+ ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

August 24, 2025



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St. West Allis, WI 53214

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Pastor: Joseph M. Berg

Phone: 414-810-3392

Email: revjberg@gmail.com

Organist: Rachel Cordes

Church Choir: Lois Buske

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.

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Proper 16

August 24, 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.

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

The Door Is Very Narrow

When it comes to the uncomfortable topic of who goes to heaven and who goes to hell, it is natural to want to avoid the issue. One way we do that is to direct our attention to more theoretical questions. "What is heaven like?" "How old will we be there?" In today's Gospel we will hear that someone once asked Jesus, "Lord, are only a few going to be saved?"

Jesus brushes all such questions aside. Instead, he answers the question we should be asking. "How might I be saved?" Jesus explains there is only one way—entering through a very narrow door. Jesus' words cut deep! He teaches that it is very easy to develop a false sense of security about our standing before God based on some superficial familiarity we have with him. Jesus warns that many who think they are on the path to heaven will end up shut out. These wounding words of Jesus provide healing, pushing us toward that narrow door: faith in him.

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

916 "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"



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.



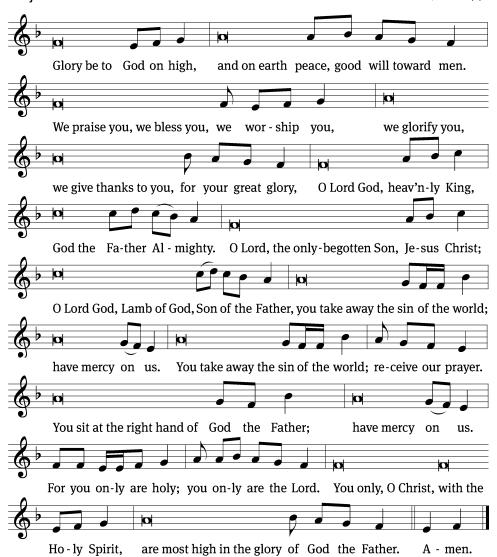
For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



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



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The Word

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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 Isaiah 66:18-24

Many of those closest to God's saving acts will reject them and perish. Meanwhile, many who seemed to be far from the kingdom will hear of God's grace, believe, and be saved.

- ¹⁸ As for me, because of their works and their thoughts, the time is coming for me to gather people from all nations and all languages. They will come, and they will see my glory.
- Then I will set up a sign among them, and I will send out survivors from among them to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, to those who are archers, to Tubal and Javan, to the distant coastlands, who have not heard my message and have not seen my glory. Then they will declare my glory among the nations.
- ²⁰ Then they will bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD. They will bring them on horses and chariots and wagons and mules and dromedaries to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, in the same way that the people of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel to the LORD's house. ²¹ Even from among these people I will take priests and Levites, says the LORD.
- ²² For just as the new heavens and the new earth that I am making will remain standing before me, declares the LORD, in the same way your offspring and your name will stand.
 ²³ As often as one new moon follows another and one Sabbath follows another, all flesh will come to worship before me, says the LORD.

²⁴ They will go out, and they will see the corpses of the ones who were rebelling against me, for their worm will not die, and their fire will not be quenched, and all flesh will be horrified by them.

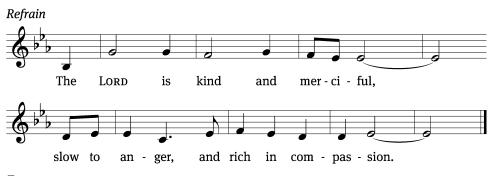
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 103 A "The LORD Is Kind and Merciful"

The Church sings Psalm 103 in services that emphasize Jesus forgiving our sins and giving us confidence and strength against the devil and the world.



Tone



Praise the LORD, / my soul; all my inmost being, praise his / holy name who forgives / all your sins and heals all your dis- / eases, who redeems your life / from the pit and crowns you with love and com- / passion, who satisfies your desires / with good things so that your youth is renewed like the / eagle's.

Refrain

The LORD is compassionate and / gracious, slow to anger, abound- / ing in love.

He does not treat us as our / sins deserve or repay us according to our in- / iquities.

For as high as the heavens are a- / bove the earth, so great is his love for those who / fear him; as far as the east is / from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions / from us.

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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Second Reading Hebrews 12:18-24

Entering the narrow door into eternal life has nothing to do with keeping the Law of Moses. It has everything to do with Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant, who paid for our sin with his blood.

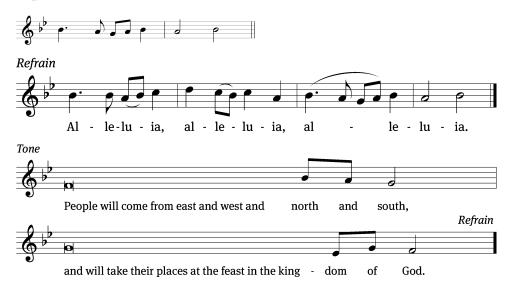
¹⁸ You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to burning fire, to darkness, to gloom, to a raging storm, ¹⁹ to the sound of a trumpet, and to a voice that spoke. Those who heard the voice asked that not one more word be added, ²⁰ because they could not endure what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned." ²¹ The sight was so terrifying that even Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."

²² Instead, you have come to Mount Zion, the city of the living God; to the heavenly Jerusalem; to tens of thousands of angels in joyful assembly; ²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven; to God, who is the judge of all; to the spirits of righteous people, who have been made perfect; ²⁴ to Jesus, the mediator of a new testament; and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better message than the blood of Abel.

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 13:22-30

Jesus urges, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door."

²² He went on his way from one town and village to another, teaching, and making his way to Jerusalem. ²³ Someone said to him, "Lord, are only a few going to be saved?"

He said to them, ²⁴ "Strive to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. ²⁵ Once the master of the house gets up and shuts the door, you will begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, 'Lord, open for us!' He will tell you in reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' ²⁶ Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' ²⁷ And he will say, 'I don't know where you come from. Depart from me, all you evildoers.' ²⁸ There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown outside. ²⁹ People will come from east and west, from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ And note this: Some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

698 "Seek Where You May to Find a Way"



Nicene Creed Credo

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

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.

Please be seated

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

Christian Education

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path. You inspired the Scriptures for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that your servants might be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Lead us to love your Word and to receive your message with great eagerness.

You have given us your Word that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing we may have life in his name. Enable us to see the wonders of your love in Christ from the beginning to the end of your holy book.

Help us to see Jesus, the author and perfector of our faith.

Work in all your people, especially in parents, the resolve and patience to teach little children the simple truths about the Savior who loves them. Walk with us as we take our children to the manger, the cross, and the empty tomb. Let them find Jesus in stories, songs, and prayers.

Move us to bring up our children in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Provide wisdom and commitment to teachers who train our young people in Sunday Schools youth Bible classes, and Lutheran elementary schools. Deepen their knowledge of your Word as they prepare and share the lessons they teach. Move them to model a sincere devotion to the Scriptures.

Lead us to plan for and support the Christian training of children.

Bless the schools and teachers who prepare public ministers of the gospel for service in our churches and around the world. Lead teachers and professors to be faithful to your Word and provide insights that enable them to pass on your truth to their students. Ignite the zeal of young men and women to be willing and eager to share the truths of Scripture with others. Move us to support with our prayers and gifts the schools our synod has established.

We pray that you send workers in your harvest fields.

Work in us that we may find the lasting value of growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ. Lead us to be faithful in our personal study of the Scriptures and in participating in regular Bible classes. Rid us of all thoughts that Christian education ends in our youth. Make us life-long students of your precious Word.

Lead us to believe that at every age your Word remains a lamp for our feet and a light to our path.

Special prayers and intercessions

The Christian Church has traditionally marked August 24 as a day to remember God's work through St. Bartholomew, Apostle. We will recognize this minor church year festival in our prayers today.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your Word. Even when we are old and gray, lead us to meditate on your decrees that we may delight in your wonderful deeds.

Do good to your servants, Lord, according to your Word. 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.

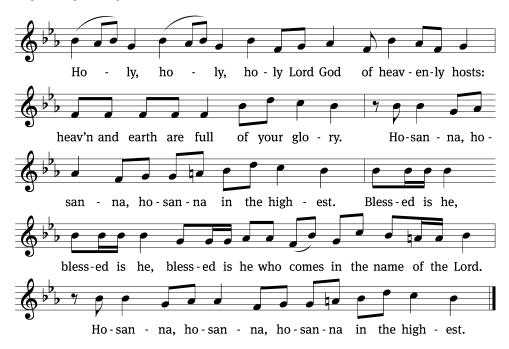


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory.

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. **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."

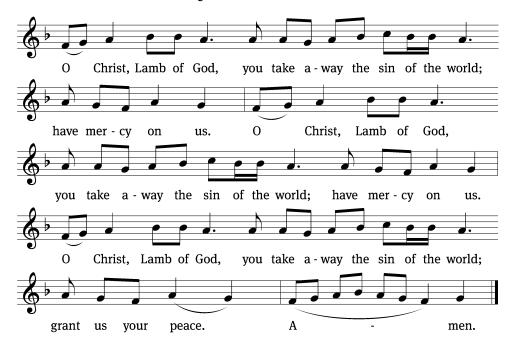
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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.



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 + in peace.

Amen.

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

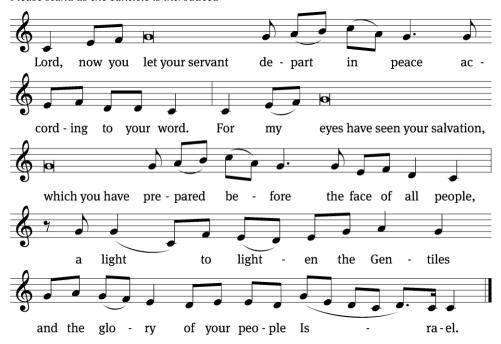


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Please stand as the canticle is introduced



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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 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.

Amen.

Blessing (Numbers 6:24-26)

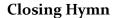
The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

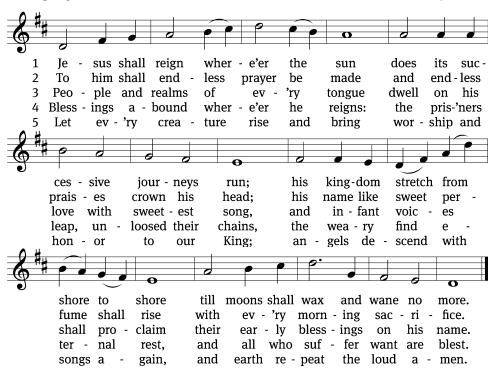
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Please be seated



380 "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"



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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:

Rachel Cordes for playing organ... Joe Lopina for serving as distribution assistant...

Michael Kraft for serving as usher... Mark Buske 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>



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