

✠ MIDWEEK OF LENT 5 ✠

March 25, 2026



**Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church**

1665 South 57<sup>th</sup> St.  
West Allis, WI 53214

# ✝ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church ✝

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Nain is a member congregation of the  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
[www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)

Pastor: Joseph M. Berg  
Phone: 414-810-3392  
Email: [revjberg@gmail.com](mailto:revjberg@gmail.com)

## About Our Worship Service

Welcome in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Our message is as old as God's Word to mankind: Jesus Christ, crucified and risen to take away our sins. We gather for the Divine Service not merely for the sake of ritual or tradition. Nor do we come to worship primarily to give something back to God. Rather, we meet together to hear and receive what God has done for us. In Word and Sacrament, our gracious Lord gives those who believe in him forgiveness of sins, unity with him in new life, and the promise of eternal salvation in heaven! Through this same gospel he motivates and equips us to follow his holy will for our lives. We hope that you are comforted with the message of Jesus Christ's love for you as you worship today. Please join us again soon!

## Visitors

Thank you for joining us for worship! Please read the following notes about our congregation. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please speak with the pastor.

### Our Practice of Closed Communion

If you have not communed with us before, please read the notes printed later in this bulletin under the section titled "Our Holy Communion Practices."

### Restrooms

Restrooms are located in the downstairs fellowship hall. A wheelchair accessible restroom is located at the front of the church, through the doors to the left of the chancel.

### Guest Book

If you feel comfortable doing so, please sign our guest book located in the narthex so we can have a record of your visit.

### Parent's Room

Parents with crying children are welcome to use the parent's room, located off the narthex.

### Chair Lifts

Chair lifts are located off the northwest entrance for those who need to go to the fellowship hall on the lower level but have difficulty with stairs.

# Midweek of Lent 5

March 25, 2026



*Midweek Lent*

***It Is Finished***

***The Holy Week Prophecies of Zechariah***

The theme of our Midweek Lenten services this year is: “It Is Finished.” At each service, we will hear prophecies about our Lord God’s work to save sinners from the book of Zechariah. Zechariah described the events of Jesus’ suffering and death with such vivid clarity—centuries before those events took place—that he is referred to as the “Holy Week Prophet.” We will see that because Jesus fulfilled every prophecy God made to his people about the coming Messiah and perfectly carried out God’s plan of salvation, he could cry from the cross, “It is finished!”

*Midweek of Lent 5*

***Look at the One Who Was Pierced***

This evening we conclude our reading of the Passion History of our Lord according to the Gospel of St. Matthew with the account of Jesus’ crucifixion. The crowd shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate conceded and surrendered Jesus to their will. Jesus was led away to the cross where he was put to death. Taunted, jeered, and battered, Jesus hardly looked like a king. We notice the irony of it all as we “look at the one who was pierced.” What king doesn’t put up a fight? What king suffers and dies so shamefully? It appears as though Jesus failed.

Yet, through the eyes of faith, we know it had to be this way. God said so. In one of the most vivid Holy Week prophecies in the book of Zechariah, the Lord foretold, “They will look at me, the one they have pierced.” Jesus’ suffering and death were all part of God’s plan!

What a beautiful sight! That was God himself dying on the cross. Why? For us and for our salvation! Therefore, dear Christian, look at the one who was pierced and don’t be dismayed. Instead, rejoice! It is finished. Your sins are paid for. Death is defeated. Satan is conquered. See in the one who was pierced your hope for forgiveness, life, and eternal salvation in heaven!

# Evening Prayer

## Vespers

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**Welcome to God's house in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!**

*A personal prayer for before worship is printed on the first page of the blue hymnal.*

*The hymns are located in the middle to back portion of the blue hymnal.*

*Joining us for worship today is Jubilation, Wisconsin Lutheran High School's student handbell choir.*

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## Service of Light

### Preservice Music

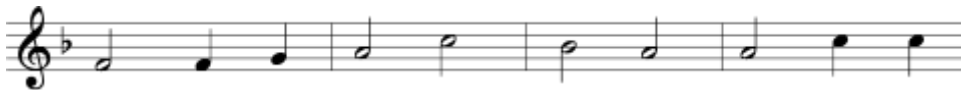
*"Be Thou My Vision"*

*"God's Love Rings Out"*

*"God Be With You Til We Meet Again"*

### Opening Hymn

434 *"Upon the Cross Extended"*



1 Up - on the cross ex - tend - ed, see, world, your  
2 Who is it, Lord, that bruised you? Who has so  
3 I caused your grief and sigh - ing by e - vils  
4 Your soul in griefs un - bound - ed, your head with  
5 Your cross I place be - fore me, its sav - ing



Lord sus - pend - ed; your Sav - ior yields his breath.  
sore a - bused you and caused you all your woe?  
mul - ti - ply - ing as count - less as the sands.  
thorns sur - round - ed, you died to ran - som me.  
pow'r re - store me, sus - tain me in the test.



The Prince of life from heav - en him - self has free - ly  
We all must make con - fes - sion of sin and dire trans -  
I caused the woes un - num - bered with which your soul is  
The cross for me en - dur - ing, the crown for me se -  
It will, when life is end - ing, be guid - ing and at -



giv - en to shame and blows and bit - ter death.  
gres - sion, while you no ways of e - vil know.  
cum - bered, your sor - rows raised by wick - ed hands.  
cur - ing, you healed my wounds and set me free.  
tend - ing my way to your e - ter - nal rest.

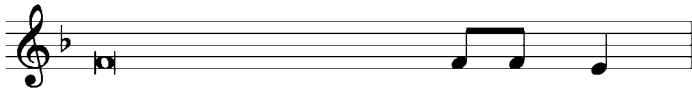
*Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.; tr. John Kelly, 1833–1890, alt. Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450–1517 Text and tune: Public domain*

## Opening Sentences

*(John 8:12; Luke 24:29; 1 John 1:5)*

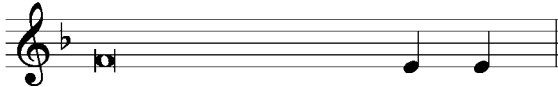
*Please stand*

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



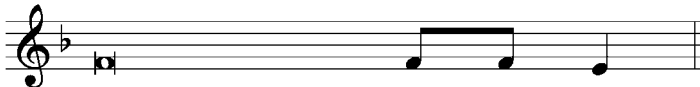
**the light no darkness can o - ver - come.**

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,



**and the day is almost o - ver.**

Be our light and scatter the darkness,



**and hear our evening prayer and praise.**

*Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758*

# Hymn of Light *Phos hilaron*

(Psalm 18:28; Isaiah 9:2; John 1:5-9)



1 Glad - d'ning light of pur - est glo - ry, shin - ing  
2 In the fad - ing light of eve - ning, as the  
3 For your gift of life un - end - ing, joy - ful



down from heav'n on high, from the ev - er -  
set - ting sun de - parts, Fa - ther, Son, and  
voic - es ev - er sing hymns of praise that



liv - ing Fa - ther— hail, most bless - ed Je - sus Christ!  
Ho - ly Spir - it— we a - dore you, Lord our God.  
right - ly hon - or, Son of God, your sav - ing name.

*Text: Michael D. Schultz Text and tune: © 2021 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, for you are merciful and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

# Psalm 141

(Psalm 141:1-4,8)

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing up  
of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I  
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I  
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,  
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

*Tune: David Schack Tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758*

Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord, and let your mercy descend on us, that we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# Service of the Word

## Penitential Psalm

Psalm 143

*Psalm 143 is the last of the seven penitential psalms. The Church sings Psalm 143 to request reassurance from the Lord. The Septuagint says that it was written when wicked Absalom pursued his father David. Martin Luther said, "Psalm 143 is a prayer psalm for grace and forgiveness of sins by a person accused by his own conscience. The promoters of the law plague distressed consciences and drive them to despair and death. But grace provides deliverance. All believers place their hope on God's love and grace."*

- <sup>1</sup> LORD, hear my prayer.  
Give ear to my cry for mercy.  
In your faithfulness, answer me in your righteousness.
- <sup>2</sup> **Do not bring charges against your servant,  
because no one living can be righteous before you.**
- <sup>3</sup> For the enemy pursues my soul.  
He crushes my life to the ground.  
He makes me dwell in dark places like those long dead,
- <sup>4</sup> **so my spirit grows faint inside me.  
Within me my heart is devastated.**
- <sup>5</sup> I remember the days of long ago.  
I meditate on all your works,  
and I consider what your hands have done.
- <sup>6</sup> **I spread out my hands to you.  
My soul thirsts for you like a weary land.**
- <sup>7</sup> Hurry! Answer me, LORD.  
My spirit fails.  
**Do not hide your face from me,  
or I will be like those who go down to the pit.**
- <sup>8</sup> Let me hear about your mercy in the morning,  
for I trust in you.  
**Teach me the way that I should go,  
for I lift up my soul to you.**

- 9 Rescue me from my enemies, O LORD,  
for I hide myself in you.
- 10 **Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God.  
May your good Spirit lead me on level ground.**
- 11 For the sake of your name, O LORD, preserve my life.  
In your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.
- 12 **In your mercy, wipe out my enemies,  
and destroy all who threaten my life,  
for I am your servant.**

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Passion History

Matthew 27:27-66

*Jesus is crucified, dies, and is buried*

<sup>27</sup> Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole cohort of soldiers around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. <sup>29</sup> They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand, knelt in front of him, and mocked him by saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>30</sup> They spit on him, took the staff, and hit him repeatedly on his head.

<sup>31</sup> After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

<sup>32</sup> As they were going out of the city, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon. They forced him to carry Jesus' cross. <sup>33</sup> They came to a place called Golgotha, which means "The place of the skull." <sup>34</sup> They offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> After they had crucified him, they divided his clothing among themselves by casting lots. <sup>36</sup> Then they sat down and were keeping watch over him there. <sup>37</sup> Above his head they posted the written charge against him: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

<sup>38</sup> At the same time two criminals were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> People who passed by kept insulting him, shaking their heads, <sup>40</sup> and saying, “You who were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!”

<sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests, experts in the law, and elders kept mocking him. They said, <sup>42</sup> “He saved others, but he cannot save himself. If he’s the King of Israel, let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now, if he wants him, because he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” <sup>44</sup> In the same way even the criminals who were crucified with him kept insulting him.

<sup>45</sup> From the sixth hour until the ninth hour, there was darkness over all the land. <sup>46</sup> About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?*” which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

<sup>47</sup> When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “This fellow is calling for Elijah.”

<sup>48</sup> Immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, and soaked it with sour wine. Then he put it on a stick and gave him a drink. <sup>49</sup> The rest said, “Leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

<sup>50</sup> After Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. <sup>51</sup> Suddenly, the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and rocks were split. <sup>52</sup> Tombs were opened, and many bodies of saints who had fallen asleep were raised to life. <sup>53</sup> Those who came out of the tombs went into the holy city after Jesus’ resurrection and appeared to many people. <sup>54</sup> When the centurion and those who were guarding Jesus with him saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they were terrified and said, “Truly this was the Son of God.”

<sup>55</sup> Many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and who had served him were there, watching from a distance. <sup>56</sup> Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee’s sons.

<sup>57</sup> When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. <sup>58</sup> He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered that it be given to him. <sup>59</sup> Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, <sup>60</sup> and laid it in his own new tomb that he had cut in the rock. He rolled a large stone over the tomb's entrance and left. <sup>61</sup> Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there sitting opposite the tomb.

<sup>62</sup> On the next day, which was the day after the Preparation Day, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered in the presence of Pilate <sup>63</sup> and said, "Sir, we remembered what that deceiver said while he was still alive: 'After three days I will rise again.' <sup>64</sup> So give a command that the tomb be made secure until the third day. Otherwise his disciples might steal his body and tell the people, 'He is risen from the dead.' And this last deception will be worse than the first."

<sup>65</sup> Pilate said to them, "You have a guard. Go, make it as secure as you know how." <sup>66</sup> So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and posting a guard.

The Passion History of Our Lord.

**All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed.** (Isaiah 53:6,5 NIV)

*Please remain silent for meditation*



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af-flict-ed, see him dy-ing on the  
 2 Tell me, as you hear him groan-ing, was there ev-er grief like  
 3 If you think of sin but light-ly nor sup-pose the e-vil  
 4 Here we have a firm foun-da-tion, here the ref-uge of the



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re-ject-ed; yes, my  
 his, friends through fear his cause dis-own-ing, foes in-  
 great, here you see its na-ture right-ly, here its  
 lost: Christ, the rock of our sal-va-tion, is the



soul, 'tis he, 'tis he. 'Tis the long-ex-pect-ed  
 sult-ing his dis-tress? Man-y hands were raised to  
 guilt may es-ti-mate. Mark the sac-ri-fice ap-  
 name of which we boast; Lamb of God, for sin-ners



Proph-et, Da-vid's son, yet Da-vid's Lord; proofs I  
 wound him, none would in-ter-vene to save; but the  
 point-ed, see who bears the aw-ful load; 'tis the  
 wound-ed, sac-ri-fice to can-cel guilt! None shall



see suf-fi-cient of it: 'tis the true and faith-ful Word.  
 deep-est stroke that pierced him was the stroke that jus-tice gave.  
 Word, the Lord's a-noint-ed, Son of Man and Son of God.  
 ev-er be con-found-ed who on him their hope have built.

## Sermon Text

Zechariah 12:10-11

<sup>10</sup> I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace, who pleads for mercy. Then they will look at me, the one they have pierced.

They will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child. They will grieve bitterly for him, as one grieves over his firstborn. <sup>11</sup> On that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, as great as the mourning for Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

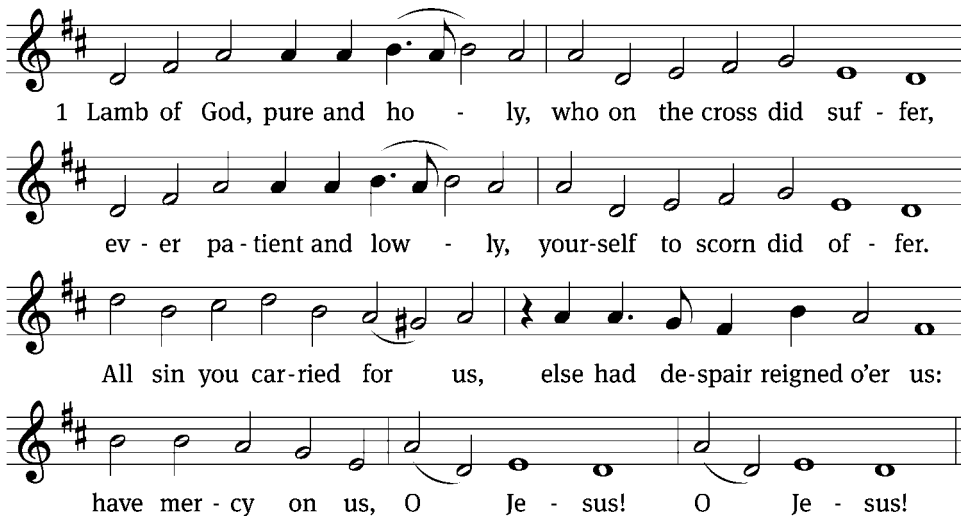
## Sermon

*“Look at the One Who Was Pierced”*

*Please remain seated after the sermon*

## Song of Praise

947 *“Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”* (stanza 1)



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,  
ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.  
All sin you car-ried for us, else had de-spair reigned o'er us:  
have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

*Text: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941 Tune: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546 Text and tune: Public domain*

## Offertory Music

*“Ah, Holy Jesus”*

## Offering Collection

(Proverbs 3:9-10; Matthew 6:19-34; Romans 12:1; 2 Corinthians 9:7-11; Galatians 6:6-10)

### Offerings

*God, who blesses us with all we gave, gives us the privilege of thanking him in many ways. One way is by offering a portion of our income to financially support the ministry of our congregation and synod.*

*If you are a guest, please do not feel like you must give an offering.*

*We are happy to share with you the free, good news of Jesus' gracious love for you!*

*If you would like to give an offering, you can place it in the collection plate when it is passed to you.*

*If you wish to give your offering via [PayPal](#), you can scan the QR code on the last page of this bulletin.*

*Thank you for your financial support of our congregation!*

### Friendship Registers

*You are invited to write your name in the Friendship Register - the maroon book at the end of each pew. Please write down your name and the names of those with you, check any appropriate box, and provide your contact information if you want the pastor to speak with you.*

## Lord, Have Mercy      Kyrie

(Psalm 51:1; Mark 10:47; Luke 17:13)

*Please stand*

Let us pray.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the gifts of humility and repentance, and for the will to bear our crosses as we follow Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the perspective to see that, apart from Christ, gain is loss, and in Christ, loss is gain, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For minds set on heavenly things, for hearts that long for heavenly glory, and for perseverance to press on and take hold of our heavenly prize, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## Prayer

Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

*(Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4)*

**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.**

## Benedicamus

*(Psalm 103:1)*

Let us praise the Lord.



**Thanks be to God.**

## Blessing

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



*Please be seated*

## Closing Hymn

431 "O Perfect Life of Love"



- 1 O per - fect life of love! All, all is fin - ished now,
- 2 No work is left un - done of all the Fa - ther willed;
- 3 No pain that we can share but he has felt its smart;
- 4 And on his thorn-crowned head and on his sin - less soul



all that he left his throne a - bove to do for us be - low.  
his toil, his sor - rows, one by one, the Scrip - tures have ful - filled.  
all forms of hu - man grief and care have pierced that ten - der heart.  
our sins in all their guilt were laid that he might make us whole.

- 5 In perfect love he dies;  
for me he dies, for me!  
O all-atoning Sacrifice,  
you died to make me free!
- 6 In ev'ry time of need,  
before the judgment throne,  
your works, O Lamb of God, I'll plead,  
your merits, not my own.

*Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877, abr., alt. Tune: William Daman, c. 1540-1591 Text and tune: Public domain*

## Post-Service Music

"Praise His Name in the Dance"





**Special thanks to:**

Joel Schwartz for playing organ...

the WLHS students of Jubilation for playing handbells, and Alicia Lash for directing them...

Aaron Palmer and Mark Buske for ushering... and Joe Lopina for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream.

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**We are collecting a free will offering today to support the Fine Arts department of WLHS.**

If you are moved to contribute, you may place your offering in the acrylic box on the small white table in the narthex.

If you want to give your offering via check, please make it payable to "Nain." Cash is also accepted.

After all the offerings are collected, our church treasurer will write one check to the school.

Thank you for your donation and support of Wisconsin Lutheran High School!

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**A personal prayer for after worship** is printed on the first page of the hymnal.

If you haven't done so already, **please write your name in the Friendship Register before you leave.**

**You will not be ushered out.** You may depart any time after the closing hymn.

**If you have an offering,** you can place it in the collection box located in the narthex.

If you wish to give your offering via [PayPal](#), you can scan the QR code on the last page of this bulletin.

Thank you for your financial support of our congregation!

**Thank you for joining us** as we together worshiped our Triune God. The Lord be with you this week!

Nain is a member congregation of the **Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.**

For more information about our synod, please visit its website: [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)

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Evening Prayer from Christian Worship

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from

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Psalms introduction from Christian Worship: Psalter

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