+ TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

August 17, 2025



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St. West Allis, WI 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.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Proper 15

August 17, 2025



Season after Pentecost

Wounds That Heal

Not all wounds are bad. For example, the result of a skilled doctor performing a successful surgery is not harm but healing. In the same way, words can wound. Words can "cut to the heart." Sometimes, however, those painful words provide the very healing we need.

Jesus often taught things that were difficult to hear. As we read the Bible, we might find it difficult to accept everything that Jesus said. Yet, to ignore what Jesus teaches is to court eternal death. Hard as it may be, let us listen and take all that Jesus says to heart. For while Jesus speaks words that wound us, his intent is to heal our very soul.

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

God's Word Divides

We often divide humanity into groups: this ethnic group versus that one, men versus women, wealthy versus poor. Yet, every ethnic group is under God's law. That law equally convicts men and women of sin. Because of sin, both the wealthy and poor will die.

Only through faith in Christ is sin forgiven and the sting of death removed. God's Word creates that saving faith, but not in everyone who hears it. Fallen mankind retains the awful power to reject the Word and God's gift of faith. Therefore, God's Word produces the only people distinction that matters—believers and unbelievers.

We desire to live in peace with other people. But Jesus teaches, this side of heaven, that desire is a pipe dream. Those who embrace the gospel in faith will inevitably face hostility. Following Jesus will come at a price. Yet he promises that our perseverance will be rewarded.

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.

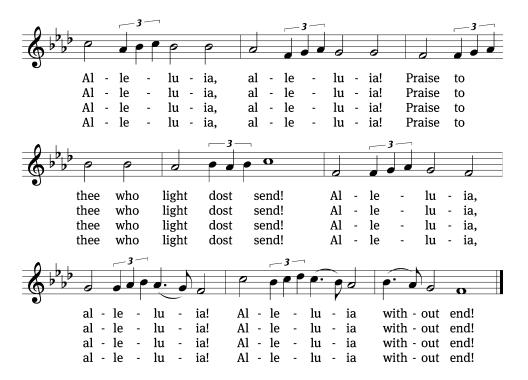
The hymns are located in the middle to back portion of the blue hymnal.

The Preparation

Opening Hymn

630 "Thy Strong Word"





- 5 Give us lips to sing thy glory, tongues thy mercy to proclaim, throats to shout the hope that fills us, mouths to speak thy holy name. Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which thou dost send fill our songs with alleluias, alleluias without end!
- God the Father, light-creator,
 to thee laud and honor be.
 To thee, Light from Light begotten,
 praise be sung eternally.
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
 glory, glory be to thee.
 Mortals, angels, now and ever
 praise the holy Trinity!

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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 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.

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; 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 Jeremiah 23:23-29

The Word of the Lord divides what is true from what is false.

- ²² Am I a God who is only nearby, declares the LORD, and not a God far away?
- ²⁴ Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.
- ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets who prophesy lies in my name have said. They say, "I have had a dream! I have had a dream!" ²⁶ How long will this be in the hearts of these lying prophets? These prophets proclaim the fantasies of their own hearts. ²⁷ They think they can make my people forget my name with the dreams each one tells his neighbor, the way their fathers forgot my name because of Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream. But let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully.

What has chaff to do with grain? declares the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like a fire? declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 4

The Church sings Psalm 4 as a cry for relief, peace, and joy in the midst of turmoil and distress. The Lord is faithful to his promises and hears when we call on him.

The Pastor and the Congregation will speak the Psalm responsively.

- My righteous God, answer me when I call.
 When I was under pressure, you gave me relief.
 Be merciful to me and hear my prayer.
- You people, how long will you turn my glory into shame?
 How long will you love empty delusions?
 How long will you pursue lies?
- 3 Know this: The LORD has set apart his favored one for himself.

The LORD will hear when I call to him.

- You may be upset, but do not sin.
 When you are on your beds,
 speak to your heart, but remain silent.
- Offer righteous sacrifices, and trust in the LORD.
- Many are saying, "Who can show us any good?" Shine the light of your face on us, O LORD.
- ⁷ You have placed joy in my heart greater than the joy when grain and new wine are plentiful.
- In complete peace I will lie down, and I will sleep, for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Second Reading Hebrews 12:1-13

The Hebrews who converted to Christianity were often divided from their friends and separated from their livelihood. How would they persevere? By fixing their eyes on Jesus.

of every burden and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and let us run with patient endurance the race that is laid out for us. ² Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the author of our faith and the one who brings it to its goal. In view of the joy set before him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of God's throne.

³ Carefully consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinful people, so that you do not grow weary and lose heart.

⁴You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood in your fight against sin. ⁵ Have you also forgotten the encouragement that addresses you as sons?

My son, do not regard the Lord's discipline lightly, and do not become weary of his correction.

⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one whom he loves, and he corrects every son he accepts.

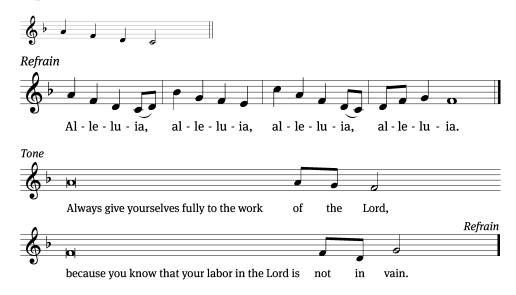
⁷ Endure suffering as discipline. God is dealing with you as sons. Is there a son whose father does not discipline him? ⁸ If you are not disciplined (and all of us have received it), then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ In addition, we have earthly fathers who disciplined us, and we respected them. Should we not submit even more to the Father of the spirits and live? ¹⁰ They disciplined us for a little while, according to what seemed best to them, but God disciplines us for our good, so that we may have a share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant when it is happening, but painful, yet later it yields a peaceful harvest of righteousness for those who have been trained by it.

¹² Therefore strengthen your weak hands and feeble knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated but rather healed.

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 Luke 12:49-53

Jesus was fully aware that his work would cause division that would often cut close to home.

⁴⁹ "I came to throw fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already ignited. ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is finished! ⁵¹ Do you think that I came to bring peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵² Yes, from now on there will be five divided in one household: three against two, and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided: father against son, and son against father; mother against daughter, and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated



Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606–1673, abr., adapt.; (sts. 1, 3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 2): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

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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

Personal Evangelism

Let us pray.

Special prayers and intercessions

The Christian Church has traditionally marked August 15 as a day to remember God's work through St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord. We will recognize this minor church year festival in our prayers today.

After the prayer, please stand at the direction of the pastor

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)

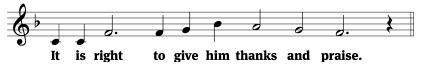
The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



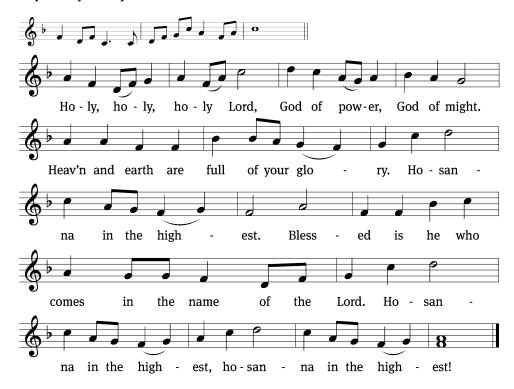
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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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 lives and reigns forever in perfect unity with you and the Holy Spirit as one God and one Lord.

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 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.



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Please be seated

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.



- 1 From God can noth-ing move me; he will not step a side
- 2 When those whom I re gard ed as trust wor thy and sure
- 3 Each day at his good plea sure God's gra-cious will is done.
- 4 Yet e ven though I suf fer the world's un pleas-ant ness,
- 5 For thus the Fa ther willed it, who fash-ioned us from clay;



but gent - ly will re - prove me and be my con-stant guide. have long from me de - part - ed, God's grace shall still en - dure. He sent his great - est trea - sure in Je - sus Christ, his Son. and though the days grow rough - er and bring me great dis - tress, and his own Son ful - filled it and brought e - ter - nal day.



eve - ning and He stretch-es out his hand in in morn - ing. and breaks the chains that bind res - cues me from sin He bread of earth and heav - en He ev - 'rv gift im - parts; the day of bliss di - vine, which knows no end or mea - sure, The Spir - it now has come, us true faith has giv - en; to



mv life with grace a - dorn - ing wher - ev - er Ι may stand. me; his peace I have with - in. leave death's fear be - hind giv - en. Praise him with thank-ful hearts! his kind - ness and Christ, who plea - sure, for - ev - er shall be mine. is my heav - en. O praise the Three in he leads us home to

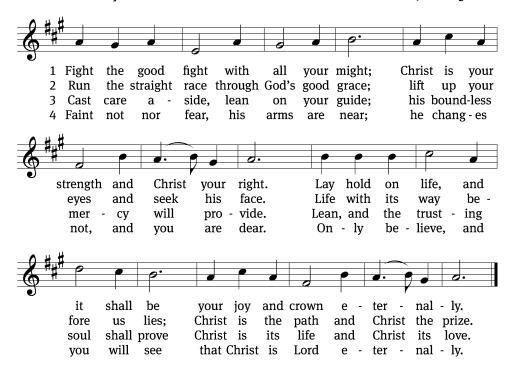
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Tune: Recueil de plusieurs chansons, Lyons, 1557, alt.

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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:

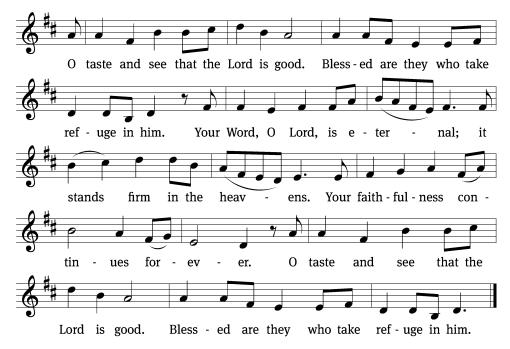
The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go + in peace.

Amen.

O Taste and See (CW 965)

(Psalm 34:8; 119:89,90)

Please stand as the canticle is introduced



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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)

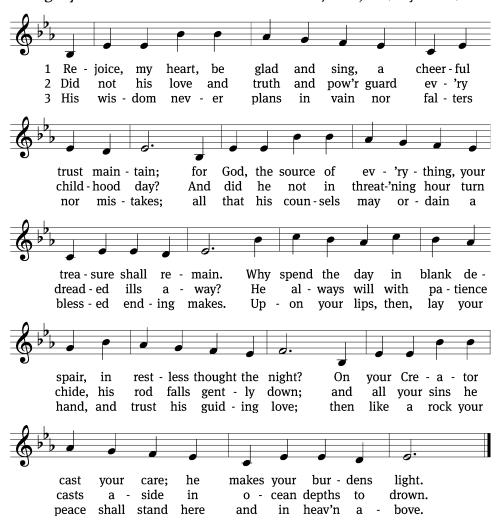
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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... Ben Leyrer for serving as distribution assistant...

Jerry Loeffel for serving as usher... Brooke Smith for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream...

and Joan Vitense for serving on Altar Duty.

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 "<u>Worship Resources</u>" 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 ™ (EHV™)

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