

✚ THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD ✚

January 6, 2022



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

✝ NAIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ✝

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Pastor: Joseph M. Berg

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Organist: Linda Loeffel

Choir Director: Lois Buske

Secretary: Ashley Leyrer

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 us 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 as you worship with us today. Please join us again soon!

Visitors

Thank you for joining us for worship! Please read the following notes about our church. 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 note about our Lord's Supper practices printed later in this bulletin under "Distribution of Holy Communion."

Rest Rooms 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.

Mother's Room: Parents with crying children are welcome to use the mother's room, located off of the narthex. The room is equipped with speakers so parents can listen to the service.

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.

Scripture taken from: the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION.

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THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

January 6, 2022



The Season of Epiphany
What Child Is This?

A baby is born every twelve seconds. That's 140 million babies born each year. Yet, there is something that sets *this child* apart from all others. It is not simply his humble beginnings, with a cattle trough as his first cradle. It is not just the miraculous nature of his birth, his mother being a virgin. There is so much more. This child is the only hope we have for peace and a future. This child can wipe away every tear, drive away every fear. Here is the truth of Christmas. With this child, you lack nothing. Without him, you have nothing. Let us use this season of Christmas to answer this most important question: *What child is this?*

The Epiphany of Our Lord
What Child Is This? A Light for All People

The Festival of the Epiphany is a celebration of the first time non-Jewish believers worshiped the newborn Savior. They were guided by a special light in the sky to a child who would be a light for all people. We live in a world where sin can divide people along so many lines: ethnicity and race, rich and poor, red states and blue states, etc. The only dividing line Jesus cares about is the one that separated sinful mankind from a holy God. By his death and resurrection, he removed that line and united all believers into one kingdom. For that, we offer him our finest gifts.

✚ COMMON SERVICE ✚

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.

Personal prayers for worship are printed on pages 10-11, 134-139, and 156 in the front of the hymnal.

"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.

THE PREPARATION

(Job 11:13-15; Psalm 25; Isaiah 40:3-5; Hebrews 4:16)

OPENING HYMN 80 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

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

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

* Please stand.

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



OPENING VERSICLES (based on John 1)

M: In Christ is life; the life which is the light of the world.

C: The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

M: There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe.

C: He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

M: The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

C: Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Whoever follows him will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

CONFESSION OF SINS (1 John 1:8-9)

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

** Please remain silent for reflection on God's Word and for repentant self-examination.*

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

KYRIE – LORD, HAVE MERCY (Mark 10:47; Luke 17:12-13)



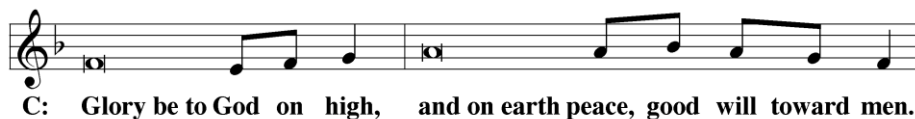
HOLY ABSOLUTION (John 20:19-23)

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS – GLORY TO GOD (Luke 2:14; John 1:29)

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,
 we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,
 God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the
 sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the
 sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of
 God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;
 you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

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

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (Philippians 4:6; Matthew 18:19-20)

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



* Please be seated.

THE WORD

(Romans 10:17; Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 3:16,17)

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 pick up a copy of "About the Propers," a weekly document explaining the changeable parts of the service. Several copies are available on the countertop in the narthex.

FIRST LESSON

1 Kings 10:1-9

A queen from Africa visits King Solomon and comes to learn of the eternal love that the Lord has for all people.

* After the reading of the Lesson:

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 72

page 93

in the front of the hymnal

* The men & boys will sing the first half of the psalm verse; the women & girls will sing the second half. All will join in singing the refrains and the "Glory be to the Father..."

SECOND LESSON

Acts 13:46-49

Paul's mission was to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. For God desires salvation to be brought to the ends of the earth.

* After the reading of the Lesson:

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 2:2 (Psalm 150; Revelation 19)

M: Alleluia. (The Magi said of Jesus) "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

* The pastor processes to the nave floor for the reading of the Gospel, symbolizing Christ's presence among us in his Word.

GOSPEL OF THE DAY

Matthew 2:1-12

In his grace, God used a special light to lead foreign priest-astronomers to the Light of the world. These new believers respond with worship and sacrifice.

* Please stand.

M: The Holy Gospel for the Epiphany of Our Lord, according to St. Matthew, chapter two.



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

* After the reading of the Gospel:

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord!



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

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

C: 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 fully 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.*

HYMN OF THE DAY 79 *"How Lovely Shines the Morning Star"*

SERMON Matthew 2:1-12 *"God's Epiphany Revelation"*

CREATE IN ME (Psalm 51:10-12)

** Please stand.*





* *Please be seated.*

OFFERING

* Offering Collection

God, who blesses us with all we have, gives us the privilege of showing him our thanks in many ways. One of these ways 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.

If you have an offering, you can place it in the box in the narthex, mail it to the church, or give online via the link on our church website. 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, check any appropriate box, and provide your contact information if you want the pastor to speak with you.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

* *Please stand at the direction of the pastor.*

LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4)

C: 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 SACRAMENT

(Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; 1 Corinthians 11)

Visitors, before approaching the altar, please read the note printed later in this bulletin under the section titled "Distribution" so you may be informed about our congregation's Holy Communion practices.

PREFACES

M: The Lord be with you. (2 Timothy 4:22; 2 Thessalonians 3:16)



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts. (Colossians 3:1; Lamentations 3:41)



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. (Psalm 107:1; Psalm 136)



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: 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 lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth.

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

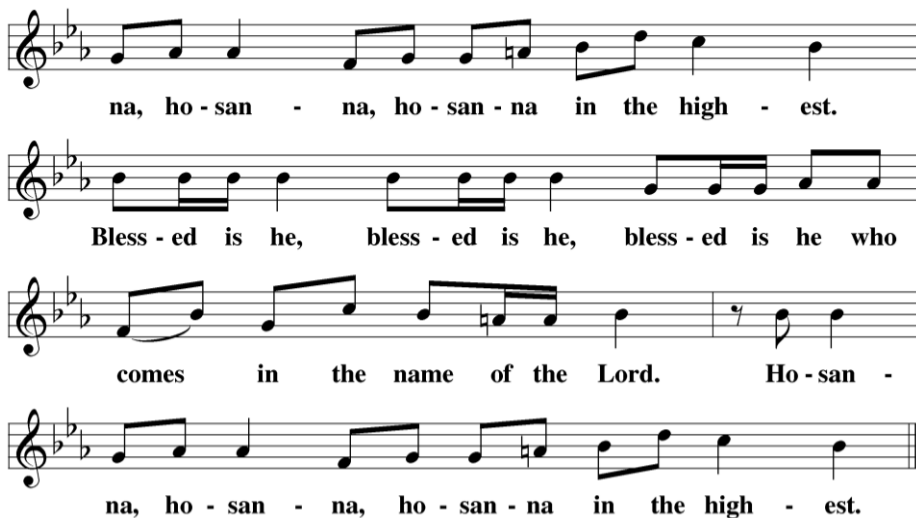
SANCTUS – HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9)



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



WORDS OF INSTITUTION (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-24)

M: 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."

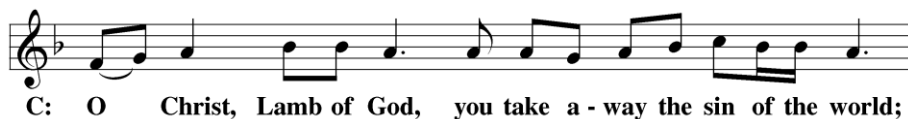
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

PAX DOMINI – THE PEACE OF THE LORD (John 20:19)

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



AGNUS DEI – O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (John 1:29; Isaiah 53:7)





* Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION (1 Corinthians 11:26)

* 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 eating and drinking at our Lord's Table, 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 true Christians 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.

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. 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

A guide for personal preparation before receiving Holy Communion is found on page 156 in the front of the hymnal. Prayers for before and after Holy Communion are found on page 11.

When the pastor distributes the bread and body of Christ, he will say, "The body of Christ, given for you." When the pastor distributes the wine and blood of Christ, he will say, "The blood of Christ, shed 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

You 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 don't intend to commune.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

NUNC DIMITTIS – SONG OF SIMEON (Luke 2:29-32)

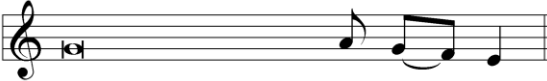
* Please stand.



C: 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.

THANKSGIVING (Psalm 118:1)

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but

will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



AARONIC BENEDICTION (Numbers 6:24-26)

M: 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.



* Please be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

92 "Brightest and Best"



A personal prayer for after worship is printed on page 11 in the front of the hymnal.

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

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

Special thanks to: Linda Loeffel for playing organ... Ben Leyrer for serving as distribution assistant... Jerry Loeffel for serving as usher... Aaron Palmer and Joe Lopina for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream... Joan Vitense for taking care of altar duty.

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

If you have an offering, you can place it in the box in the narthex, mail it to the church, or give online via the link on our church website. Thank you for your financial support of our congregation.

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