

✚ FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT ✚

December 19, 2021



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

✝ NAIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ✝

1665 South 57th Street | West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

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



Pastor: Joseph M. Berg

Phone: 414-810-3392

Email: revjberg@gmail.com

Organist: Deb Buske

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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RORATE COELI
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 19, 2021



The Season of Advent
When the Lord Comes Near

"Advent" is a Latin word that means "coming." The season of Advent is the four-week period before Christmas that the Church uses to connect the two "comings" of Christ. The first time the Lord came into our world it was as a tiny, helpless baby, born in a manger in Bethlehem. However, when Jesus comes again, it will be in all his power and glory with his angelic army behind him. He will be coming as judge at the end of time. Let us use these four weeks to see how the events of Jesus' first coming remove all our fears about his second coming. We can hold our heads high *when the Lord comes near*.

Fourth Sunday in Advent
When the Lord Comes Near, He Lifts Up the Humbled

The Fourth Sunday in Advent is traditionally known as "*Rorate Coeli*" Sunday. The Sunday derives its name from the Latin words of the Introit (opening verses) of the day: "You heavens above (*Coeli*), rain down (*Rorate*) righteousness (Isaiah 45:8).

Having been told by the Angel Gabriel that she would give birth to the Son of the Most High, Mary hurried to visit her cousin Elizabeth. At hearing this good news, Elizabeth exclaimed that Mary is "blessed among women" for she is the mother of the Messiah. Mary, in turn, responded with a song of praise we call the "Magnificat." She rejoiced in the blessing the God has given to her and she testified that the coming Lord will bless not only her but all people of all time. He is a God who lifts up the humbled.

✠ SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT ✠

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 3 *"Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates"*

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

APOSTOLIC GREETING (2 Corinthians 13:14)

** Please stand.*

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

C: **And also with you.**

OPENING VERSICLES

M: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

C: **on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."** (Isaiah 9:2)

M: "To us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

C: **And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."** (Isaiah 9:6)

M: "Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil –

C: **and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."**
(Hebrews 2:14,15)

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

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

** 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.

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.

C: Amen.

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

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



C: A - men.

THE ADVENT CANDLE (John 8:12; Luke 12:35)

M: We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

C: **We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

M: We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

C: **We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

** For more information about the history and significance of the Advent wreath and candles, please read the notes on the back page of this bulletin.*

SONG OF PRAISE 23 v1 "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

** The hymn verse will be preceded by a brief introduction.*



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive



Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

Refrain

Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

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

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

* *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 Micah 5:2-5a

The humble, tiny town of Bethlehem would be exalted. For there a special son would be born who would bring spiritual peace to the ends of the earth.

* *After the reading of the Lesson:*

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

* *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 Hebrews 10:5-10

We cannot do enough good works or offer enough sacrifices to raise ourselves up to God. So the Son of God obeyed the law for us and by his sacrifice has made us holy.

* *After the reading of the Lesson:*

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY Matthew 1:23a (John 20:31; Psalm 150; Revelation 19)

M: Alleluia. "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel." Alleluia.



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



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



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 Luke 1:39-55

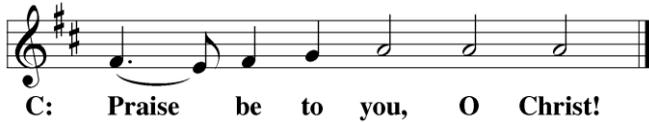
In Spirit wrought humility, Mary knew she needed a Savior. God lifts her up, making her the mother of that Savior.

* Please stand.

M: The Holy Gospel for Fourth Sunday in Advent, according to St. Luke, chapter one.

* After the reading of the Gospel:

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord!



* Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

* This ancient advent hymn originated in part from the "Great 'O' Antiphons," a portion of the medieval Christian liturgy, and based on seven Old Testament titles given to Christ.

We will sing each of the seven original verses of this hymn.

O Antiphon symbols by Ian M. Welch <https://paramentics.com>. Used by permission.

**Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!**



(Isaiah 7:14)

**Oh, come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!**



(Isaiah 11:2)

**Oh, come, oh, come, our Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times gave holy law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!**



(Isaiah 33:22)

**Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save,
and bring them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!**



(Isaiah 11:1)

**Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!**



(Isaiah 22:22)

**Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!**



(Isaiah 9:2)

**Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease,
and be yourself the King of peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!**



(Isaiah 2:4)

SERMON

Micah 5:2-5a

"Our Shepherd-King"

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

** Please stand.*

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.*

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.

* Please stand at the direction of the pastor.

The Christian Church has traditionally set aside December 21st as a day to thank God for his work through St. Thomas, Apostle. We will recognize this minor church year festival in our prayers today.

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 to the Lord.

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



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

SANCTUS – HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Isaiah 6:3)



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.
You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.
I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -
va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

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.

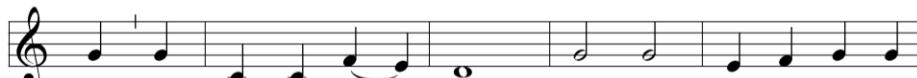


C: A - men.

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



C: 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 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

THANK THE LORD (Psalm 7:17)

* Please stand as the canticle is introduced.



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

POST COMMUNION PRAYER (Luke 17:5; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Revelation 11:17)

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

PARTING BLESSING (Luke 8:48; Romans 12:16; Psalm 100:2)

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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

6 "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"



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: Deb Buske for playing organ; Wade Johnston for serving as distribution assistant; Michael Kraft for serving as usher; Ben Leyrer and Brooke Smith for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream.

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.

"The Congregation at Prayer," a document offering suggestions for daily devotions and Scripture readings, is posted on our church website.

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