



*With the birth of Jesus in our hearts
We carry light and love to the world.*

*Sunday, December 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent*



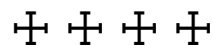
OUR VALUES STATEMENT: We recognize that we are not here by chance but are gathered together to be the church of God in Christ.

We recognize that God is making us, through grace, into a fellowship that embodies and expresses the spirit of Christ.

In this fellowship, there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of us are one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28). We, therefore, welcome equally all people, regardless of religious office, position, possessions, education, race, age, gender, sexual orientation, mental ability, physical ability or other distinctions. (Adopted 9/7/07)

VISION STATEMENT:

Working as a supportive family of faith to extend God's gracious welcome through worship, community service, and spiritual growth opportunities.



The Liturgy is from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

Are you hearing impaired? If you are having difficulty hearing our worship service, try using our Assisted Hearing System, which is available from an usher.

Today's worship service is being live-streamed beginning at 9:25am and will be replayed next Sunday at 6pm on FM radio station 102.9. The service is available to view anytime on the home page of our website www.nlcww.org.

In-person attendance for last Sunday: 125

PLEASE MAKE SURE CELL PHONES ARE SILENCED.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMES

Indicates the start of worship.

PRELUDE

Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Lloyd Larson
Nativity Ringers



SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent comes from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning 'coming.' Advent begins the church year starting four Sundays before Christmas. The season of Advent has been set aside as a time of preparation since the 6th century. Advent is a time for preparing for Christ's second coming, even as we remember and celebrate his first coming at Christmas. Blue is associated with Advent, suggesting hope. This association originated in Scandinavia, probably because purple dye was too expensive for churches to use.

Please stand as you are able and turn toward the baptismal font.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!

For God is with us. God's love is everlasting.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!

For the Lord our God is in our midst, a mighty One who will save.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!

For God's Spirit shines upon us, giving light for our darkness.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!

Let us worship God together.

Please look toward the cross as it processes toward the altar.

GATHERING HYMN

Santa Lucia

Verse 1

Night's full- of black and gloom
Now hear her swing
Through all- our darkened rooms
On her sweet wings
At our door clad in white
Wearing a crown of light
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia.

Verse 2

Darkness- would fain out flee
From valleys deep
Marve- lous words to us
We hear her speak
New day again shall rise
Coming with rosy skies
Santa Lucia, Santa Lucia.

GATHERING BLESSING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Praise to You, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth. **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Second Candle – The Candle of Peace

When Jesus came, he taught people the importance of being peace-makers. He said that those who make peace shall be called the children of God. When Christ comes to us, he brings us peace, and he will bring everlasting peace when he comes again. We light the Candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through him peace is found.

ADVENT CANDLE HYMN *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*
240, vv. 1 & 2

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

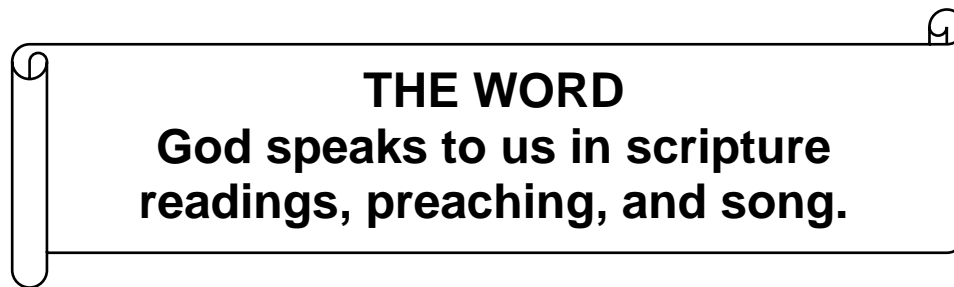
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

Peace is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle, we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.



THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching, and song.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Hark, The Glad Sound

Eugene Butler

Soloist: David VanHorn

Accompanist: Kathy Hackemer

Descant: Janet Holly / Trumpet: Todd Holly

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children may depart for Sunday School.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF MALACHI

3:1-4

Reader: Pat Squires

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming,

says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



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

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS


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

A moment of silence for reflection.

God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned. We grow fearful. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might, **we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst, **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through  Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior of the Nations, Come

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v v 1,2,6

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;

Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
 hallows night with newborn light.
 Night cannot this light subdue;
 let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
 virgin's son, incarnate Word!
 To the holy Trinity
 praise we sing eternally!

Remain standing or sit as you desire.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

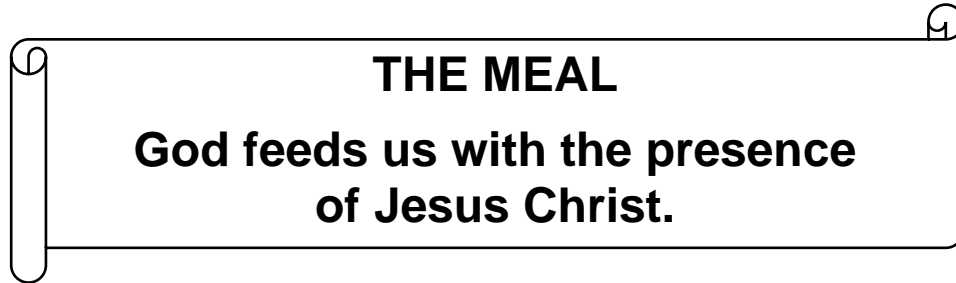
After each petition: Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated.



OFFERTORY

Gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. You may drop your monetary offering in the basket by the exit door or at the office during the week. You may also donate on-line at <https://www.nlcww.org>, or on our Facebook page. Now you may also contribute using Venmo or Zelle if you have an account or using the QR code below. For more information about these methods see today's Weekly Announcement Sheet.



Assisting Minister unveils the chalice and paten.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Creator God, **You made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and You draw near to feed us. We praise You for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we**

may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

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 image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: '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.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,' and '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.

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.

WORDS OF CONSECRATION

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

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. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

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. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

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

Let us pray the prayer Christ himself taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Guests and friends of any age and background, take your place at the table!

You may be seated. The ushers will invite each row to come to the altar. You may stand or kneel at the communion rail and receive bread and wine (or request a gluten free host and/or grape juice). Please let an usher know if you cannot come to the altar to receive communion. We will have communion brought to you.

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.

MEDITATIVE MUSIC

Please stand as you are able.

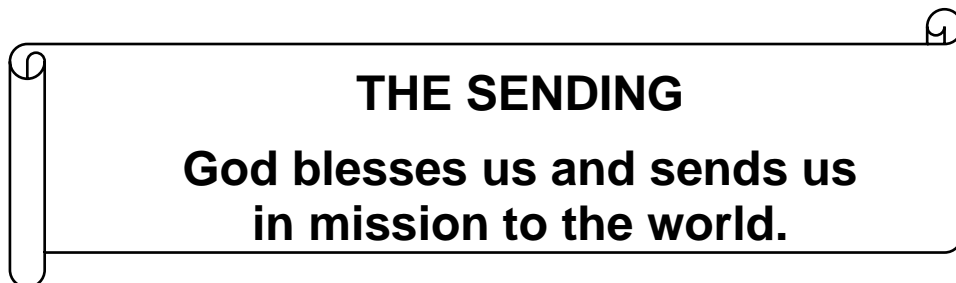
TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.



BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✝ bless and keep you now and forever. Amen.

SENDING SONG

People, Look East

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1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

SENDING

People of Nativity, what is our mission?

With the birth of Jesus in our hearts we carry light and love to the world.

DISMISSAL

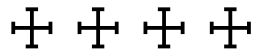
Go in peace! Prepare the way for Emmanuel!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Mark Hayes



NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Zephaniah 3:14-20	Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18

PRAYERS: *The list will be cleared every four weeks. If you wish to remain on the list for longer than four weeks, please call the office and request a long-term prayer. In case of emergency, contact the office at 352-597-1456 and leave a detailed message. Messages are checked daily.*

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

New this week: Libby & John Capell, Dottie Haney

Continue to pray for: Larry & Frani Barnes, Stephen Benner, Windy and Bill Binns, Iris Brunner, Agnes Burkart, Roger Cawley, Karen Chipko, Joyce Colombo, Ginny Dempsey, Judy Dietz, Irene Froehlich, Donald Haig, Irma Haig, Terry Halgren, June Heinecke, Gary and Mary Heinecke, Glenn

Heinecke, Marilyn Henkel, Kay Hill, Barbara Hofving, Klaus Horstmann, Brian Johnson, June Johnston, Nancy Jung, Stephanie Krepshaw, Anthony Laviano & family, Debra Leinenger, Elaine Malone, Charlene Massey, Antonio Mattei, Richard Matthews, Raina McDannold, Benjamin McDowall, Dennis McKenna, Bradford Allen McWilliams, Mark and Wayne Musarra, Raymond Pempsell, Cindy Preston, Lou Prettyman, Katherine Rizzo, Dennis Rogers, Angela Russell, John Sannuto, Carole & Dick Schaefer, Will Schantl, Eileen Smith, Barbara Strohl, Roswitha Junge Testani, Alice Totten, Antonio Vaznelis, Christopher Younger, Laretta Z.

PRAYERS FOR OUR LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY

Nic Baker, Brandi Culpepper, Areil Dietz, Tyler A. Germann, Maj. Matthew Henry, Colton Hill, Andria T. Hook, Jonathan Hudson, Maj. USAF Will Lawlor, Zachary McGuire, CTT2 William Pause, Brandon Pierce, Clinton Pierce, Isaac Redmond, Andrea Roache, Joel Roberts, Cpl. Timothy Spruytte, Cameron James Thompson-Airman 3rd Class, LCpl. Erich Timm, Airman Bob Totten, Kesley Underwood, Kyle Underwood, Maj. Chad Waldorf - Airforce.



Flowers on the altar given by:

Brian & Linda Wagner

In loving memory of
their son Keith

Altar Flowers: *If you would like to order flowers in honor or in memory of someone, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or you can call the office at 352-597-1456. Donation is \$25.00. Flowers can be picked up after the 9:30AM Sunday service, or you can schedule a pick-up time with the office if you are not attending service.*

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister	Reverend Giuseppe Mattei
Assisting Minister	Marylou Bonesteel
Scripture Reader	Pat Squires
Crucifer/Acolyte	Lonora Smith
Ushers	Gwen Mahon & Noel Prettyman
Music Director	Donna Olsen
Guest Organist	Kathy Hackemer
Bell Choir Directors	Janet & Todd Holly
Altar Guild	Suzanne Chelf, Gayle Howland & Nancy Vangilder
Greeter	Evelyn Galli
Sanctuary	Connie Chase & Beryl Clements
AV Director	Art Alt
Audio	Pat Squires
Cameras	Tim Cotter & Mark Major
Graphics	Diane Alt, Francesca Bugini, Ed Lewis & Linda Rizzo
Video Production	Vicki Page
Head counter this week	Pat Squires
Data Entry	Barbara Crisanti

**NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEEKI WACHEE
A CONGREGATION OF THE FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNOD OF
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

6363 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee, FL 34613

Phone (352) 597-1456

Email: Nativitylutheran63@gmail.com, Website: nlcww.org

Reverend Giuseppe Mattei

Deacon Charlotte Downing

Deacon Clyde Rosten

Music Director: Donna Olsen

Audio/Visual Director: Art Alt

Bell Choir Directors: Janet & Todd Holly

Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m.