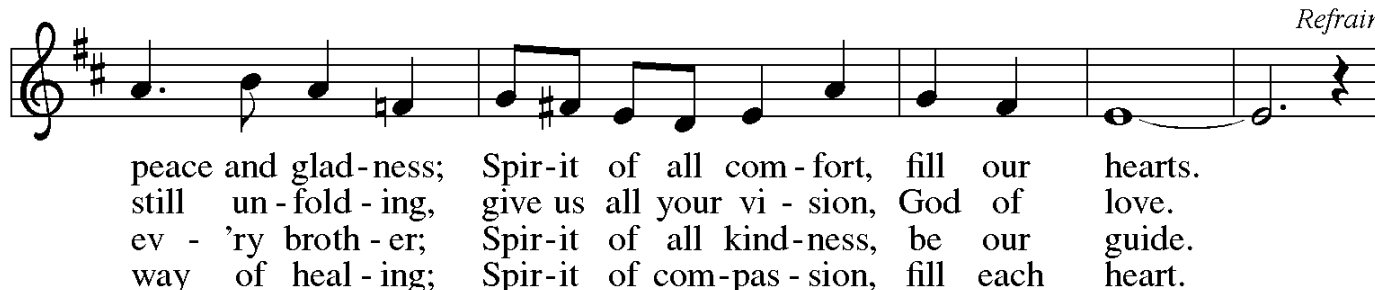


Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,
give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain



peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

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*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: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

W: For believers around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

W: For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

W: For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Bring comfort and peace to all those who witness and experience violence and those who live amongst the chaos and cruelty of war. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

W: For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind. Especially *Jean Stover* and all those whom we name in our hearts before you. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

W: For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

W: For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death. Merciful God,

A: receive our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 music consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. 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.'

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

W: Let us pray together.

A: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING:

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

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

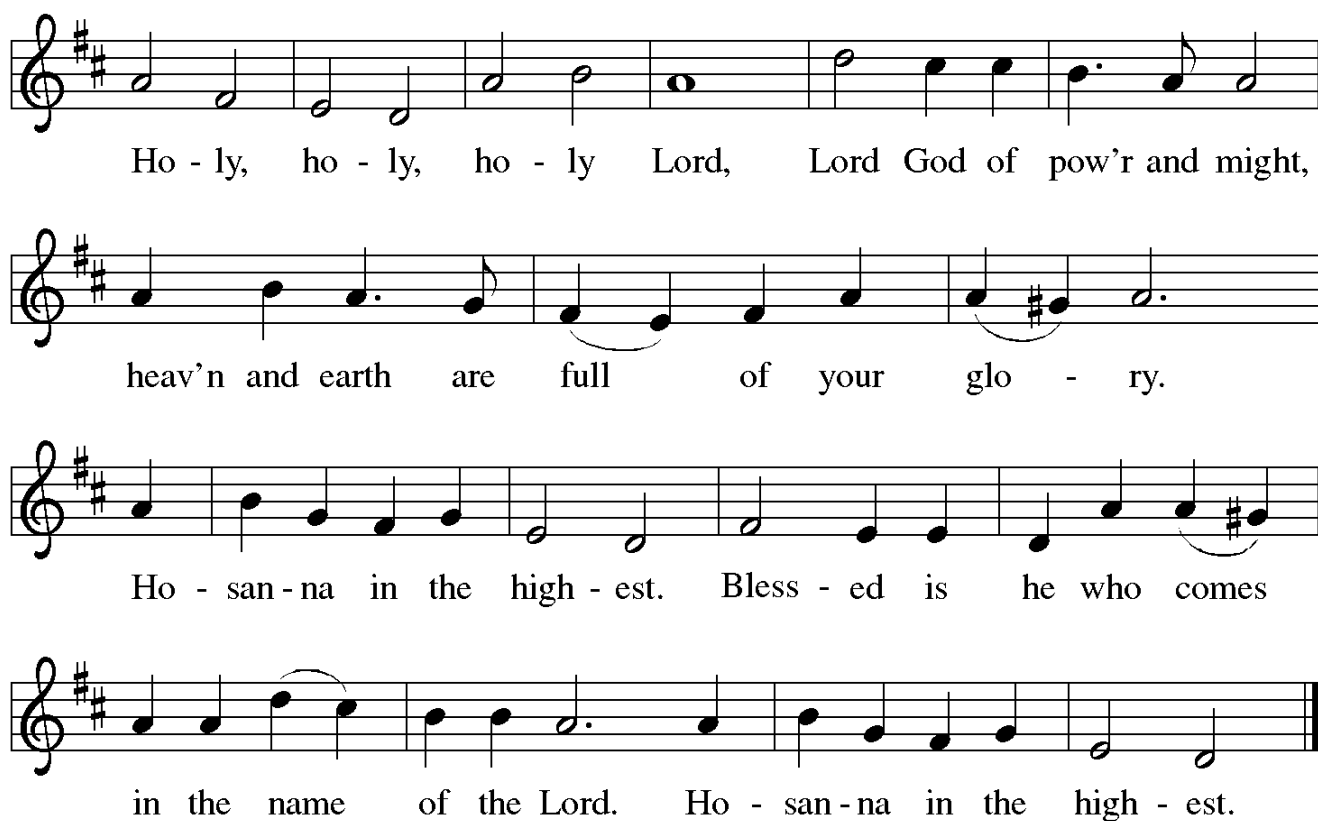
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

A: Amen.

*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:



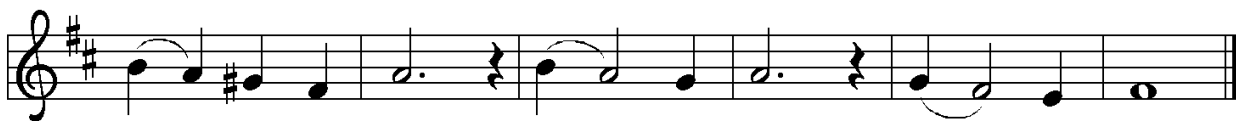
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



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,
wom - an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath - ered to one for all.

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ

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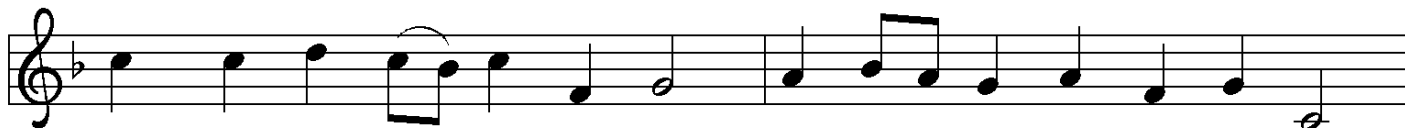
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*TABLE BLESSING

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 and Voices Raise" 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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

W: Let us Pray. Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

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. _____



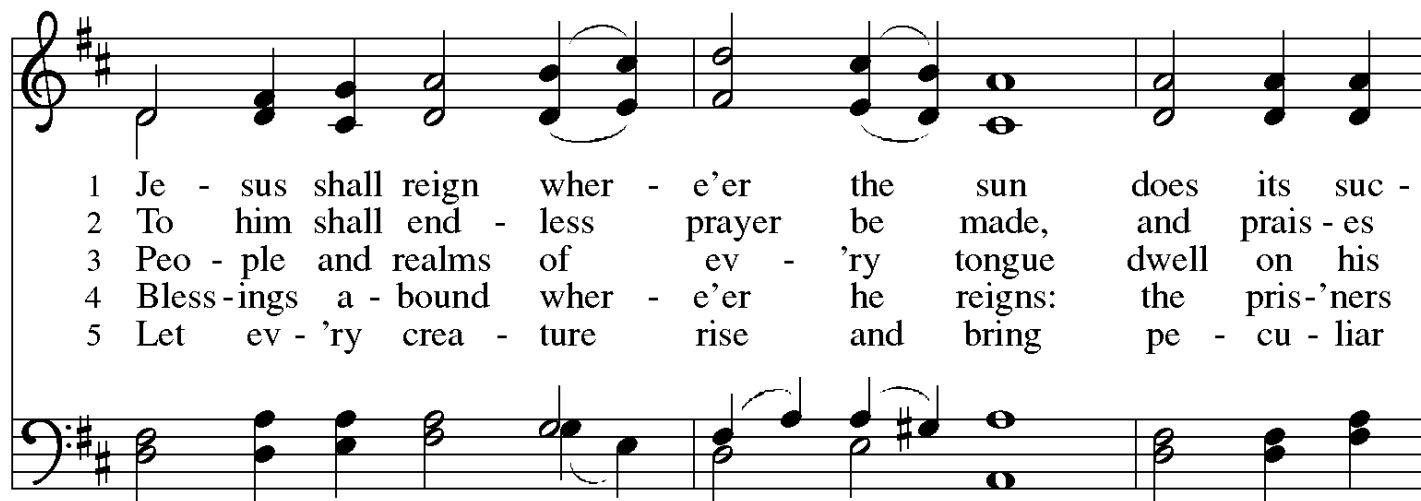
A - men.



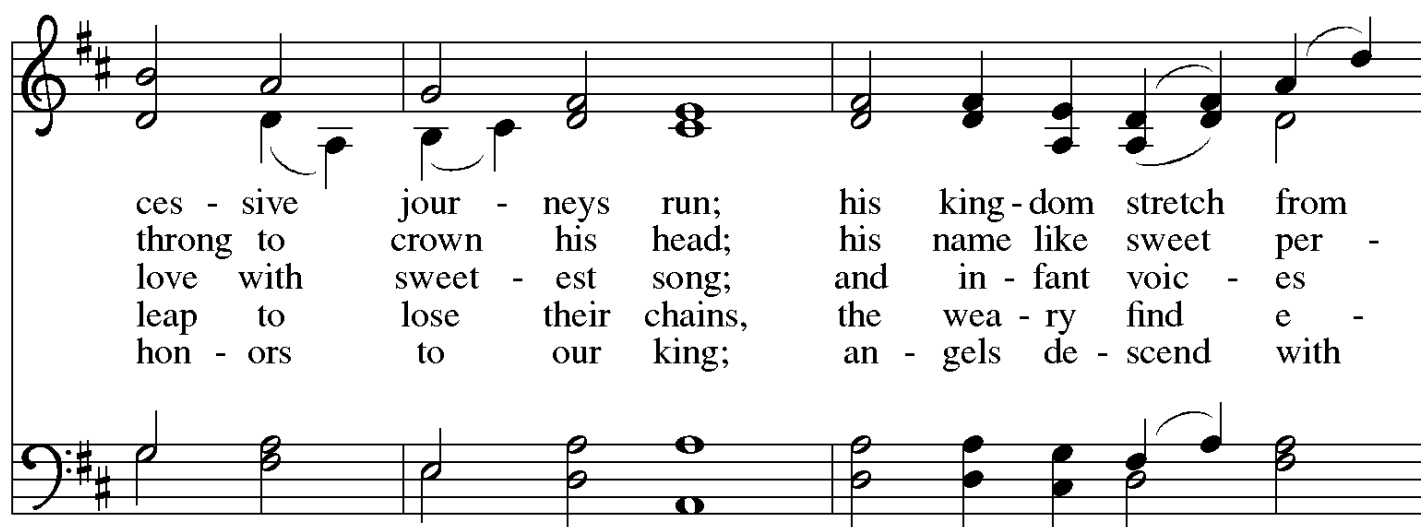
***SENDING HYMN:**

“Jesus Shall Reign”

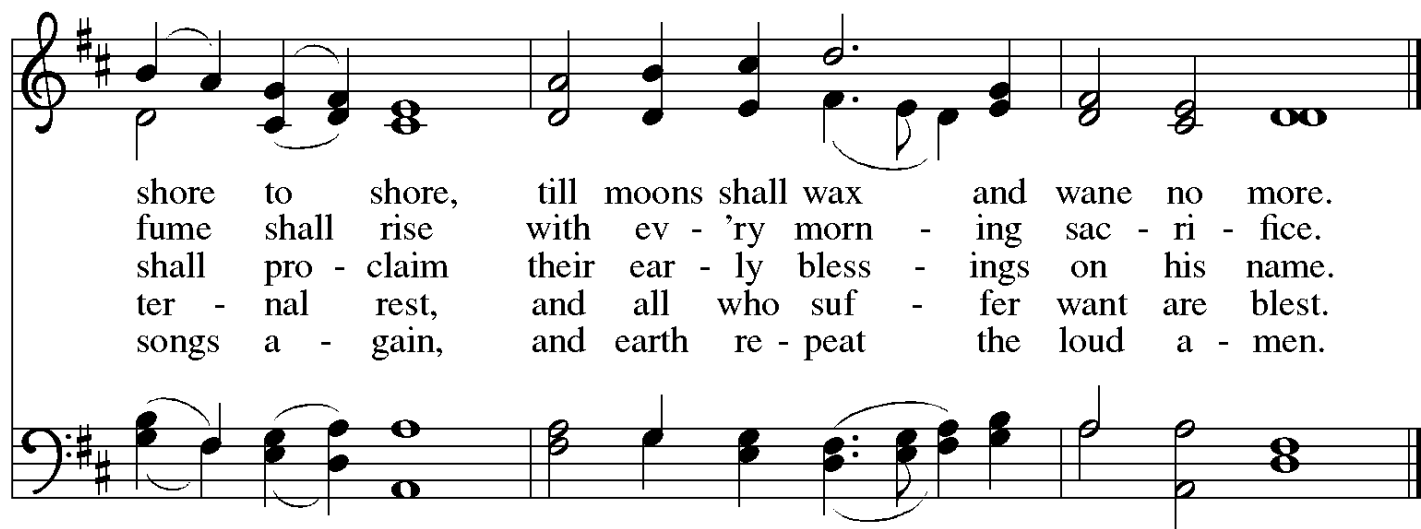
ELW #434



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 thron'g to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

*DISMISSAL

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

A: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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### \* Announcements \*

We welcome back with us today, **Nancy Williams** as our supply organist.

**Thank you** to everyone who volunteered at the Kuhn's Grocery Collection for NHCO. Our community was so generous! We collected 28 boxes and 2 bags filled with non-perishable food and personal care items and collected \$163.00. What a wonderful way we partner with others to care for our neighbors!

**Adult Picnic** will be this coming Saturday, August 22 at the Alcoa pavilion in the Hampton Community Park. From 3:00pm - dusk. The Cost is \$10 per person to cover the cost of the rental, chicken and drinks. Chicken Tenders, water, soft drinks will be provided, so bring a side, salad or dessert to share. RSVP soon so we can plan for food.

There are **3 tickets available** for the make-up Pirates game on Friday, Sept 4 at 6:40pm. If you are interested in one or more of them, please see Jerry Sever or Kim Brandt.

Nativity will host a **Family Fun Day** on Saturday, August 29. The theme is “Jesus feeds the 5000”. There will be fun, games, food and crafts. Everyone is welcome. Please take flyer to share this event.

There are **pens with our name & information on them** on the table in the Narthex. We invite you to take some for yourselves and disperse the pens throughout the community. This is another way in which our presence could be visible in the community, along with the Nativity t-shirts. If you haven't already gotten yours, we still have some available!

The **NHCO food pantry** is always in need of donations. Thank you for your generosity!

We are always in need of volunteers to fill positions on Sundays as a **worship helper**. and **offering counters**. Please consider signing up in one of the open spots.

# NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

The Rev. Jennifer Soltis, Pastor

Organist: Nancy Williams

Worship Assistant: Alisa Michael

Lector:

Usher:

Greeter:

Videographer: Merlinda Bisese

Altar Guild: Kim Brandt

Offering Tellers: Merlinda Bisese & Tom Beecher

The flowers in the chancel this morning are presented by Jim & Jane Dollhopf in memory of Edward Dollhopf.

**For the Week of August 16 - 22**

## MONDAY

AA meeting – 7p

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**TUESDAY**

WELCA – 10a

NA meeting – 6:30p

**THURSDAY**

Council Retreat – 6:30p

## SATURDAY

Adult Picnic – 3p

## August 9

|                  |                |                 |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <u>In-person</u> | <u>YouTube</u> | <u>Offering</u> |
| 32               | 33             | \$ 1,907        |

## Pastor Jennifer's Office Hours this Week

Tuesday 2-4 & Wednesday 11-1

Or by appointment