

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Worship Aid for August 23rd, 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.

Notice that our service is livestreamed, and you may be visible on the camera.

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

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Office email: nativity@nativitymn.org

Liturgical Ministers
Lector: Adam Silkey
Prayer Leader: Richard Luther
Eucharistic Ministers:
Ushers: Bob & Linda Schissel
Tech:

Next Week: August 30th

Lector	Kalie Ford
Prayer Leader	Marguerite Kirchhoff
Eucharistic Ministers	
Usher (x2)	
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

The Church's One Foundation (Hymnal 525)

1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
 4 Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war
 5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,



1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word:
 2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 3 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed;
 4 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;
 5 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.



1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 3 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
 4 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blessed,
 5 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we



1 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 2 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
 3 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 4 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.
 5 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

Words: Samuel John Stone (1839-1900). Music: *Aurelia*, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1818-1876).

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.

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; 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

Isaiah 51:1-6

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 138

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

- 1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.
- 2 I will bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;
- 3 For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.
- 4 When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.
- 5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.
- 6 They will sing of the ways of the Lord, *
that great is the glory of the Lord.
- 7 Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.
- 8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
**you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.**
- 9 The Lord will make good his purpose for me; *
**O Lord, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.**

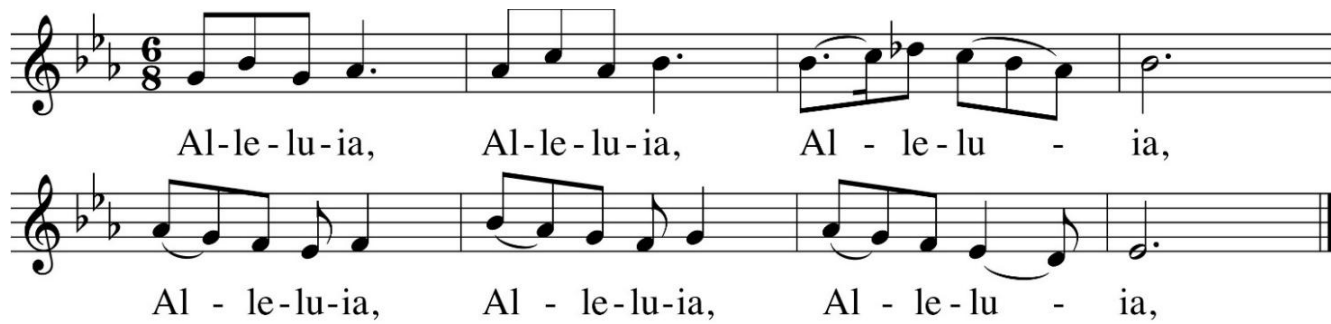
THE SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-8

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

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: The love of God endures all. We pray in faith and hope that our voices will be heard and that our prayers will be answered in God's own loving way. Let us now ask for guidance, justice, and peace for all creation saying, Hear our prayer.

Leader: Gracious God, we pray for your whole Church: In the Anglican Communion we pray for Sarah Mulally, Archbishop of Canterbury. We pray for the Church of the Province of West Africa. We pray for the Episcopal church, for Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop and for Craig Loya our Bishop. We pray for St. Bartholomew's Church in Bemidji. Here in our Nativity community, we ask your blessings on all who worship with us. Guide the important work of Building our Future. Bless our loving clergy. Strengthen us all in your purpose, dear Lord, that we may daily answer your call.

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of this world, we pray for the leaders of the nations and all in authority that they may fulfill their promises and duties with Christ-like humility, justice, and love. God of peace,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of generosity, we pray for farm workers, for a good harvest, and for safety from violent weather. We give thanks to you for all the blessings you have given us, our lives, our families, our communities, this parish and for our beautiful earth. God of creation,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of kindness, we pray for all in danger and need: For the sick and the suffering, for prisoners and their families, for the hungry, the homeless, and all who, for any reason, are oppressed today. We pray for those beloved and forgotten ones whom we try not to see. We pray now especially for all in our hearts and on our prayer list...are there others?

The people may bring their own petitions.

Leader: God of hope,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

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

The people may bring their own thanksgivings.

Leader: We pray for a peaceful and holy death for...are there others?

The people may bring their own petitions.

Leader: God of resurrection, we pray for these departed who rest in Christ...are there others?

The people may bring their own petitions.

Leader: God of life eternal,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Deacon: Hear our humble prayers, dear Lord. Turn our hearts to you each day. Instill in us a love for your creation and a desire for oneness with you. Make us strive to be open to your wisdom and help us to see your face in everyone. 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

In the Garden

1. I come to the gar - den a - lone, While the
2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice Is so
3. I'd stay in the gar - den with Him Though the

1. dew is still on the ros - es; And the voice I hear, fall - ing
2. sweet the birds hush their sing - ing; And the me - lo - dy that He
3. night a - round me be fall - ing; But He bids me go through the

1. on my ear, The Son of God dis - clos - es.
2. gave to me With - in my heart is ring - ing.
3. voice of woe, His voice to me is call - ing.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me, And He
tells me I am His own, And the joy we share as we
tar - ry there, None oth - er has ev - er known.

Words: C. Austin Miles (1868-1946). Music: C. Austin Miles.

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

Gracious Spirit, Give Your Servants



1. Gra - cious Spir - it, give your ser - vants joy to set sin's
 2. Word made flesh, who gave up glo - ry to be - come our
 3. Lov - ing God, who birthed cre - a - tion from the noth - ing -
 4. Tri - une God, e - ter - nal Be - ing, nev - er end - ing,
 cap - tives free, hope to heal the bro - ken - heart - ed,
 great high priest, tak - ing on our hu - man na - ture
 ness of space, kin - dling life where all was emp - ty,
 un - be - gun, bound - less grace and per - fect jus - tice,
 peace to share love's li - ber - ty. Through us bring your balm of
 to re - deem the last and least: let your cour - age and com -
 turn - ing cha - os in - to grace: when we feel con - fused and
 right - eous and for - giv - ing One: so en - fold us in you
 glad - ness to the wound - ed and op - pressed; help us claim and
 pas - sion shape and guide our min - is - tries; as our Sav - ior
 fruit - less, dawn up - on our rest - less night; give us faith's im -
 mer - cy that our wills and yours u - nite; through us may the
 show God's fa - vor as a peo - ple called and blessed.
 and our Shep - herd, lead us to the truth that frees.
 ag - i - na - tion, hope's re - new - ing, love's de - light.
 world be - hold you, find your love, your truth, your light.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (B. 1944). Music: Abbot's Leigh, Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991).

DISMISSAL

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

All: Thanks be to God.

WEEKLY AT NATIVITY

Coffee Hour

After Service – Sundays

Community Café

5-6pm – Wednesdays

UPCOMING

ECMN at the St. Paul Saints Game

6:37pm – Friday, September 11th

Tickets and more information available
through Nativity Notes or episcopalmn.org

Parish Potluck

After Service – Sunday, September 13th

Bell Choir & Choir Begins Again

5 & 6:15pm – Tuesday, September 15th

Newcomer Orientation

After Service – Sunday, September 27th

