+ NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

July 30, 2023



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St. West Allis, WI 53214

+ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church +

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Pianist:Juanita BeckerChoir Director:Lois Buske

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.

<u>Guest Book</u>

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.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 12

July 30, 2023



Sundays after Pentecost **Define Christian**

Christ himself defines the term Christian and describes what Christians do. We will be struck by how often we do not do all those things. There likely are times when people could look at our behavior and assume we were unbelievers. Yet Jesus demonstrates that ultimately a Christian is one who runs to Christ for forgiveness precisely because he has failed to live like what he is—a Christian. As we receive the mercy of Christ, it moves us to strive with all our being to better fit Christ's beautiful definition, doing all the things Jesus says that Christians do.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost The Christian Seeks Spiritual Wealth

What do you consider your life's priorities? If you made a list, what would be near the top? Faith, family, and friends would probably head the lists of many. Financial security and health would be right up there. Reputation and recreation would likely make the cut. But perhaps a more interesting question than "What do you consider your life's priorities?" is "Which of the items on that list would you be willing to sacrifice to save your top priority?" What if you had to give up the whole list—family, friends, finances, health, reputation, recreation—to save just one priority: faith?

This week we are given an honest assessment of what really matters in life. The kingdom is worth everything. Worldly wealth can buy the things of this world, the type of things that rust and decay, things that will not last. True wealth is spiritual wealth. It can be found only in God and his eternal blessings for us in Christ. The Christian seeks first spiritual wealth and will sacrifice anything to obtain it.

The Service Setting Four

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

Please enter the sanctuary quietly so you and others can prepare your hearts for God's worship service. 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.

The Preparation

Opening Hymn

770 "God of Grace and God of Glory"





Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969, abr., alt. Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932 Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

Invocation

(Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

(1 John 1:8-9; Luke 18:13)

I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

(Matthew 16:19; John 20:21-23)

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy Kyrie

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

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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





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.



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



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



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The Word

Salutation

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading

The Lord offered to give Solomon anything he wanted. Solomon requested the spiritual wealth of a believing heart that could discern right form wrong.

⁵ The LORD appeared to Solomon in Gibeon in a dream at night.

God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

⁶ Solomon said, "You have shown great mercy and faithfulness to your servant, my father David, just as he walked before you in truth, righteousness, and uprightness of heart toward you. You have shown this great mercy and faithfulness to him and have given him a son who is seated on his throne to this very day. ⁷O LORD my God, now you have made your servant king in the place of my father David, but I am a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And I, your servant, am among your people whom you have chosen, a great people, who cannot be counted or numbered because they are so many. ⁹ Now give to your servant a perceptive heart to judge your people, to distinguish between good and evil, for who is able to judge this great people of yours?"

(Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22)

(Matthew 7:7-11; Philippians 4:6)

1 Kings 3:5-12

¹⁰ In the eyes of the LORD, Solomon's request was good. ¹¹ So God said to him, "Because you have asked for this, and you have not asked for a long life, nor have you asked for riches, nor have you asked for the lives of your enemies, but you have asked for discernment to reach just verdicts, ¹² therefore I will act according to your words. Yes, I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you before you, nor will anyone like you rise up after you.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 63 C "Lord, You Are My Hope and Stay"

The entire congregation will sing together the whole Psalm



Because your love is bet- / ter than life, my lips will glori- / fy you.
I will praise you as long / as I live, and in your name I will lift / up my hands.
Because you / are my help, I sing in the shadow / of your wings.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son and to the Holy / Spirit, as it was in the be- / ginning, is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

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Second Reading

1 Timothy 6:17-21

Paul warns against the two pet sins of those who have worldly wealth: arrogance and false hope.

¹⁷ Instruct those who are rich in this present age not to be arrogant or to put their hope in the uncertainty of riches, but rather in God, who richly supplies us with all things for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they are storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

²⁰ O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, turning away from godless, empty talk and the contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge." ²¹ By professing it, some have veered away from the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced

Gospel Acclamation



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Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

Through a series of parables Jesus teaches the value of spiritual wealth.

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid again. In his joy, he goes away and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one very valuable pearl, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸ When the net was filled, they pulled it onto the shore. They sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but threw the bad ones away. ⁴⁹ That is how it will be at the end of the world. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous who are among them. ⁵⁰ And they will throw the wicked into the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ⁵¹ Jesus said to them, "Did you understand all these things?"

They answered him, "Yes."

⁵² He said to them, "Therefore every expert in the law who has been trained as a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his treasure both new things and old things."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

823 "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"





Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677, abr.; (sts. 1–2, 4–5): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 3): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text and tune: Public domain

Matthew 13:44-52

"Your Greatest Treasure Values You Even More"

Please stand

Sermon

Nicene Creed Credo

(Romans 10:9-10; Philippians 2:10-11)

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,

and became truly human. 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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Please be seated

O Lord, Our Lord (CW 939)

⁽Psalm 8:1; 103:2-4; John 1:1,14,18; Romans 8:32)





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Prayer of the Church

Stewardship

Let us pray.

Lord God, from whom all blessings flow, we praise you for everything you provide to sustain our lives. Lead us every day to be thankful for your gifts and content with what you have given. Today we pray that you would guide us to manage your blessings wisely for the good of your kingdom.

As we use your gifts to meet our needs, move us also to support the ministry of the gospel with our offerings.

Before your Son ascended to your throne, he called us to preach the good news to every creature. In grace you created the public ministry so that we may answer his call by sending others in our place. Impress on us the immense importance of the task you have given us to proclaim your Word to the world.

In our words and in our offerings, move us to be faithful witnesses of your grace.

Work in our hearts so that our gifts do more than support a cause or meet a need. Move us to give out of love for you, our King and Redeemer.

Lead us to bring our gifts first to honor you, the Giver of all things.

Teach us to give as an ongoing part of life since the work of the gospel continues every day. Forgive us for the sins of apathy and carelessness and for giving that reacts only to urgent pleas or crises.

Help us see the wisdom of planning our offerings as a regular routine of our faith.

Teach us determine our offerings in view of your blessings to us. The widow's coins were meager, but they were all she had. Move us to believe that to whom much is given, much is also expected.

Give us courage to bring gifts that reflect your gifts to us.

Teach us to give our offerings as a cheerful response of our faith in you and your Son. Spare us all feelings of obligation or resentment as we give. Help us to see our offerings as the vehicle that carries the gospel to the lost and lead us to rejoice with the angels of heaven over every sinner who repents.

Help us to balance our duty to give with the joy of giving.

Special prayers and intercessions

The Christian Church has traditionally marked July 25 as a day to remember God's work through St. James the Elder, Apostle. We will recognize this minor church year festival in our prayers today.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Precious Lord, all our blessings come from you. Lead us again and again to thank you and then move us to be wise and faithful stewards of your gifts. May our gifts and offerings bring souls here and far away to the gracious gift of Jesus and his love.

Lord, hear us and grant us this blessing. Amen.

Offertory

(Proverbs 3:9-10; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Matthew 6:19-21; 25-34)

Offerings to Our Lord

God, who blesses us with all we have, gives us the privilege of showing him our thanks in many ways. One way is by giving back a portion of what he has given us to support the work of the Church.

If you are a guest, please don't feel that you must give an offering. We are happy to share with you the free, good news of Jesus' eternal love for you.

How to Submit Your Offering

If you have an offering, you can place it in the collection box located in the narthex, mail it to the church, or if you wish to give electronically via <u>PayPal</u>, you can scan the QR code printed on the bottom of this page or visit <u>https://www.nainlutheran.org/resources/online-giving</u>.

Thank you for your financial support of our congregation!

Friendship Registers

A Friendship Register (i.e. the maroon book) is located at the end of each pew. Sometime before you leave, please write in your name and the names of those with you and check any appropriate box. If you want the pastor to reach out to you, please also provide your contact information. Thank you!



The Sacrament

Visitors, before approaching the altar, please read the notes printed later in this bulletin under the section titled "Our Holy Communion Practices"

Please stand

Prefaces

(2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 107:1)





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It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy Sanctus

(Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9)



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Prayer of Thanksgiving

(John 1:3; Romans 8:32)

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting. **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.

Words of Institution Verba (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Peace of the Lord Pax Domini

(John 14:27; 20:19; 2 Thessalonians 3:16)

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**



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Please be seated

Our Holy Communion Practices

(Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:27-29; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 John 1:3; 2 John 9-11)

Visitors

Before approaching the altar to receive Holy Communion, please read the following notes:

The Holy Bible teaches the celebration of the Lord's Supper is an expression of unity in faith and teaching. To be "in communion" means to share and hold in common. By receiving Holy Communion, we are not only sharing Christ's true body and blood, but we are also confessing that we publicly hold in common the same teachings of God's Holy Word.

We therefore invite to Holy Communion only those Christians who share the same teachings to which we hold, all the while recognizing the true spiritual unity and fellowship of all believers in God's Holy Christian Church (i.e. the Communion of Saints). Confirmed members of Nain and confirmed visiting members of sister congregations in the WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) and the ELS (Evangelical Lutheran Synod) are welcome to commune with us.

If you are a member of another Lutheran synod, another Christian denomination, or of another belief, we ask that you refrain from communing with us at this time. We do this out of love and in accordance with God's words through St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:27-29. The pastor would be happy to speak with you if you have interest in communing in the future or have any other questions or concerns about our practices. Thank you for your patience and understanding, and for respecting our beliefs.

Communicants

"Christian Questions," a guide for personal preparation before receiving Holy Communion is printed on pages 295-296 in the hymnal. Prayers for before and after communing are printed on the first page of the hymnal.

The usher will direct you to the front of the nave, where you will commune. When the pastor distributes the bread and body of Christ, he will say, "The body of Christ, given for you." When he distributes the wine and blood of Christ, he will say, "The blood of Christ, poured out for you." Before consuming the sacramental elements, you may respond to the pastor's words by saying, "Amen" (which is Hebrew for, "Truly," or "Yes, it is so") as a way to confess your belief that the body and blood of Jesus are truly present in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of your sins.

Children and Non-Communicants

Children and other non-communicants are welcome to approach the altar to receive a blessing from the pastor. He will make the sign of the cross on the head of each and say, "The Lord bless you." Non-Communicant adults are asked to cross their arms over their chest to indicate that they do not intend to commune.

Distribution of Holy Communion

As he distributes the elements, the minister says to the communicants:

The body of Christ, given for you.

Amen.

The blood of Christ, poured out for you.

Amen.

As he dismisses the communicants, the minister says:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go + in peace.

Amen.

Distribution Hymn

717 "What Is the World to Me"





Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Georg M. Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732, abr. Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701 Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

807 "All Depends on Our Possessing"



- 5 Well he knows what best to grant me; all the longing hopes that haunt me, joy and sorrow, have their day.
 I shall doubt his wisdom never; as God wills, so be it ever;
 I commit to him my way.
- 6 If my days on earth he lengthen, he my weary soul will strengthen; all my trust in him I place.
 Earthly wealth is not abiding, like a stream away is gliding; safe I anchor in his grace.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Andächtige Haus-Kirche, Nürnberg, 1676 Tune: adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758; Johann Löhner, 1645–1705 Text and tune: Public domain

Thank the Lord and Sing His Praise (CW 948)

(Psalm 105:1-5; Isaiah 55:12)

Please stand as the canticle is introduced



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Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

Proclamation

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Post-Communion Prayer

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Please be seated

Closing Hymn

827 "Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing"



(Psalm 118:1)

(1 Corinthians 11:26)

(Romans 15:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 3:12, 5:11)

(Numbers 6:24-26)



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All are invited to gather downstairs in the fellowship hall after the service for **Fellowship Time** and **Bible Study.** We are currently studying the Apostle St. Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians. Today we will study chapter 1. We hope you will join us!



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

You will not be ushered out. You may depart any time after the closing hymn and post-service announcements.

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

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

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

Please contact Pastor Berg at any time if you are need of any pastoral care during the week.

Special thanks to: Juanita Becker for playing piano... Peter Hermanson for serving as distribution assistant... Michael Kraft for serving as usher... Brooke Smith for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream... and Joan Vitense for serving on Altar Duty.

For more information about today's Scripture readings, the current season of the Church Year, and the words and symbols featured on the paraments, please visit the "<u>Worship Resources</u>" page of our website to read this Sunday's "**About the Propers**," a weekly document that explains the changeable parts of the service.

All worshipers are encouraged to take home a copy of our **weekly newsletter**, the "Nain Messenger" to stay informed about all congregational news. Printed copies are available on the countertop in the narthex.

"**The Congregation at Prayer**," a document offering suggestions for daily devotions and Scripture readings, is also posted on the "<u>Worship Resources</u>" page of our church website.

"Understanding Lutheran Worship" provides excellent information about the Lutheran Liturgy, the Christian Church Year, and the Books of the Bible. A copy of the booklet is located in the hymnal rack of each pew.

> Nain is a member congregation of the **Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod**. For more information about our synod, please visit its website: <u>www.wels.net</u>

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