# + FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER +

May 7, 2023



# **Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church**

1665 South 57<sup>th</sup> St. West Allis, WI 53214

# + Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church +

1665 South 57<sup>th</sup> Street | West Allis, Wisconsin 53214 414-545-6925 | www.nainlutheran.org | www.facebook.com/nainlutheran



Pastor: Joseph M. Berg

Pianist: Juanita Becker Choir Director: Lois Buske

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## **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.

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023



## Easter **He Lives!**

Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose. That means, either Jesus is a complete waste of your time, or he is your only hope for salvation. If Jesus is still dead, it is completely logical that you should want nothing to do with him. If Jesus rose, it is only logical that he becomes the center and greatest priority of your life. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose.

This season of Easter is a 50-day-long celebration of the fact that the Holy Spirit has answered that either/or for us. We believe this life-changing truth. Christ is risen! He lives! Throughout this season, we explore what that means.

#### Fifth Sunday of Easter

## He Lives to Be the Only Way to Heaven

The gospel is the most inclusive message in the world. The benefits of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are meant for every man, woman, and child who ever lived. The gospel is also the most exclusive message in the world, for it maintains that salvation can only be found in one place—the person of Jesus Christ.

Just listen to how Jesus speaks: "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life" (John 14:6). Jesus doesn't say, "I will show you the true way to eternal life." The prophets and apostles could say that. But Jesus says, "I am the way. I am the truth. I am the life you crave." And note that definite article: "the," not "a"! Jesus is not a way into heaven. He is the way. There is no other way than through faith in the One who died and rose again.

The unbelieving world finds this claim—that Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven—to be the most offensive teaching in all of Scripture. Yet this is the very truth upon which Christ builds his Church.

# 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**

470 "Like the Golden Sun Ascending"





Text: tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.; Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703, abr.

Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

#### Invocation

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

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

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

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

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

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Silence for meditation and reflection

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

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

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

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

Amen.

## Lord, Have Mercy Kyrie

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

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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



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



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(Revelation 5:6-14; 11:15-17; 19:6-9)





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## The Word

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

# **Prayer of the Day**

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

Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading Acts 4:8-12

St. Peter told the Jewish leaders that the man they had crucified was raised to life and therefore is the only man in whom salvation is found.

<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel, <sup>9</sup> if we are being questioned today for a kind act that was done for the lame man, as to how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup> let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead! By him this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup> This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone.

<sup>12</sup> "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 118 "This Is the Day the LORD Has Made"

 $The\ entire\ congregation\ will\ sing\ together\ the\ whole\ Psalm$ 





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The LORD is my strength and / my defense;
  he has become my sal- / vation.
The LORD's right hand is / lifted high;
  the LORD's right hand has done / mighty things!
I will not / die but live,
  and will proclaim what the / LORD has done. Refrain
I will give you thanks, for you / answered me;
  you have become my sal- / vation.
The stone the builders re-/jected
  has become the / cornerstone:
the LORD has / done this,
  and it is marvelous / in our eyes.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
  and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be-/ginning,
  is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain
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Text: Lectionary for Mass
Tune: Marty Haugen
Text: © 1969 ICEL (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758
Tune: © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758
Setting: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:4-10

The claim that Jesus is the only way to heaven is like a stone over which unbelievers stumble. But that truth is the cornerstone on which Christ builds his Church

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the Living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious, <sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, in order to bring spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it says in Scripture:

See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who believes in him will certainly not be put to shame.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, for you who believe, this is an honor. But for those who do not believe:

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,

<sup>8</sup> and,

a stone over which they stumble and a rock over which they fall.

Because they continue to disobey the word, they stumble over it. And that is the consequence appointed for them.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup> At one time you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. At one time you were not shown mercy, but now you have been shown mercy.

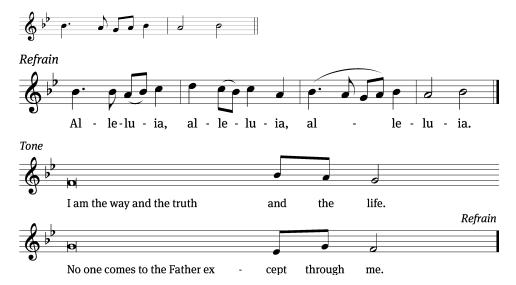
The Word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced

# **Gospel Acclamation**

John 14:6



Gospel John 14:1-11

Jesus teaches that the only way to draw near to God the Father is through God the Son.

14 "Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know where I am going, and you know the way."

<sup>5</sup> "Lord, we don't know where you are going," Thomas replied, "so how can we know the way?"

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you would also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup> "Lord," said Philip, "show us the Father, and that is enough for us."

<sup>9</sup> "Have I been with you so long," Jesus answered, "and you still do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I am telling you I am not speaking on my own, but the Father who remains in me is doing his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me. Or else believe because of the works themselves."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated



Text: tr. William J. Schaefer, 1891–1976, alt.; Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734, abr. Tune: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924 Text and tune: Public domain

#### **Easter Acclamation**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Sermon John 14:1-11

"What Jesus Does with Troubled Hearts"

Please stand

#### Nicene Creed Credo

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

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made,

of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

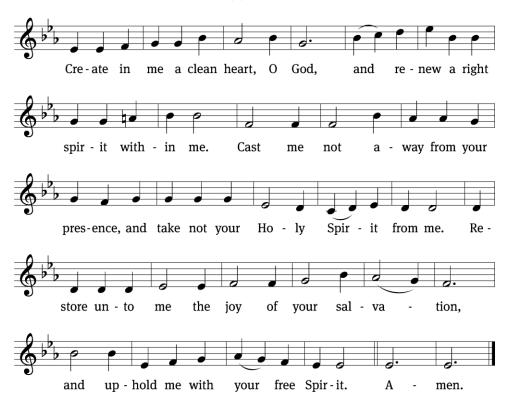
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated

## Create in Me a Clean Heart (CW 942)

(Psalm 51:10-12)



Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. James E. Engel, 1925–1989 Text and tune: Public domain Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, on this glorious day we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Increase our faith that the message of the empty tomb may fill our lives and make us glad each day.

When we are weak, be our strength; when we are sad, be our song; and when we sin, be our salvation.

Remove the hurt of death from all who mourn. In moments of grief call believers through the voice of our Good Shepherd and embolden us to follow his promises. In their hopelessness of despair turn the faithless to trust in the only Way, Truth, and Life.

Wipe away tears born of death and give new birth to a living hope in the hearts of the lost and troubled. Use our witness as compassion and comfort for others in need of mercy.

King of kings and Lord of lords, destroy all dominion, authority, and power that stands against you, whether seen or unseen. Whatever evil exerts itself against your saving will-false teaching or lukewarm faith, Satan's lies or worldly pleasures, empty worship or futile religion—rule it for the sake of the gospel's free course.

Triumph over our enemies and empower the Church to fight the good fight to the end. Never leave us or forsake us.

Walk among our churches, O Living One, as the faithful witness and firstborn from the dead. As your angel sent women with news of the risen Christ, call women in our church to announce, "He is risen!" As you sent your disciples with the breath of the Spirit, call those in our church full of the Spirit and wisdom to administer the keys of the kingdom.

Wherever we live and whatever we do, help us to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have in Christ.

Heavenly Father keep the baptized united with your Son in his resurrection. Put to death the fleshly urges of those caught in addictions, clothe in your righteousness anyone ashamed of good intentions which have fallen short, and assure those searching for purpose that their eternal identity as your dear children is sealed.

Thank you for the power of baptism working in our lives, and for the certainty of its promises through the resurrection. Enrich us with everything we need for life and godliness.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

O Lord of life, you have done mighty things for us! We pray through him who is the Beginning and the End, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

His name is above every name, to the glory of God the Father! Amen.

## Offertory

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

#### Offerings to Our Lord

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

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

#### How to Submit Your Offering

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

Thank you for your financial support of our congregation!

## Friendship Registers

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

## The Sacrament

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

Please stand

### **Prefaces**

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

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.

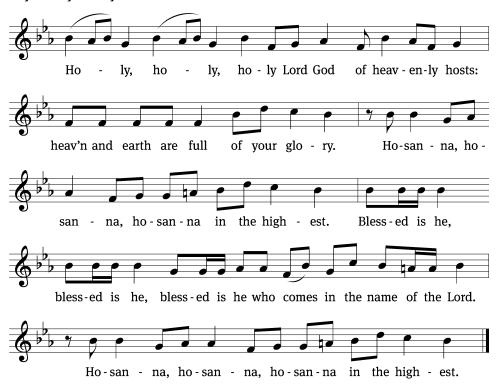


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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 by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life.

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



## **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.

## 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)

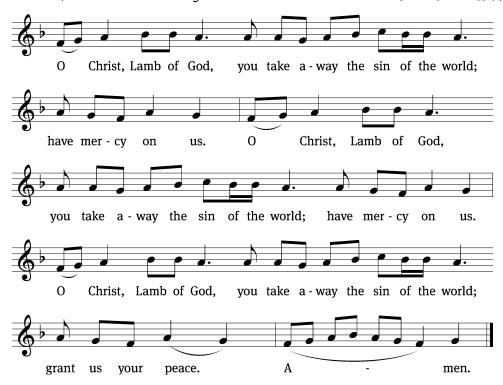
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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.



Please be seated

## **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.

## **Our Holy Communion Practices**

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

#### Visitors

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

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

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

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

#### **Communicants**

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

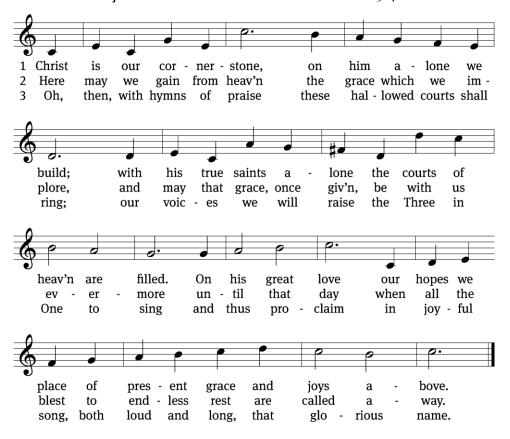
The usher will direct you to the front of the nave, where you will commune. When the pastor distributes the bread and body of Christ, he will say, "The body of Christ, given for you." When he distributes the wine and blood of Christ, he will say, "The blood of Christ, poured out for you." Before consuming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

#### Children and Non-Communicants

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

## **Distribution Hymn**

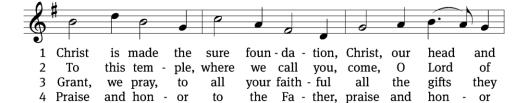
#### 914 "Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

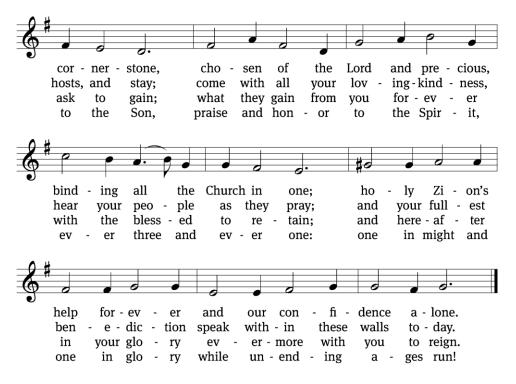


Text: tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.; Latin, c. 8th cent., abr. Tune: John Darwall, 1731–1789 Text and tune: Public domain

## **Distribution Hymn**

## 920 "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"





Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, abr., alt.; Latin, c. 8th cent., abr.

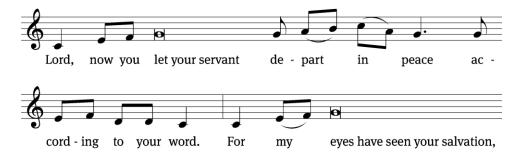
Tune: Henry Purcell, 1659–1695, adapt.

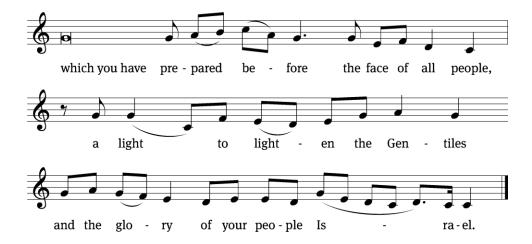
Text and tune: Public domain

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

(Luke 2:29-32)

Please stand as the canticle is introduced





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.

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**

"You Are the Way; through You Alone"



- 1 You are the way; thro' you a lone can we the Fa ther find
- 2 You are the truth; your Word a lone true wis dom can im part;
- 3 You are the life; the emp-ty tomb pro-claims your con-qu'ring arm,
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know



in you, O Christ, has God re-vealed his heart and will and mind. you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart. and those who put their trust in you nor death nor hell shall harm. that truth to keep, that life to win whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt. Tune: The CL Psalmes of David, Edinburgh, 1615 Text and tune: Public domain



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

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

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

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

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

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



Special thanks to: Juanita Becker for playing piano... Mark Buske for serving as distribution assistant...

Aaron Palmer for serving as usher... Peter Hermanson for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream...

and Joanne Kohler for serving on 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. Printed copies are available on the countertop in the narthex.

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.

"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.

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

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

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#### Paschal Candle

Paschal, meaning "having to do with the Passover," is a word associated with Easter, for it was at the conclusion of the Jewish Passover Festival (the "Pasch") that Jesus rose from the dead and proved himself to be the true Passover Lamb whose blood removes the threat of death (cf. Ex. 12; 1 Cor. 6:6-8).

Paschal Candles are usually very large, white, and inscribed with a cross and the Greek letters Alpha (A) and Omega  $(\Omega)$  - the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet – which symbolize that Christ is eternal, the beginning and end (Revelation 1:8; 22:13).

The Paschal Candle is lit every Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday to symbolize that Christ is alive and lives among his people. It is then lit for every service during the season of Easter as we continue to celebrate Christ's resurrection. The candle is also lit at Holy Baptisms and Christian funerals, reminding us of the believer's new birth and resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

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