

✝ FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF LENT ✝

March 15, 2023



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

✝ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church ✝

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Pastor: Joseph M. Berg
Phone: 414-810-3392
Email: revjberg@gmail.com

Organist: Laura Rodrigue
Choir 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.

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.

Fourth Wednesday of Lent

March 15, 2023



Lent

Our Greatest Needs

Mankind's greatest problems are universal. We all live under the curse of sin. That sin makes us utterly helpless in our natural state. Natural man is confused, unable to make sense of life. Left in sin, man is doomed to death, and not just physical death. After one's heart stops comes another type of death that is infinitely worse, an eternal nightmare.

Lent is the season of the Church Year when we wrestle with our greatest needs. Lent also shows us that in Christ, all our greatest needs are met. Here is what the Spirit makes clear this season. If you lack Christ, you have nothing. If you have Christ, you have everything you truly need.

Midweek Lent

Trial before the High Priest

This evening we continue to hear from the Passion History of our Lord according to the Gospel of St. Matthew. After being captured in Gethsemane, Jesus was led to the house of the high priest. The conflict between Jesus and the enemies of light escalated as Jesus was tried, mocked, and rejected. In the hour of Jesus' trial, Peter was also tried by God to give a confession of faith. In fear, he failed. Jesus' word and look brought Peter to tears of sorrow.

We too are tested by God to trust in him and boldly confess our faith in him as Lord and Savior. Since we, like Peter, also fail in this regard, we also must sorrow over our sins. Our Lord Jesus ever looks at us in love and calls us to repentance. And he restores us by his grace, given through his Word and Sacraments, lifting us up from the pit of despair with his ever-forgiving love.

Evening Prayer

Vespers

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.

There will be no pre-service music or announcements.

Our worship begins with the tolling of the bells, followed by the opening hymn.

Service of Light

Tolling of the Bells

Opening Hymn

406 "In the Hour of Trial"



1 In the hour of tri - al, Je - sus, plead for me
2 With for - bid - den plea - sures should this vain world charm
3 Should your mer - cy send me sor - row, toil, and woe,
4 When my life is end - ing, though in grief or pain,



lest by base de - ni - al I un - wor - thy be.
or its tempt - ing trea - sures spread to work me harm,
or should pain at - tend me on my path be - low,
when my bod - y chang - es back to dust a - gain,



When you see me wa - ver, with a look re - call,
bring to my re - mem - brance sad Geth - sem - a - ne
grant that I may nev - er fail your cross to view;
on your truth re - ly - ing, through that mor - tal strife,



nor for fear or fa - vor ev - er let me fall.
or, in dark - er sem - blance, cross-crowned Cal - va - ry.
grant that I may ev - er cast my care on you.
Je - sus, take me, dy - ing, to e - ter - nal life.

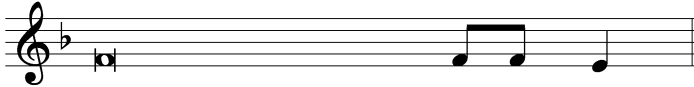
*Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.
Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876
Text and tune: Public domain*

Please stand

Opening Sentences

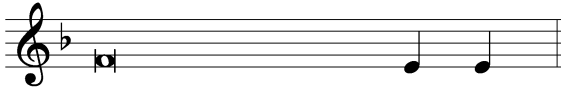
(John 8:12; Luke 24:29; 1 John 1:5)

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



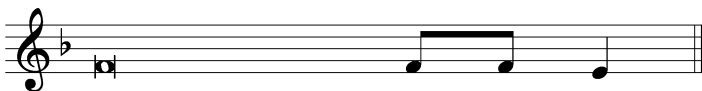
the light no darkness can o - ver - come.

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.

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

The Penitential Psalms

Psalm 38

- ¹ LORD, do not rebuke me in anger.
Do not discipline me in wrath.
- ² **Indeed, your arrows have stuck in me.**
Your hand has come down on me.
- ³ There is no health in my flesh because of your rage.
There is no wellness in my bones because of my sin,
- ⁴ **because my guilt has gone over my head.**
Like a heavy burden, it is too heavy for me.
- ⁵ My wounds stink and ooze because of my folly.
- ⁶ **I am drooping. I am completely bent over.**
All day long I go around mourning.
- ⁷ Even my back burns with pain.
My whole body is unhealthy.
- ⁸ **I have become numb. I am totally crushed.**
I groan loudly because of my anxious thoughts.
- ⁹ Lord, all my needs lie before you.
My sighs are not hidden from you.
- ¹⁰ **My heart beats quickly. My strength leaves me.**
Even the light of my eyes is gone from me.
- ¹¹ My loved ones and my friends stand far away
because of the blow I have suffered.
My neighbors stand at a distance.
- ¹² **Those who pursue my life set traps.**
Those who seek to harm me talk about my ruin.
All day long they plot deception.
- ¹³ I am deaf. I cannot hear.
Like a mute person, I cannot open my mouth.
- ¹⁴ **I am like a man who cannot hear.**
No response comes from his mouth.

¹⁵ Yet I wait for you, LORD.

You will answer, O Lord my God.

¹⁶ **So I said, “Do not let them celebrate because of me.**

Do not let them gloat when my foot slips.”

¹⁷ Look! I am about to fall,

and I am always in pain,

¹⁸ **so I declare my guilt,**

and I am troubled by my sin.

¹⁹ My aggressive enemies are numerous.

Those who hate me for no reason are many.

²⁰ **Those who repay evil for good**

slander me because I pursue what is good.

²¹ Do not forsake me, O LORD.

My God, do not be far from me.

²² **Hurry to help me, O Lord, my salvation.**

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Passion History

Matthew 26:57-75

⁵⁷ Those who had arrested Jesus led him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the experts in the law and the elders were assembled. ⁵⁸ Peter was following him at a distance and went as far as the courtyard of the high priest. He went inside and sat down with the guards to see how it would turn out.

⁵⁹ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death. ⁶⁰ They found none, even though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward ⁶¹ and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.’”

⁶² The high priest stood up and said to him, “Have you no answer? What is this that these men are testifying against you?” ⁶³ But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, “I place you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!”

⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, “It is as you have said. But I tell you, soon you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? See, you have just heard the blasphemy! ⁶⁶ What do you think?”

They answered, “He is deserving of death!” ⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face and punched him. Some slapped him ⁶⁸ and said, “Prophecy to us, Christ! Who hit you?”

⁶⁹ Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came to him and said, “You were also with Jesus the Galilean.”

⁷⁰ But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, “I don’t know what you’re talking about.”

⁷¹ When Peter went out to the entryway, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

⁷² Again Peter denied it with an oath and said, “I do not know the man.”

⁷³ After a little while those who stood by came and said to Peter, “Surely you are also one of them because even your accent gives you away.”

⁷⁴ Then he began to curse and to swear, “I do not know the man!” Just then the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Thus far 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, NIV)

Please remain silent for meditation

Sermon Hymn

408 "He Stood before the Court"



1 He stood be - fore the court on trial in - stead of
 2 These are the crimes that tell the tale of hu - man
 3 The sen - tence must be passed, the un - known pris - 'ner
 4 Shall we be judged and tried? In Christ our trial is



us; he met its pow'r to hurt, con - demned to
 guilt; our sins, our death, our hell— on these the
 killed; the price is paid at last, the law of
 done; we live, for he has died, our con - dem -



face the cross— our King, ac - cused of treach - er -
 case is built. To this world's pow'rs the Lord stays
 God ful - filled. He takes our blame, and from that
 na - tion gone. In Christ are we both dead and



y; our God, a - bused for blas - phe - my!
 dumb. The guilt is ours, no an - swers come.
 day th'ac - cu - ser's claim is wiped a - way.
 raised, a - live and free— his name be praised!

Text: Christopher M. Idle, b. 1938, alt.

Tune: Leland B. Sateren, 1913–2007

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Sermon

Matthew 26:57-75

"Appearances Can Be Deceiving"

Song of Mary *Magnificat*

(Luke 1:46-55)

Please remain seated

My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-
joic-es in God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa-vor
on his low-ly ser-vant. From this day all gen-er-a-tions
will call me bless-ed. The Al-might-y has done great
things for me, and ho-ly is his name. He has mer-cy on
those who fear him in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.
He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the
proud in their con-ceil. He has cast down the might-y



from their thrones and has lift - ed up the low - ly.

He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich

he has sent a - way emp - ty. He has come to the

help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el, for he has re - mem - bered his

prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise made to our fa - thers,

to A - bra - ham, and to his chil - dren for - ev - er. A - men.

Tune: Kurt J. Eggert

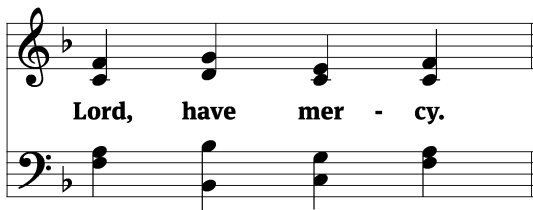
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Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

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

Please stand

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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 leaders of our synod and district, for all pastors in Christ, for all who are servants of the Church, and for all the people of God, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For all who govern our nation and for all public servants, that they may be upheld and strengthened for every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For... [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]... let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.




Musical notation for the phrase "Thanks be to God." The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The bass line is written on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: **Thanks be to God.**

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

Silence for individual prayer

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our Lord:



Musical notation for the phrase "to you, O Lord." The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The bass line is written on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: **to you, O Lord.**

Tune: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: License no. 130002495

Prayer

Abide with us, Lord, for it is evening and the day is almost over. Abide with us and with your whole Church. Abide with us in the evening of the day, in the evening of life, in the evening of the world. Abide with us in your grace and goodness, in your holy Word and sacrament, in your comfort and blessing. Abide with us when we are overcome by the night of sorrow and fear, by the night of doubt and affliction, by the night of bitter death. Abide with us and with all your people in time and in eternity.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

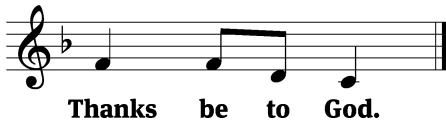
(Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4)

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.



Blessing

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

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



Please be seated

Closing Hymn

431 verses 1 and 6 "O Perfect Life of Love"



1 O per - fect life of love! All, all is fin - ished now,
6 In ev - 'ry time of need, be - fore the judg - ment throne,



all that he left his throne a - bove to do for us be - low.
your works, O Lamb of God, I'll plead, your mer - its, not my own.

*Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877, abr., alt.
Tune: William Daman, c. 1540-1591; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
Text and tune: Public domain*

The Pastor departs in silence

Please remain silent for meditation



Offering

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

Offering Collection

God, who blesses us with all we have, gives us the privilege of showing him our thanks in many ways. One way is 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 and check any appropriate box. If you want the pastor to reach out to you, please also provide your contact information. Thank you!



There will be no post-service music or announcements.

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.

Please refrain from conversation until after you have departed the church to allow any who wish to remain the opportunity to pray and meditate in silence.

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

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.

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

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: Laura Rodrigue for playing organ...
and Brooke Smith for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream.

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

Scripture taken from: The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version™ (EHV™)
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