# + FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER +

May 11, 2025



## Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

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1665 South 57<sup>th</sup> Street | West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

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Pastor: Joseph M. Berg Organist: Linda Loeffel Phone: 414-810-3392 Church Choir: Lois Buske

Email: revjberg@gmail.com Children's Choir: Peter Hermanson

## **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.

# Jubilate Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025



# Easter Because He Lives

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not fairytale or fable. It is a historic fact that a real man named Jesus of Nazareth rose from the dead, outside of Jerusalem, around 2,000 years ago. However, we do ourselves a disservice if we simply recall the historic details of that first Easter Sunday without thinking about their significance. So, what does Jesus' resurrection from the dead mean for us Christians? It will be our privilege and pleasure to use the fifty days of Easter to ponder the many blessings God gives to us through Jesus *because he lives*.

#### Fourth Sunday of Easter

## We Know Jesus Is Trustworthy and True

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally known as "Jubilate" Sunday, or "Rejoice" Sunday. The Sunday derives its name from the Latin words of the Introit (i.e. the opening verses) of the day: "Shout praise (*jubilate*) to God, all the earth!" (Psalm 66:1). Today is also known in many circles as "Good Shepherd Sunday."

How do you know you can trust Jesus? Simple. Jesus followed up his words with action. Jesus promised he would die to save you from your sin. He did. Scripture promised the Savior would rise from the dead, proving that payment for sins was complete. It happened.

Jesus always does what he says. His every promise is fulfilled. Jesus once illustrated that point in a striking metaphor, that of the Good Shepherd. All shepherds use words, calling to the sheep hoping they will follow. What sets the Good Shepherd apart is the fact that his words are followed by action, including his willingness to lay down his life for his sheep. Because he lives, we know Jesus is trustworthy and true.

## The Service

## **Setting Four**

#### 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

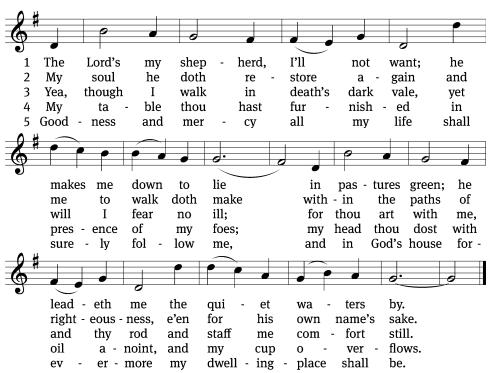
#### Preservice Music

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives" "I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

Kaia Leyrer, piano

## **Opening Hymn**

555 "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"



Text: The Psalms of David in Meeter, Edinburgh, 1650 Tune: William Gardiner, 1770–1853 Text and tune: Public domain

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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The hymn will be sung like so: Refrain, Verse 1, Verse 2, Verse 5 (no refrain in between the verses), Final Refrain



Text: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010; John W. Arthur, 1922–1980 ... Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: © 1975, 1988 Richard W. Hillert. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

#### 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 Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading Acts 13:15-16a, 26-39

St. Paul points out that Jesus' death and resurrection both fulfilled the Scripture. They prove not only that we are forgiven, but that God's promises are trustworthy and true.

<sup>15</sup> After the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, "Gentlemen, brothers, if you have a word of encouragement for the people, say it."

<sup>16</sup> Then Paul stood up, motioned with his hand, and said...

<sup>26</sup> "Gentlemen, brothers, sons of Abraham's family, and those among you who fear God, this message of salvation has been sent to you. <sup>27</sup> The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him, and by condemning him they fulfilled the statements of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. <sup>28</sup> Though they found no grounds for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. <sup>29</sup> When they carried out everything that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. <sup>30</sup> But God raised him from the dead, <sup>31</sup> and for many days he was seen by those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These same individuals are now his witnesses to the people.

<sup>32</sup> "We are preaching to you the good news about the promise that was made to our fathers. <sup>33</sup> God has fulfilled this promise for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm:

You are my Son.

Today I have begotten you.

<sup>34</sup> "That God would raise him from the dead never again to be subject to decay, God said in this way:

I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.

<sup>35</sup> "Therefore he also says in another place:

You will not let your Holy One see decay.

<sup>36</sup> "For David, after he had served God's purpose in his own generation, fell asleep, was laid to rest with his fathers, and saw decay. <sup>37</sup> But the One God raised did not see decay.

<sup>38</sup> "So, gentlemen, brothers, let it be known to you that through this Jesus forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you, also forgiveness from everything from which you could not be justified through the law of Moses. <sup>39</sup> In this Jesus, everyone who believes is justified."

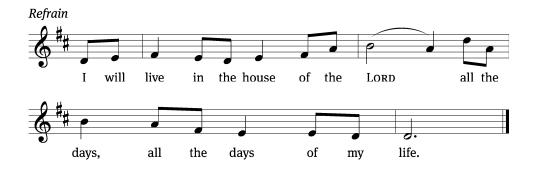
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 23 A "I Will Live in the House of the LORD"

The Church sings Psalm 23 in services that honor Jesus as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. It is frequently sung at funerals, calling to mind the presence of the Lord as Christians go through the valley of the shadow of death.



#### Tone



The LORD is my / shepherd,

I lack / nothing.

He makes me lie down in green / pastures,

he leads me beside quiet / waters,

he refreshes / my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for his / name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no / evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they / comfort me.

#### Refrain

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my / enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup / overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days / of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for- / ever.

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

Tune: Mark Haas Setting: Mark Haas
Music: © 2014 Mark Haas. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

Second Reading Revelation 7:9-17

God's promise to lead all believers from great tribulation to the green pastures of heaven is trustworthy and true. St. John sees that promise fulfilled through the work of the Lamb.

<sup>9</sup> After these things I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing in front of the throne and of the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> They called out with a loud voice and said:

Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb.

<sup>11</sup> All the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, <sup>12</sup> saying:

Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>13</sup> One of the elders spoke to me and said, "These people dressed in white robes, who are they and where did they come from?"

And I answered him, "Sir, you know."

<sup>14</sup> And he said to me:

These are the ones who are coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Because of this they are in front of the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple.

He who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.

<sup>16</sup> They will never be hungry or thirsty ever again.

The sun will never beat upon them, nor will any scorching heat,

for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd.

He will lead them to springs of living water.

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced





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

Gospel John 10:22-30

Because our Good Shepherd is trustworthy and true, we eagerly listen to his voice.

<sup>22</sup> Then the Festival of Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple area in Solomon's Colonnade.

<sup>24</sup> So the Jews gathered around Jesus, asking, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly."

<sup>25</sup> Jesus answered them, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I am doing in my Father's name testify about me. <sup>26</sup> But you do not believe, because you are not my sheep, as I said to you. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all. No one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one."

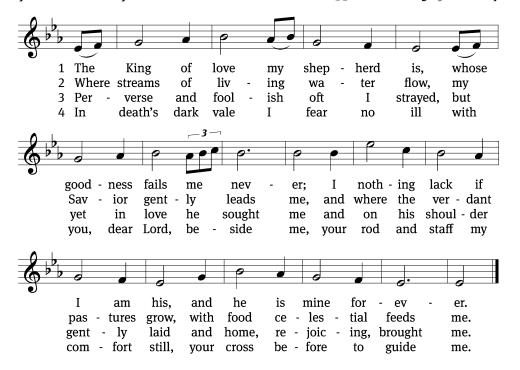
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

## Hymn of the Day

552 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"



- You spread a table in my sight, a banquet here bestowing; your oil of welcome, my delight; my cup is overflowing!
- 6 And so through all the length of days your goodness fails me never;
  Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise within your house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt. Tune: Irish, 18th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

John 10:22-30

"Jesus' Sheep Will Never Perish"

Please stand

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.

## **Offering Collection**

(Proverbs 3:9-10; Matthew 6:19-34; Romans 12:1; 2 Corinthians 9:7-11; Galatians 6:6-10)

#### **Offerings**

God, who blesses us with all we gave, gives us the privilege of thanking him in many ways. One way is by offering a portion of our income to financially support the ministry of our congregation and synod.

If you are a guest, please do not feel like you must give an offering.

We are happy to share with you the free, good news of Jesus' gracious love for you!

If you would like to give an offering, you can place it in the collection plate when it is passed to you. If you wish to give your offering via <u>PayPal</u>, you can scan the QR code on the last page of this bulletin. Thank you for your financial support of our congregation!

#### Friendship Registers

You are invited to write your name in the Friendship Register - the maroon book at the end of each pew. Please write down your name and the names of those with you, check any appropriate box, and provide your contact information if you want the pastor to speak with you.

## **Prayer of the Church**

Good Shepherd Sunday

Let us pray.

Loving Shepherd of the sheep, fill us with contentment and confidence during this season as we celebrate your Easter victory. You laid down your life for the sheep and then rose again to assure us that you give us eternal life.

#### Good Shepherd, save us.

Strengthen our faith to follow where you lead, to the green pastures of your Word, the quiet waters of our baptism, and the gracious table of your body and blood where our cup overflows with your forgiving love. Guide us to find in you the gate that leads to safety and good pastures.

### Good Shepherd, lead us.

Guard and protect us from those who want to lead us astray and snatch us out of your hand. Give us courage to fight against the devil and wisdom to recognize false teachers. Lead us to honor and follow those you have called to shepherd your flock, the Church.

## Good Shepherd, guide us.

Let your rod and your staff comfort us and all your sheep in times of sickness and sadness and especially when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. May we find in your redemption and your Father's resolve the unbreakable promise that we will dwell in your house forever.

Good Shepherd, console us.

Move us to reach out to sheep who are not yet a part of our sheep pen but whom you have claimed as your own. Give us your passion to search for the sheep who are lost and lead us to rejoice when they have been found.

Good Shepherd, inspire us.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We thank you for all the blessings we have gained from your goodness: family and friends, wealth and health, work and leisure. Give us wisdom to long for and cherish your more precious gifts, your Word and sacraments, so that your goodness and love may follow us all the days of our life.

Good Shepherd, hear us. Amen.

Please stand

## The Sacrament

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

#### **Prefaces**

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

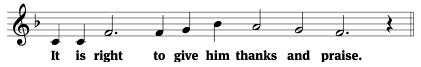
The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



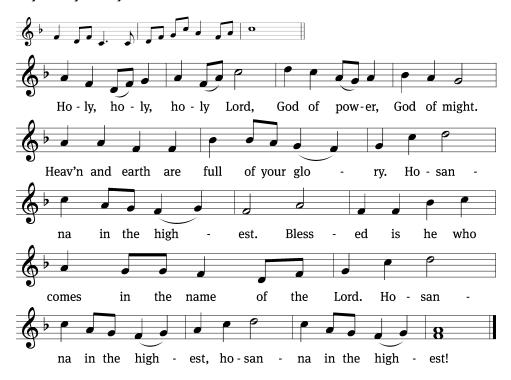
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer Tune: © 2021 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

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:



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## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

(John 1:3; Romans 8:32)

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

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.

#### Words of Institution Verba (Matthew

(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*

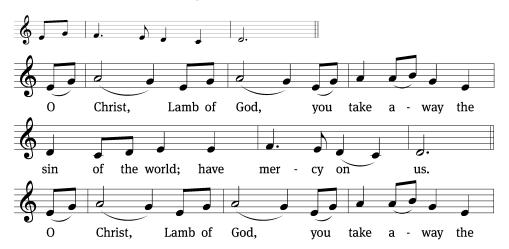
(John 14:27; 20:19; 2 Thessalonians 3:16)

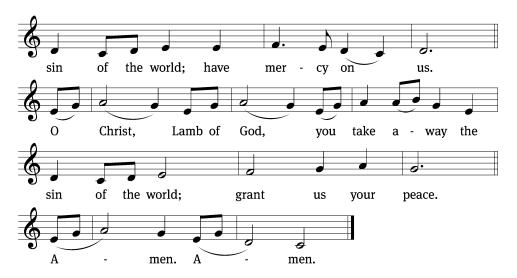
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

## O Christ, Lamb of God Agnus Dei

(John 1:29; Isaiah 53:4-7; 1 Peter 1:18-19)





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Please be seated

## **Distribution of Holy Communion**

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 2:42)

As he distributes the elements, the pastor 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 pastor says:

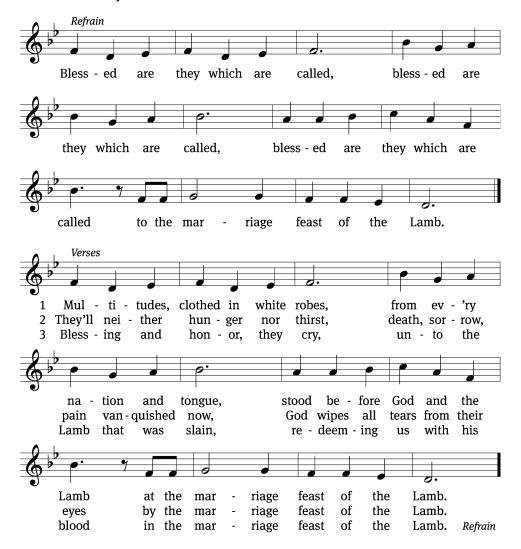
The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go  $\dotplus$  in peace.

Amen.



Text: Isaac Watts, alt. Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, ed. William Walker Text and tune: Public domain

## **Distribution Hymn**



- 4 Servant, saint, martyr at rest, sanctified, ransomed, restored, thund'rously sing a new song of the marriage feast of the Lamb. (v. 5)
- Worthy are you, Lamb of God, to receive glory and praise. Alleluia and amen for the marriage feast of the Lamb! (Refrain)

## **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.

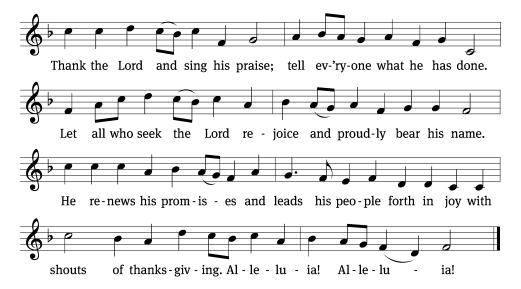
#### Children and Non-Communicants

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.

#### Thank the Lord and Sing His Praise (CW 948)

(Psalm 105:1-5; Isaiah 55:12)

Please stand as the canticle is introduced



Text: Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978 Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010
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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 you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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



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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.

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

#### Special thanks to:

Linda Loeffel for playing organ... Kaia Leyrer for playing piano... Peter Hermanson for serving as distribution assistant... Jerry Loeffel for serving as usher... Brooke Smith for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream... Ashley Leyrer for serving on Altar Duty... and the Campbell family for making the rough cross we display during the seasons of Lent and Easter.

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.

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.

"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: <u>www.wels.net</u>



Scripture taken from: The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version <sup>™</sup> (EHV <sup>™</sup>)

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