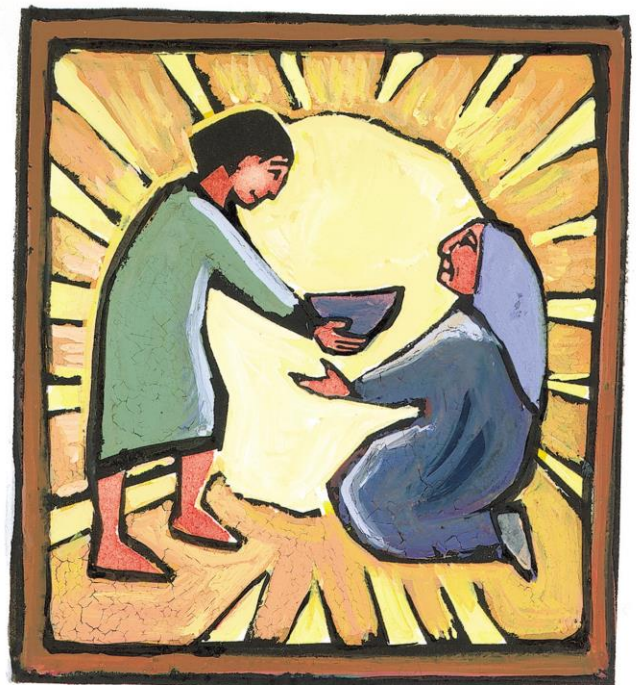


LARGE PRINT

Third Sunday of Advent

John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.



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HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Hope, Minnesota

www.holynativity.net



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to WORSHIP at Holy Nativity!

Holy Nativity Lutheran Church ~ 3900 Winnetka Avenue
North ~ New Hope, MN 55427

Phone 763-545-1647 www.holynativity.net Email:
office@holynativity.net

Our Mission & Ministry: “Grounded in Christ’s love, Holy Nativity Lutheran Church is a welcoming community dedicated to helping all know God’s love through worship, service, and fellowship.”

Join us for Sunday worship at 9:30am on Facebook “LIVE”
at [facebook.com/holynativitynewhope!](https://facebook.com/holynativitynewhope)

Staff Members:

Rev. Jason Wahlstrom, Senior Pastor

Rev. Ashley Updegraff, Associate Pastor

Iver Hubert, Director of Music & Worship

Lisa Baker, Organist & Communications Coordinator

Kristen Chamberlain, Sunday School Director

Linda Lien, Congregational Care Coordinator & Funeral
Coordinator

Wendy Grimes, Youth Ministry Associate

Tom Wiblishauser, Custodial Care & Activity Set-Up

Kara Holt, Financial Coordinator

Amy Laite, Sunday Nursery Coordinator

Tawn Hanson, Wedding Coordinator

Brittany Anderson, Director of Week-Day Childcare Center
(hncccc.org)

Worship & Sound Team:

Mark Chamberlain

Andrew Kubly

Chris Daniels

Greg Eklund

Brian Hanson

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Quote: “All human nature vigorously resists grace because grace changes us and the change is painful.” -Flannery O’Connor

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

*This is a time to quietly listen, pause to pray,
and reflect on why we are here.*

GATHERING MUSIC

“Pastoral Symphony (from ‘Messiah’)” G.F. Handel/arr. Lani Smith
Lori Cowman, flute

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P: We gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS (P-Pastor, C-Congregation)

P: Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Loving and forgiving God,

C: we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

P: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free – free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, †comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

WE PRAISE GOD

GATHERING HYMN

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Hymnal #264

(verses 1 & 4)

G Em G D G C D G

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Em G D G C D G

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Em D A⁷ D A D A⁷ D

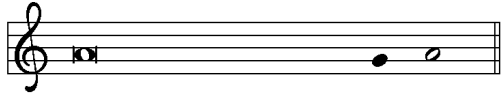
Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
Bm Em D Em Am D⁷ G

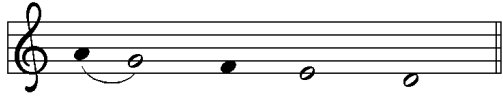
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

GREETING & KYRIE

Hymnal Pg. 147



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



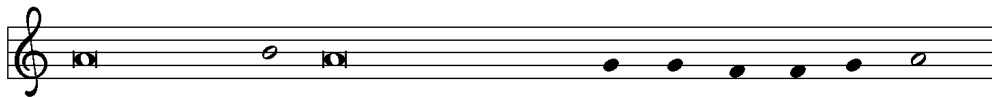
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



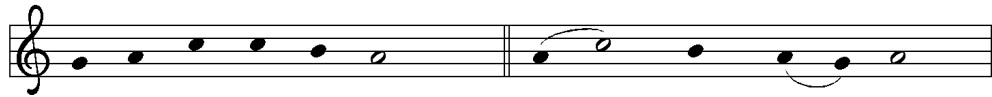
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray together:

(unison) **Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the worlds of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM

“Lo, How a Rose Is Growing”

David W. Moore

Lori Cowman, flute

G O D ’ S W O R D I S R E A D A N D P R O C L A I M E D

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴They

shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words...

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

1st Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound^[b] and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words...

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL VERSE*“Alleluia ”*

Hymnal Pg. 151



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



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

GOSPEL READING

John 1:6-8, 19-28

*Pastor: The holy gospel according to John...***Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.”^[a] ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah,^[b] nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*Pastor: The gospel of the Lord...***Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

“What Are You Waiting For?”

Rev. Jason Wahlstrom

MOMENT TO REFLECT (*We pause in silence.*)

WE RESPOND

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM Red Hymnal Pg. 227
Theodore Walter Glogoza, son of Margo & Andrew (Drew) Glogoza. Sponsors: Benjamin & Kaitlyn Glogoza, Aanders Johnson.

APOSTLES’ CREED (spoken during the Baptism)

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

OFFERING/CHILDREN’S TIME

(You are invited to mail or drop off your offering, or donate online – go to our website at holynativity.net and click on “Make Donation.” Thank you!)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(After each prayer petition... P: Lord, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.)*

LORD'S PRAYER (unison) **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 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**

BENEDICTION

P: Now may the light of God surround us, the love of God enfold us, and the presence of God watch over and protect us. For wherever we are, our God is also there. We close as we began, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

MISSION HYMN

“People Look East”
(verses 1 & 4)

Hymnal #248

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.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SENDING MUSIC

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!”

Jeremiah Clarke

WEEKLY INFORMATION

<p><i>Sunday, December 13 Third Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30am Worship (Online) <i>High School Forum is later today (10th – 12th graders should have received the info)</i> 12:00pm Word of Life worship 6:00pm Word of Life Youth</p>	<p><i>Thursday, December 17</i> Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm 3:30pm – 5:00pm Christmas Eve Prelude Recordings</p>
<p><i>Monday, December 14</i> Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm 5:30pm – 6:30pm Centering Prayer (on Zoom)</p>	<p><i>Friday, December 18</i> Office Hours 9:00am – 1:00pm 7:00pm Word of Life Choir</p>
<p><i>Tuesday, December 15</i> Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm 2:30pm Staff Meeting (on Zoom) 7:00pm Council</p>	<p><i>Saturday, December 19</i> 10:00am – 4:00pm Word of Life</p>
<p><i>Wednesday, December 16</i> Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm 11:15am HNCCCC Chapel 3:30pm – 7:00pm Christmas Eve Prelude Recordings 7:00pm Ensemble 7:00pm Confirmation (online)</p>	<p><i>Sunday, December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30am Worship (Online) 10:30am Sunday Forum (online) 10:30am Youth Forum (online) 12:00pm Word of Life worship 3:30pm – 4:00pm Nativity Faire (outdoor event) 6:00pm Word of Life Youth</p>

PRISM is accepting food donations Monday to Thursday, 9-3. Items in short supply are ramen noodles, pasta, pancake mix and breakfast cereal. Also see school supplies drive information below!

December's Mission Offering is Beacon's Families Moving Forward.

TODAY...

Education Hour is at 10:30am:

- **Sunday School** is online and videos are being posted weekly on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mv4IANtS9Rs>. After today, there will be no Sunday School until January 10th.
- Today's **High School forum** has been moved to later today. 10th – 12th graders should have received the link – if not, please contact Wendy Grimes.
- **No Sunday Forum today.** Sunday Forums are the first and third Sundays of the month.

MORE INFORMATION...

Holy Nativity has an INTERACTIVE Advent Calendar for you! It goes to December 25th and you can find it online here: <https://calendar.myadvent.net?id=85588cb5eb3f56426ecbb41b3e40721f>. Each day you can open a new “door” for an activity, video, or readings to reflect on. You can't open each door until 12:00am or after each day though! But check the calendar each day for something special from the Holy Nativity staff!

PRISM is still having its annual Holiday Toy Shoppe this year! Instead of a giving tree at church this year, you can still donate gifts! [Click Here](#) to Order Through Target Registry – all orders will be delivered to PRISM.

Sunday School Christmas Program info from Kristen Chamberlain, Sunday School Director! We are working on the Christmas Program for this year. Words are being written! Songs are being practiced! And I'm hoping for your help: 1) There are still opportunities for students to participate in the program. If there is a Christmas song that could be played in the program, all I need is a video! If you would like to come do the video at church, we have openings on Dec 12th, and in the evenings. Just let me know. We are also accepting videos taken at home! You can send your video file to Kristen by email. Any videos we receive by December 16th can be put in the video for our big premiere on December 19th. 2) If you want to have a speaking part in the Christmas Program, there are two ways to sign up! You can email me or you can sign up here. Once you let me know if you'd like a part, I can send you a script. You don't even have to have lines! 3) I would love it if I could get either a picture OR video of your students to include at the end of the program. They could wave, smile, say Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, or whatever they like! Please email your pictures, videos, questions, requests, comments, ideas, random musings, and Christmas memes to Kristen.Chamberlain@gmail.com.

It's time for the Nativity Faire! Plan to join us on Sunday, December 20th for the first ever Nativity Faire at Holy Nativity! There will be cookies, hot chocolate, pictures with the pastors, crafts, a LIVE petting zoo and more! This is the lead-in to a candle-lit worship. It all takes place outdoors in the parking lot, social-distanced and we ask you to wear a mask. You can come for all or just part of the faire. Festivities run from 3:30-4:30pm and the worship goes from 4:30-5:00pm.

What are you grateful for this Christmas? At the Nativity Faire you are invited to share what you are grateful for this Christmas in a brief, informal video! We hope to compile these short video clips into one that we can share with Holy Nativity.

Christmas Eve Worship! The Christmas Eve service will be livestreamed on Facebook on December 24th at 4:00pm, just the one service. Of course, people can watch any time, including late at night if they prefer the 10:00pm option. On Christmas Day, you are invited to spend some time in your homes in family worship and prayer (or if you are by yourself, in personal devotion). Tell the Christmas story, pray, and maybe even sing some Christmas hymns! A Christmas Day worship at home resource will be made available before Christmas. Look for a link on our website and in the Holy Post as we get closer to Christmas. If you would like it mailed to you, please contact the church office.

An Invitation for Instrumentalists! Every Christmas Eve we invite instrumentalists to play a Christmas piece during the prelude time before each service. This year will be different, but instead we are hoping to compile a series of videos of musicians playing a prelude piece, and share before the service on Christmas Eve online! If you can play an instrument and have something to play, you are invited to send in a recording, or come to church and we'll record you (which may be easiest if you need an accompanist). [Sign up online here](#) or contact Lisa at lisa@holynativity.net or 763-442-8351!

Thank you for your continued financial support! During this time of online worship, there are still many ways you can financially support Holy Nativity!

1. **Mail your offering** (you may use your offering envelopes or mail checks to us at Holy Nativity, 3900 Winnetka Avenue N, New Hope, MN 55427).
2. **Give online** via [our link](#). Or just go to our website at holynativity.net and click on “Make Donation.”
3. **Ask the office to send you a Simply Giving form** for automatic withdrawals.

Today's cantor: Nora Levenson
Today's scripture reader: Lori Cowman

People & needs to keep in your prayers this week:
Geri Lingen, Roiger family

Baptized today: Theodore Walter Glogoza

*If you have a prayer request or update,
or wish to be added to our prayer group,
please contact the church office at 763-545-1647 or
office@holynativity.net.*