

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Worship Aid for July 26th, 2026 at 10:15 am



Love God, Love People, Make Disciples

Nativity: an inclusive faith community, following the way of Jesus to nourish the body, mind, and spirit of the people of our south metro communities and beyond.

Nativity Episcopal Church is committed to practice the way of love. We follow Jesus' example of radical hospitality as we celebrate God's presence in all people. We welcome all persons, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age, physical or mental capacity, education, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic or marital status. All are invited as full participants in the life and ministries of our community.

You may reach the office at Nativity@NativityMN.org or 952-435-8687

Nativity Episcopal Church Leadership
The Rev. Dana Fath Strande, Rector
The Rev. Kathleen K. Brusco, Assisting Priest
The Rev. Diane Luther, Deacon
Chloe Hrbacek, Parish Office Coordinator
Clayton Heidbreder, Music Minister
Charlotte McLendon, Organist
Jean Hines, Children and Youth Minister

Nate Gooden, Senior Warden
Theresa May, Junior Warden
Steve Grier, Treasurer

15601 Maple Island Road, Burnsville, MN 55306
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Office email: nativity@nativitymn.org

Liturgical Ministers

Lector: London Feland

Prayer Leader: Tamera Loerzel

Eucharistic Ministers:

Ushers: Elise Schoenrock & Lisa Elliott

Tech: Paul Brusco

Next Week: August 2nd

Lector	Adam Silkey
Prayer Leader	
Eucharistic Ministers	
Usher (x2)	Dave Rowley & Francesca Carr
Tech	

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, or confused. We especially welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers.

We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing,' just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're a regular church goer or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago. We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome hockey moms, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like 'organized religion.' We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting, and you wanted to take her to church. We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids, or got lost looking for Buck Hill and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters... and you!

If you've been away for a while, welcome back. If you haven't been getting our weekly email, Nativity E-Notes, and would like to reconnect, please let the office know at Nativity@NativityMN.org.

If you need assistance during the service, please ask an usher or someone near you for help. Children of all ages are welcome to be present at worship. The noise and voices of our children are welcome here. Children are welcome to do quiet activities in the quiet space, we call the PrayerGround, at the left front of the church. We ask that you sit in pews near them. There are also activity bags with books and crayons available near the entrance to the sanctuary that young ones can take to their pews. If you like, we also encourage you to bring your children forward at the time of Communion to receive either Communion or a blessing.

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

The Reverend Dana Fath Strande, Rector

As we begin our season after Pentecost (aka summer at Nativity), you will notice a few changes to our worship aid. We are using both the Book of Common Prayer and Enriching Our Worship, approved sources in the Episcopal Church for worship. During summer, when our choir takes a well-deserved break from leading worship, we will speak the psalm and add back in our Confession of Sin.

OPENING HYMN

Come Down, O Love Divine (Hymnal 516)

1 Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of mine,
 2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
 3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,
 and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
 shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;
 O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 for none can guess its grace, till Love cre - ate a place
 and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes a dwell - ing.

Words: Bianco da Siena (d. 1434?); tr. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890), alt. Music: *Down Ampney*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

All: **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

OPENING PRAYER

Presider: Christ our true and only Light: receive our morning prayers, and illumine the secrets of our hearts with your healing goodness, that no evil desires may possess us who are made new in the light of your heavenly grace

All: **Amen**

HYMN OF PRAISE

All Creatures of Our God and King (Hymnal 400, verse 7)

7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -

ness, O — ^ praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the

Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:

O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt. Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 123; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5-12

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 119:129-136

The psalm will be prayed responsively beginning with the pulpit side and alternating with the piano side.

129 Your decrees are wonderful; *

therefore I obey them with all my heart.

130 When your word goes forth it gives light; *

it gives understanding to the simple.

131 I open my mouth and pant; *

I long for your commandments.

132 Turn to me in mercy, *

as you always do to those who love your Name.

133 Steady my footsteps in your word; *

let no iniquity have dominion over me.

134 Rescue me from those who oppress me, *

and I will keep your commandments.

135 Let your countenance shine upon your servant *

and teach me your statutes.

136 My eyes shed streams of tears, *

because people do not keep your law.

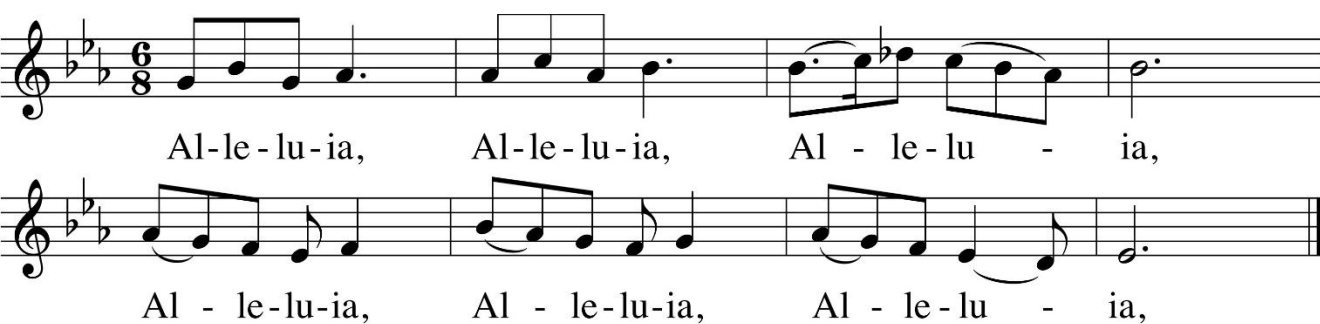
THE SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al - le-lu - ia,
Al - le-lu-ia, Al - le-lu-ia, Al - le-lu - ia,

Music: *Beneath the Tree of Life*, Marty Haugen, © 2000, 2001, GIA Publications, Inc.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

***All:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel is read.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

***All:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Dana Fath Strande

NICENE CREED

Presider: Let us declare our faith in God.

Presider and All:

**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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**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.
With the Father and the Son,
he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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 THE PEOPLE

Deacon: We pray today for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: In the Anglican Communion, we pray for Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury and for the Anglican Church of Tanzania. We pray for the Episcopal Church: for Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop, for Craig Loya, our Bishop of Minnesota, for St Anne parish in Sunfish Lake and for Sts. Mary and Martha parish in Eagan. In this Nativity community, we ask for blessings and care for all who worship with us. We pray for Building our Future, for our tireless workers, and for our loving clergy. Guide us all in your purpose, dear Lord, that we may always answer your call. Lord, in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the leaders of nations, and for all in authority, that you Lord will guide them into humility, wisdom, and justice. Give them eyes to see and hearts to know your love for all your children. We pray for everyone who fears authority because of race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, or legal status. Lord, in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: For seasonable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, for this bountiful planet that God has made for us. Give us the wisdom and will to conserve our island home. Lord, in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Comfort all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your loving presence. Bring healing to those on our prayer list...are there any others?

The people may bring their own petitions.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We offer you our thanks for your many blessings, especially those given to us that we now name silently or aloud...

The people may bring their own thanksgivings.

Leader: We ask for a holy and peaceful death for all whose life is ending...are there others?
The people may bring their own petitions.

Leader: And we commend to your mercy all who have died, especially...that your will for them may be fulfilled. Are there others?
The people may bring their own petitions

Leader: We pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,
All: **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth. Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage, we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. In Jesus' Name we pray.
All: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon: Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.
Silence may be kept.
Presider and all:

**God our Father, we confess to you
and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ
that we have sinned in thought,
word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.
We are truly sorry.
Forgive us our sins,
and deliver us from the power of evil,
for the sake of your Son who died for us,
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

All: **Amen**

THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, OR ANY OTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR A BLESSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

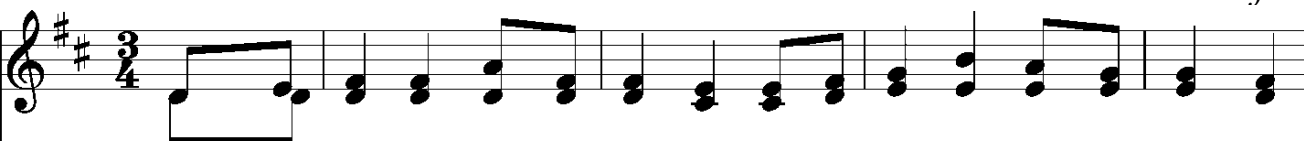
OFFERTORY

The Presider invites the gifts of the congregation, with these or other words

Presider: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Children of the Heavenly Father



1. Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly in His bos - om gath - er;
2. God His own doth tend and nour - ish, In His ho - ly courts they flour - ish;
3. Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the Lord His chil - dren sev - er;
4. Praise the Lord in joy - ful num - bers, Your pro - tect - or nev - er slum - bers;
5. Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



1. Nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en, Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
2. From all e - vil things He spares them, In His might - y arms He bears them.
3. Un - to them His grace He show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
4. At the will of your de - fend - er Ev - ery per - son must sur - ren - der.
5. His the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Words: Carolina Sandell-Berg, 1955; tr. Ernest W. Olson, 1925. Music: Swedish Folk Melody. Text Translation: Copyright © Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is right to give our thanks and praise. Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker. Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be, and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment. Dawn and evening celebrate your glory till time shall be no more. In Christ your Son the life of heaven and earth were joined, sealing the promise of a new creation, given, yet still to come. Taught by your Spirit, we who bear your threefold likeness look for the City of Peace in whose light we are transfigured and the earth transformed. As children of your redeeming purpose who await the coming of your Son, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, — hea - ven 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. —

Music: Calvin Hampton (1938-1984). Copyright © Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

Presider: Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father. In Jesus you showed us yourself. Our hope is built on him, the first, the last, the living one. Obedient, even to accepting death, He opened the gate of glory and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, alight with the vision of a feast that heralded a kingdom yet to come, at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: “Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you.”

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: “Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Presider and all:

**We now obey your Son's command.
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him,
we offer you these gifts with them ourselves,
a single, holy, living sacrifice.**

Presider: Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by your Spirit's life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Presider and all:

**Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity
and love until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all our brothers and sisters
living and departed.**

Presider: Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end.

All: **Amen.**

Presider: And now, as our Savior, Christ, has taught us, we are bold to say;

Presider and All:

**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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

FRACTION ANTHEM

I Myself Am the Bread of Life

Refrain

I my-self am the bread of life. You and I
are the bread of life, tak-en and blessed, bro-ken and
shared by Christ that the world might live.

Rory Cooney, 1987 OCP All rights reserved

INVITATION

Presider: So come to this table,
you who have much faith
and you who would like to have more;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been for a long time;
you who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed;
Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

The Gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Presider and all:

**Loving God,
we give you thanks and praise
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son
and brought us home.
Dying and living,
he declared your love,
gave us grace,
and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights,
give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

Presider: The Wisdom of God, the Love of God and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, and the Blessing of the Holy Trinity, Creator, Son and Holy Spirit be with you this day and always.

All: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me (Hymnal 685)

1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Should my tears for ev - er flow, should my zeal no lan - guor know,
3 While I draw this fleet-ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side that flowed,
all for sin could not a - tone: thou must save, and thou a - lone;
when I rise to worlds un - known and be - hold thee on thy throne,

be of sin the dou-ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.
in my hand no price I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Words: Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778), alt. Music: *Toplady*, Thomas Hastings (1784-1872).

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

TODAY AT NATIVITY

Last Day to Sign Up! River Cruise

After Service – Sunday, July 26th

Sign up via Nativity Notes!

WEEKLY AT NATIVITY

Youth Summer Daze

12-5pm – Wednesdays in July and August

Coffee Hour

After Service – Sundays

Community Café

5-6pm – Wednesdays

UPCOMING

Boo Bash Meeting

After Service – Sunday, August 2nd

Parish Picnic

After Service – Sunday, August 12th

Vestry 101 Meeting

After Service – Sunday, August 16th

