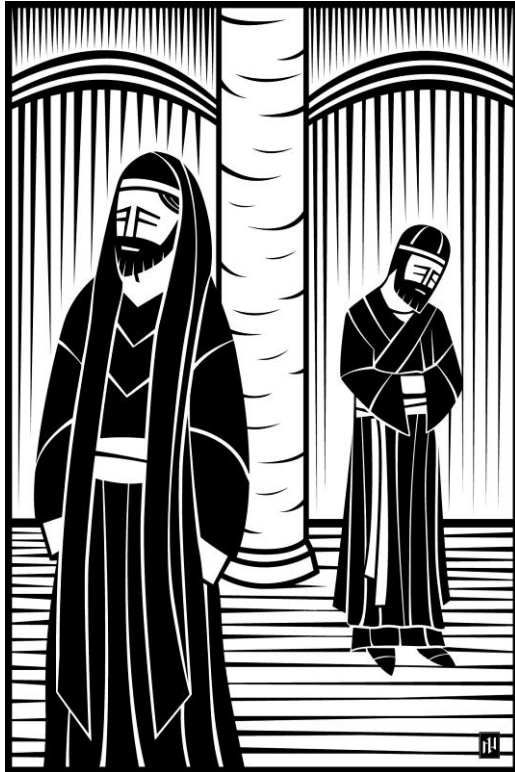


✠ ASH WEDNESDAY ✠

March 5, 2025



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

✝ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church ✝

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414-545-6925 | www.nainlutheran.org | www.facebook.com/nainlutheran



Pastor: Joseph M. Berg

Pianist: Juanita Becker

Phone: 414-810-3392

Church Choir: Lois Buske

Email: revjberg@gmail.com

Children's Choir: Peter Hermanson

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.

First Day of Lent Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025



Lent

Open Door Policies

God's Surprising Strategies for Getting Sinners Back Home

When a wayward child wanders far from home, how does a loving parent pursue them without driving them further away? One thing that parent does is let the child know that there is an ongoing open-door policy. The child knows they will always be welcomed back home. Likewise, when we wander from God, he always keeps his door open for us. But God doesn't just passively wait for us to return. He lovingly pursues sinners in ways that make them long for home. Throughout the season of Lent, we will see the surprising strategies our heavenly Father uses for getting sinners back home, close to him and the loving care he offers.

Ash Wednesday

Lowering Our Defenses

Whenever someone accuses us of doing wrong, it's easy to get defensive. We make excuses. "I'm not that bad." We try and balance the scales. "Okay, that was wrong. But look at all the good I do!" We play the comparison game. "At least I'm not like him!" When our defenses go up, repentance is impossible.

God, however, has a strategy for lowering our defenses. He assures us that his door is open, and that his home is the place we don't need to pretend to be something that we're not—perfect. Our Father does not ask us to come to him and confess our sin so that he might know what we've done. *He* already knows. He asks us to repent so that *we* might fully know what we've done. Only when we grasp the true weight of our sin, will we call out to God for mercy. When we do, God is always quick to forgive.



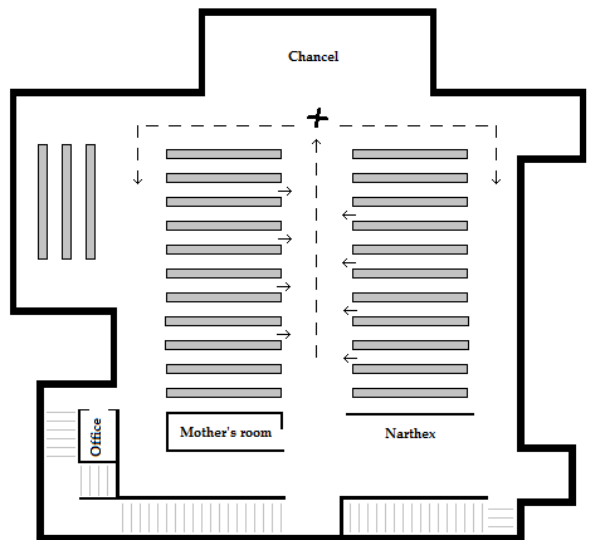
Instructions for the Imposition of Ashes

The Imposition of Ashes is intended to serve as a sign of Christ-centered repentance. The use of ashes proclaims God's Holy Law in a dramatic way. Ashes are a visual reminder that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), and that death means our bodies will return to the dust from which Adam was made (Genesis 3:19). The use of ashes also proclaim God's Holy Gospel. The form of the cross reminds us that because Christ gave his holy life as a sacrifice to pay for our sins, our guilt has been removed, we are made righteous in God's sight, and we are united to our living-Lord Jesus Christ through faith.

Participation: Taking part in this rite is voluntary; worshippers will not be required or expected to participate. Those who do not wish to receive ashes may remain seated in their pews.

Instructions: Those who wish to receive ashes will be ushered up to the chancel single file where Pastor will use ashes to draw a cross on their forehead (or the back of their hand) while saying, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (cf. Genesis 3:19). After receiving the ashes, participants will walk back to their pew using the side aisles (see the map below).

- Participants who want the ashes placed on their forehead are asked to simply step forward in front of pastor. If they have bangs, they are asked to move them out of the way of their forehead.
- Participants who want the ashes placed on the back of their hand are asked to extend that hand toward pastor.
- Parents who bring their children with them are asked to somehow make it clear if they *do not want them* to receive ashes. Otherwise, pastor will assume that they do and place ashes on their forehead.



The Service

Setting One

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

393 "Savior, When in Dust to You"



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom - age due,
2 By your help - less in - fant years, by your life of want and tears,
3 By your hour of dire de - spair, by your ag - o - ny of prayer,
4 By your deep ex - pir - ing groan, by the sad se - pul - chral stone,



when, re - pent - ant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes,
by your days of deep dis - tress in the sav - age wil - der - ness,
by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn,
by the vault whose dark a - bode held in vain the ris - ing God,



O, by all your pains and woe suf - fered once for us be - low,
by the dread, mys - te - rious hour of th' in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r,
by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice,
O, from earth to heav'n re - stored, might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord,



bend - ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
turn, O turn a fa - v'ring eye, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
lis - ten to our hum - ble sigh, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
bend - ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Psalm 51

- ¹ Be gracious to me, God,
according to your mercy.
Erase my acts of rebellion
according to the greatness of your compassion.
- ² Scrub me clean from my guilt.
Purify me from my sin.
- ³ For I admit my rebellious acts.
My sin is always in front of me.
- ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned,
and I have done this evil in your eyes.
So you are justified when you sentence me.
You are blameless when you judge.
- ⁵ Certainly, I was guilty when I was born.
I was sinful when my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ Since you desire truth on the inside,
in my hidden heart you teach me wisdom.
- ⁷ Remove my sin with hyssop, and I will be clean.
Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness.
Let the bones you have crushed celebrate.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins.
Erase all my guilty deeds.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God.
Renew an unwavering spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence.
Do not take your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation.
Sustain me with a willing spirit.
- ¹³ I will teach rebels your ways,
and sinners will turn to you.
- ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
the God who saves me.
My tongue will shout for joy about your righteousness.

- ¹⁵ Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- ¹⁶ For you do not delight in sacrifice,
or I would give it.
You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
- ¹⁷ The sacrifices God wants are a broken spirit.
A broken and crushed heart, O God, you will not despise.
- ¹⁸ As it pleases you, do good for Zion.
Build up the walls of Jerusalem.
- ¹⁹ Then you will be pleased with righteous sacrifices,
burnt offerings and whole offerings.
Then bulls will be offered up on your altar.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Invocation

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

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

Amen.

Introduction to Confession

Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in fellowship with him, to love all people, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the forty days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

Let us confess our sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit ourselves to this struggle.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Confession

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

Most holy and merciful Father,

**We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault,
by our own grievous fault
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have placed our wants before your will.

We have gratified the desires of our sinful nature.

We have merited your punishment now and forever.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.

The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,

our manipulation of other people,

our anger when our selfish aims are denied,

and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our love of worldly goods and comforts,
our dishonesty in daily life and work,
our negligence in worship and prayer,
and our failure to show the faith that is in us
We confess to you, O Lord.

Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done.
For our blindness to human need and suffering
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
Forgive us, Lord.

For all false judgments,
for uncharitable thoughts toward others,
and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,
Forgive us, Lord.

For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,
Forgive us, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.
Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Imposition of Ashes

(Genesis 3:19; 18:27; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21)

Before participating, please read the "Instructions for the Imposition of Ashes" on the fourth page of this bulletin.

Those who desire to receive the sign of ashes may walk up to the chancel one at a time.

The pastor will apply ashes to the forehead or hand of each person in the form of a small cross, and say:

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

After all who desire to receive ashes have done so, the pastor says:

Accomplish in us, Lord, the work of your salvation
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and suffering of your Son,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Please stand

Absolution

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

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. He sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins and 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.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

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

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; 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

Hymn

658 *w* 1, 2 "With All My Heart I Praise You, Lord"

1 With all my heart I praise you, Lord, that in your
 2 When I confess my sin and shame, peace and for -



Son you saved me. You saw in me what you de-plored;
 give - ness seek - ing, you grant me par - don in your name



my grievous sin en - slaved me. Yet, Lord, you paid
 be - fore I've fin - ished speak - ing! In love you lis -



the high - est price, Je - sus' a - ton - ing sac - ri - fice,
 ten care - ful - ly to all our sighs of mis - er - y,



that you might ev - er own me. Were I to bless
 our ev - 'ry need ad - dress - ing. Our guilt should make



you all my days, it would be in - suf - fi - cient praise
 you turn a - way; in - stead you turn toward us and say:



for kind - ness you have shown me.
 "Re - ceive my gra - cious bless - ing."

The Word

First Reading

2 Samuel 12:1-13

The Lord sends the prophet Nathan to call King David to repentance. Nathan lowers David's defenses by telling the king a story about an immoral rich man.

12 So the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came and told him this:

There were two men in a city. One was rich and one poor. ²The rich man had a large number of flocks and herds. ³The poor man did not own anything except one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He raised it so that it grew up together with him and his children. It ate from his food and drank from his cup. It slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. ⁴When a traveler came to the rich man, the rich man was unwilling to take an animal from his flock or from his herd to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. So he took the lamb from the poor man and prepared it for the man who had come to him.

⁵David's anger flared up against that man. He said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this is as good as dead. ⁶In place of that lamb, he will restore four lambs, because he did this and had no pity."

⁷Nathan told David, "You are the man. This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says."

I anointed you king over Israel. I rescued you from the hand of Saul. ⁸I gave the house of your master to you, and I gave the wives of your master into your embrace. I gave you the house of Israel and the house of Judah. If this was too little, I would have added even more. ⁹Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in his eyes? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword. You have taken his wife as your own wife. You have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰So now the sword will not depart from your house forever, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.

¹¹This is what the LORD says. Look! I am raising up disaster against you from your own house. Right in front of your eyes I will take your wives and give them to your neighbor, and he will lie down with your wives in the sight of the sun. ¹²Because you acted in secret, I will do this in front of all Israel in broad daylight.

¹³David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

Nathan said to David, "The LORD himself has put away your sin. You will not die.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:2

God sends ambassadors to make his appeal to sinners, imploring them to be reconciled to God.

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

6 As fellow workers we also urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says:

At a favorable time I listened to you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.

Look, now is the favorable time! See, now is the day of salvation!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

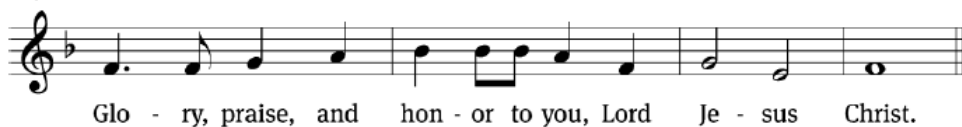
Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced

Gospel Acclamation

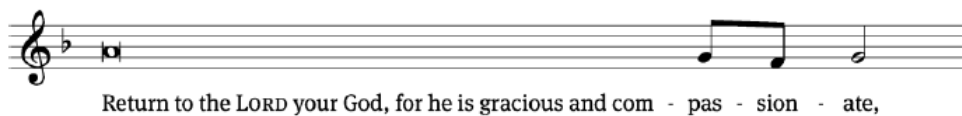
Joel 2:13



Refrain



Tone



The minister processes to the nave floor for the Gospel, symbolizing Christ's presence among us in his Word

Gospel

Luke 18:9-14

To lower the defenses of those who were self-righteous, Jesus tells a parable about what makes us righteous in God's eyes—trusting in God's great mercy.

⁹ Jesus told this parable to certain people who trusted in themselves (that they were righteous) and looked down on others: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple courts to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself like this: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all my income.’

¹³ “However the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even lift his eyes up to heaven, but was beating his chest and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

¹⁴ “I tell you, this man went home justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated



1 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive; oh, may all this
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, yet his words, rich
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray are not by the
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to you with a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der who in sin's de - lu - sions live
 grace re - veal - ing, par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
 Lord for - sak - en; wea - ry souls who lost their way
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, show me mer - cy, too;



and from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope for
 here their ills have per - fect heal - ing who with hum - ble
 are by Christ, the Shep - herd, tak - en in his arms that
 grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 hearts be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

5 Oh, how blest it is to know,
 were as scarlet my transgression,
 it shall be as white as snow
 by your blood and bitter passion,
 for these words I do believe:
 Jesus sinners does receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace,
 from the law I stand acquitted.
 Christ has purchased my release
 and my ev'ry sin remitted.
 Naught remains my soul to grieve:
 Jesus sinners does receive.

7 Jesus sinners does receive,
 even I have been forgiven.
 And when I this earth must leave,
 I shall find an open heaven.
 Dying, still to him I cleave:
 Jesus sinners does receive.

Sermon

Luke 18:9-14

“God, Be Merciful to Me, a Sinner!”

Nicene Creed *Credo*

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

Please stand

**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

Create in Me a Clean Heart (CW 942)

(Psalm 51:10-12)

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. James E. Engel, 1925-1989 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Church

Ash Wednesday

Let us pray.

Lord God, gracious Father, we thank you for setting your Son's sacrifice between us and sin's reward. By your Spirit work in us through the gospel, give us repentant hearts, make our faith firm in Christ, and enliven us to serve you faithfully.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, almighty Father, renew your Church throughout the world that it may constantly look to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Bless us with faithful ministers who always proclaim Christ's cross and resurrection for the salvation of the world.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, loving Father, in your mercy you abundantly supply our needs of body and soul. Create in us the mind of Christ, that in humility and generosity—considering not only our own interests, but also the interests of others—we may be merciful to those in need. Direct our efforts to help poor, lonely, troubled, and ill people.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, heavenly Father, comfort all who are mourning the death of people they loved. Lift their eyes to the cross where your Son defeated death and to the empty tomb where he assured us that we will live with him forever. Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, heavenly Father, look with favor upon all sick, injured, and recovering people. If it be your will deliver them from their infirmities. Let them hear of your unfailing love.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Lord God, eternal Father, we praise you that you have delivered the Christian souls who have gone before us from this world of dust and ashes to paradise. As their prayers continually ascend before your throne, join our prayers to theirs as fragrant incense. Hear us for the sake of him who was crucified for us and always intercedes on our behalf, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Please stand

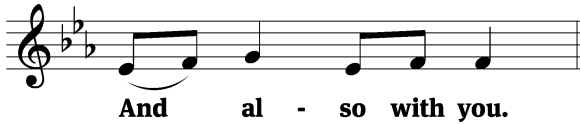
The Sacrament

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

Prefaces

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

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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 brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome.

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)



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -
 san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he,
 bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

(John 1:3; Romans 8:32)

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with 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.

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.

O Christ, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei* (John 1:29; Isaiah 53:4-7; 1 Peter 1:18-19)

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Please be seated

Distribution Hymn

656 "As Surely as I Live, God Said"



1 "As sure - ly as I live," God said, "I would not
2 And so our Lord gave this com - mand: "Go forth and
3 "All those whose sins you thus re - mit I tru - ly
4 "What you will bind, that bound shall be; what you will



see the sin - ner dead, but that he turn from
preach in ev - 'ry land; be - stow on all my
par - don and ac - quit, and those whose sins you
loose, that shall be free; un - to my Church the



er - ror's ways, re - pent, and live through end - less days."
par - d'ning grace who will re - pent of sin - ful ways.
do re - tain con - demned and guilt - y shall re - main.
keys are giv'n to op'n and close the gates of heav'n."

- 5 The words which absolution give
are his who died that we might live;
the minister whom Christ has sent
is but his humble instrument.
- 6 When ministers lay on their hands,
absolved by Christ the sinner stands;
he who by grace the Word believes
forgiveness, sure and sweet, receives.
- 7 Praise God the Father and the Son
and Holy Spirit, Three in One,
as was, is now, and so shall be
forever and eternally!

Distribution Hymn

657 "Baptismal Waters Cover Me"



1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me as I ap -
2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, his bod - y
3 Lord, may your wound - ed hand im - part your heal - ing
4 From your own mouth comes forth a word; your shep - herd
5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's wound - ed



proach on bend - ed knee; my Fa - ther's mer - cy
bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore him
to my bro - ken heart; your love a - lone can
speaks, but you are heard; through him your hand now
hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's



here I plead, for griev - ous sins of thought and deed.
all my sin, my dark - est se - crets from with - in.
form in me a heart that serves you joy - ful - ly.
stretch - es out, for - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.
strong em - brace, with joy I praise him for his grace.

*Text: Kurt E. Reinhardt, b. 1969 Tune: Sammlung alter und neuer . . . Melodien, 1742
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Distribution of Holy Communion

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 2:42)

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.

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.

Lord, Now You Let Your Servant (CW 951) *Nunc Dimittis*

(Luke 2:29-32)

Please stand as the canticle is introduced



Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. ... Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. James E. Engel, 1925-1989 ... Text and tune: Public domain

Thanksgiving

(Psalm 118:1)

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

Proclamation

(1 Corinthians 11:26)

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

Post-Communion Prayer

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

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

(Numbers 6:24-26)

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

947 v 1 “Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”



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*



There will not be any post-service music or announcements.

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

Please refrain from conversation until after you have departed the church
so those who wish to remain in church to pray and meditate may do so in silence.

Pastor Berg will be available in the narthex shortly after the service if you would like to speak with him.

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.***

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!

Special thanks to: Juanita Becker for playing piano... Peter Hermanson for serving as distribution assistant...
Joe Lopina for serving as usher... Mark Buske for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream...
and Joanne Kohler 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 "[Worship Resources](#)" 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 "[Worship Resources](#)" page of our church website.

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

For more information about our synod, please visit its website: www.wels.net



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When a wayward child wanders far from home, how does a loving parent pursue them without driving them further away? One thing the parent can do is let the child know that there is an ongoing open-door policy, so the child knows they will always be welcomed back home. Likewise, when we wander from God, he always keeps his door open for us. But God doesn't just passively wait for us to return. He lovingly pursues sinners in ways that make them long to return to their home. In this 40-day journey to the cross and tomb, we will see the surprising strategies our heavenly Father uses for getting sinners back home, close to him and the loving care he offers.

Lent & Holy Week Service Schedule

Ash Wednesday	March 5	Wednesday	4:00 pm	7:00 pm
First Sunday in Lent	March 9	Sunday	- - -	10:00 am
Midweek of Lent 1	March 12	Wednesday	4:00 pm	7:00 pm
Second Sunday in Lent	March 16	Sunday	- - -	10:00 am
Midweek of Lent 2	March 19	Wednesday	4:00 pm	7:00 pm
Third Sunday in Lent	March 23	Sunday	- - -	10:00 am
Midweek of Lent 3	March 26	Wednesday	4:00 pm	7:00 pm
Fourth Sunday in Lent	March 30	Sunday	- - -	10:00 am
Midweek of Lent 4	April 2	Wednesday	4:00 pm	7:00 pm
Fifth Sunday in Lent	April 6	Sunday	- - -	10:00 am
Midweek of Lent 5	April 9	Wednesday	4:00 pm	7:00 pm
Palm Sunday	April 13	Sunday	- - -	10:00 am
Holy Thursday	April 17	Thursday	- - -	7:00 pm
Good Friday	April 18	Friday	- - -	7:00 pm
Holy Saturday	April 19	Saturday	- - -	7:00 pm
Easter Sunday (Dawn)	April 20	Sunday	- - -	6:30 am
Easter Sunday (Day)	April 20	Sunday	- - -	10:00 am