

✝ MIDWEEK OF LENT 5 ✝

April 9, 2025



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

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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.

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Lent

Return to the LORD!

The word Lent comes from an Old English word for spring (“lengthen,” the time of the year when the days grow longer). For over 1400 years, the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a journey of repentance and prayer, of remembrance and renewal of our baptism. God’s merciful call to his people serves as one of the themes of this penitential season - “Return to the LORD your God” (Joel 2:13).

Midweek of Lent 5

Death and Burial

This evening we conclude our reading of the Passion History of our Lord according to the Gospel of St. Luke with the account of Jesus’ crucifixion.

The crowd shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate conceded and surrendered Jesus to their will. Jesus was led away to the cross. Taunted, jeered, and battered, Jesus hardly looked like a king. We notice the irony of it all as we picture him hanging on the cross, seemingly defeated. Others saw that too. The crowds, soldiers and even a criminal hanging next to him made fun of his claims to kingship.

Yet we know this was all God’s plan. Through Christ’s suffering and death God gives us life and the promise that we will experience glory in heaven where our now-risen Lord and Savior rules over all things triumphantly as the King of Kings. In the meantime, Jesus makes this promise to those who with repentant hearts long to be remembered in his kingdom: “You will be with me in paradise.” Dear Christian, look to the cross and see your hope for salvation; see your King suffering and dying so he might forgive and redeem you.

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.

Please remain silent as you prepare for worship.

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

Service of Light

Tolling of the Bells

Opening Hymn

429 w 1, 5, 7 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and
5 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank you,
7 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion, my shield when
shame weighed down, now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed,
dear - est Friend, for this, your dy - ing sor - row,
I must die; re - mind me of your pas - sion
with thorns your on - ly crown, O sa - cred head, no
your pit - y with - out end? O make me yours for -
when my last hour draws nigh. My eyes will then be -

glo - ry now from your face does shine; yet, though de -
 ev - er, and keep me strong and true; Lord, let me
 hold you, up - on your cross will dwell; my heart will
 spised and go - ry, I joy to call you mine.
 nev - er, nev - er out - live my love for you.
 then en - fold you— who dies in faith dies well!

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153, abr.; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Hans Leo Hassler, 1546–1612
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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.

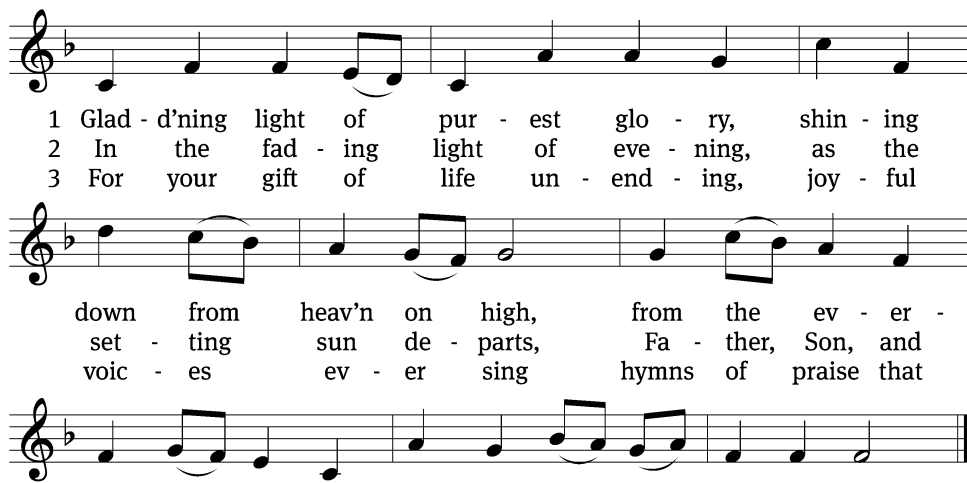
Be our light and scatter the darkness,

and hear our evening prayer and praise.

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Hymn of Light *Phos hilaron*

(Psalm 118:28; 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

Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

The children of Israel wandering in the wilderness were not thankful to God for the gifts he gave them. So they complained... until he sent them something to complain about. God gave his ungrateful children what they deserved. Then prompted by grace alone, God provided a cure for the pain he had inflicted on them because of their sins. Those who looked at the bronze snake on the pole did so because God's Word of mercy created trust in their hearts.

⁴They set out from Mount Hor along the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom, but the people became very impatient along the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? Look, there is no food! There is no water! And we are disgusted by this worthless food!"

⁶The LORD sent venomous snakes among the people, and the snakes bit the people. As a result many people from Israel died. ⁷The people went to Moses and said, "We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD to take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed on behalf of the people.

⁸The LORD said to Moses, "Make a venomous snake and put it on a pole. If anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live." ⁹Moses made a bronze snake and put it on the pole. If a snake had bitten anyone, if that person looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 143

Psalm 143 is the last of the seven penitential psalms. The Church sings Psalm 143 to request reassurance from the Lord. The Septuagint says that it was written when wicked Absalom pursued his father David. Martin Luther said, "Psalm 143 is a prayer psalm for grace and forgiveness of sins by a person accused by his own conscience. The promoters of the law plague distressed consciences and drive them to despair and death. But grace provides deliverance. All believers place their hope on God's love and grace."

- ¹ LORD, hear my prayer.
Give ear to my cry for mercy.
In your faithfulness, answer me in your righteousness.
- ² **Do not bring charges against your servant,
because no one living can be righteous before you.**

- ³ For the enemy pursues my soul.
He crushes my life to the ground.
He makes me dwell in dark places like those long dead,
- ⁴ **so my spirit grows faint inside me.**
Within me my heart is devastated.
- ⁵ I remember the days of long ago.
I meditate on all your works,
and I consider what your hands have done.
- ⁶ **I spread out my hands to you.**
My soul thirsts for you like a weary land.
- ⁷ Hurry! Answer me, LORD.
My spirit fails.
Do not hide your face from me,
or I will be like those who go down to the pit.
- ⁸ Let me hear about your mercy in the morning,
for I trust in you.
Teach me the way that I should go,
for I lift up my soul to you.
- ⁹ Rescue me from my enemies, O LORD,
for I hide myself in you.
- ¹⁰ **Teach me to do your will,**
for you are my God.
May your good Spirit lead me on level ground.
- ¹¹ For the sake of your name, O LORD, preserve my life.
In your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.
- ¹² **In your mercy, wipe out my enemies,**
and destroy all who threaten my life,
for I am your servant.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The bronze snake Moses put on that pole was a hideous sight and a reminder of what caused those painful snake bites - sin. During Lent, we also look at something initially hideous. In one sense, the image of Christ crucified on the cross is hideous because it reminds us of his suffering and what caused it - our sin. But Jesus dying on the cross is also a beautiful sight because it reminds us of God's love in taking away our sin. Jesus gives us this promise: "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:14,15).

²⁶ As they led him away, they seized Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country. They placed the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ A large crowd of people was following him, including women who were mourning and wailing for him. ²⁸ Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ Be sure of this: The days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed.' ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹ For if they do these things to the green wood, what will happen to the dry?"

³² Two other men, who were criminals, were led away with Jesus to be executed.

³³ When they came to the place called The Skull, they crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left.

³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

They cast lots to divide his garments among them. ³⁵ The people stood watching. The rulers were ridiculing him, saying, "He saved others. Let him save himself, if this is the Christ of God, the Chosen One!"

³⁶ The soldiers also made fun of him. Coming up to him, they offered him sour wine, ³⁷ saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"

³⁸ There was also an inscription written above him: "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals hanging there was blaspheming him, saying, "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God, since you are under the same condemnation? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom."

⁴³ Jesus said to him, "Amen I tell you: Today you will be with me in paradise."

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun was darkened. Then the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

⁴⁷ When the centurion saw what had happened, he began to glorify God, saying, “This man really was righteous.” ⁴⁸ When all the groups of people who had gathered to see this spectacle saw what had happened, they returned home beating their chests. ⁴⁹ All those who knew Jesus, and the women who followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

⁵⁰ Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea, who was a member of the Council, a good and righteous man. ⁵¹ He had not agreed with their plan and action. He was looking forward to the kingdom of God. ⁵² This man went to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. ⁵³ He took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and placed it in a tomb that was cut out of rock, where no one had yet been laid. ⁵⁴ It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed after Joseph, and they observed the tomb and how his body was laid there. ⁵⁶ Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

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



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af-flict-ed, see him dy-ing on the
 2 Tell me, as you hear him groan-ing, was there ev-er grief like
 3 If you think of sin but light-ly nor sup-pose the e-vil
 4 Here we have a firm foun-da-tion, here the ref-uge of the



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re-ject-ed; yes, my
 his, friends through fear his cause dis-own-ing, foes in-
 great, here you see its na-ture right-ly, here its
 lost: Christ, the rock of our sal-va-tion, is the



soul, 'tis he, 'tis he. 'Tis the long-ex-pect-ed
 sult-ing his dis-tress? Man-y hands were raised to
 guilt may es-ti-mate. Mark the sac-ri-fice ap-
 name of which we boast; Lamb of God, for sin-ners



Proph-et, Da-vid's son, yet Da-vid's Lord; proofs I
 wound him, none would in-ter-vene to save; but the
 point-ed, see who bears the aw-ful load; 'tis the
 wound-ed, sac-ri-fice to can-cel guilt! None shall



see suf-fi-cient of it: 'tis the true and faith-ful Word.
 deep-est stroke that pierced him was the stroke that jus-tice gave.
 Word, the Lord's a-nointed, Son of Man and Son of God.
 ev-er be con-found-ed who on him their hope have built.

Song of Praise

947 ♩ 3 "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy"

3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,
 ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.
 All sin you car-ried for us, else had de-spair reigned o'er us:
 your peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Text: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485-after 1546; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941 Tune: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485-after 1546 Text and tune: Public domain

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 mercy.

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 minds set on heavenly things, for hearts that long for heavenly glory, and for the will to bear our earthly crosses, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the gifts of humility and repentance, for faith that finds security in Christ and does not use God's patience as an excuse for sin, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For perspective to see that, apart from Christ, gain is loss, and in Christ, loss is gain, and for the perseverance to press on and take hold of our heavenly prize, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

Prayer

Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benedicamus

(Psalm 103:1)

Let us praise the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

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 "O Perfect Life of Love"



- 1 O per - fect life of love! All, all is fin - ished now,
- 2 No work is left un - done of all the Fa - ther willed;
- 3 No pain that we can share but he has felt its smart;
- 4 And on his thorn-crowned head and on his sin - less soul



all that he left his throne a - bove to do for us be - low.
his toil, his sor - rows, one by one, the Scrip - tures have ful - filled.
all forms of hu - man grief and care have pierced that ten - der heart.
our sins in all their guilt were laid that he might make us whole.

- 5 In perfect love he dies;
for me he dies, for me!
O all-atoning Sacrifice,
you died to make me free!

- 6 In ev'ry time of need,
before the judgment throne,
your works, O Lamb of God, I'll plead,
your merits, not my own.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877, abr., alt. Tune: William Daman, c. 1540-1591 Text and tune: Public domain

The Pastor departs in silence

Please remain silent for meditation



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you wish to give your offering via [PayPal](#), you can scan the QR code below.

Thank you for your financial support of our congregation!

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

Special thanks to: Sarah Bortulin for playing piano...

Mark Buske for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream...

and the Campbell family for making the rough cross we display during the seasons of Lent and Easter.

For more information about 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.

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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Evening Prayer from Christian Worship

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Psalm introduction from Christian Worship: Psalter

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