# + FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

## September 21, 2025



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

# + Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church +

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

414-545-6925 | www.nainlutheran.org | www.facebook.com/nainlutheran



Pastor: Joseph M. Berg Church Choir: Lois Buske

Phone: 414-810-3392 Children's Choir: Peter Hermanson

Email: revjberg@gmail.com

## **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.

# Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Proper 20

September 21, 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.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

#### No One Can Serve Two Masters

There are more than 2,300 Bible passages that speak about money. Why? Money is a master Satan frequently tempts us to serve. In fact, out of all the masters competing for our service besides God, money is probably at the top of the list. Money provides us with a false comfort and sense of security. Money serves as a source of pride.

This week, Jesus' sharp words identify the impossibility of serving more than one master. More, Jesus teaches that if we dedicate our lives in service to money, money will always let us down. In contrast, God has proven that he is a master worth serving. When we serve God, money is put in its proper place. Instead of it being a master to serve, it becomes a tool in our service of our true Master.

## 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.

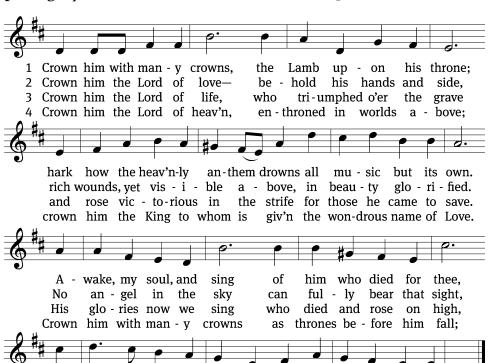
A personal prayer for before worship is printed on the first page of the blue hymnal.

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

## The Preparation

#### **Opening Hymn**

511 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"



and hail him as thy match-less King thro' all e - ter - ni - ty. but down-ward bends his won-d'ring eye at mys-ter - ies so bright. who died e - ter - nal life to bring and lives that death may die. crown him, ye kings, with man - y crowns for he is King of all.

Please stand

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.



Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. 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 God, you have told us not to be anxious about what we need for this life. Move our hearts to seek you and your kingdom, that all good things may be given to us as well; 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 Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

King Solomon knew from experience that if you serve money, you will end up sorely disappointed.

- <sup>10</sup> Anyone who loves money is never satisfied with money, and anyone who loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is vanishing vapor.
- <sup>11</sup> When goods increase, so do those who eat them. What profit, then, does the owner get, except to see these things with his eyes?
- <sup>12</sup> The worker's sleep is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but a rich person's abundant possessions allow him no sleep.
- <sup>13</sup> I have seen a sickening evil under the sun—wealth hoarded by its owner to his own harm, <sup>14</sup> or wealth that is lost in a bad investment. Or a man fathers a son, but he has nothing left in his hand to give him. <sup>15</sup> As he came out from his mother's womb, so he will go again, naked as he came. From his hard work he can pick up nothing that he can carry away in his hand. <sup>16</sup> This too is a sickening evil: Just as he came, so he will go. So what does he gain, he who works for the wind? <sup>17</sup> Besides this, during all his days he eats in darkness, with great frustration, sickness, and anger.

<sup>18</sup> So then, here is what I have seen to be good: It is beautiful to eat, to drink, and to look for good in all a person's hard work which he has done under the sun, during the few days of his life that God has given him, for that is his reward. <sup>19</sup> Likewise, for everyone to whom God has given wealth and riches, if God has also given him ability to eat from it, to enjoy his reward, and to rejoice in the results of his hard work—this is a gift of God, <sup>20</sup> for the man seldom reflects on the days of his life, since God keeps him busy with the joy in his heart.

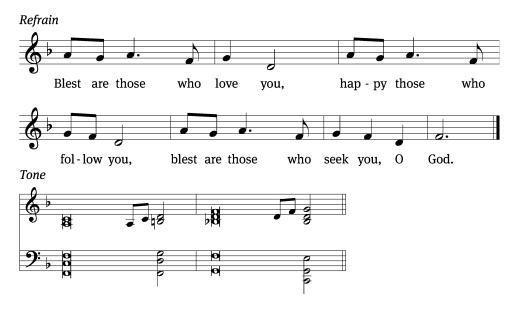
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 128 C "Blest Are Those Who Love You"

The Church sings Psalm 128 in services that encourage the faithful use of material blessings. As people live their Christian vocations, blessings from the Lord are both requested and promised.



Blessed are all who / fear the Lord,
who walk in obedi- / ence to him.
You will eat the fruit of your / labor;
blessings and prosperity / will be yours.
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine with- / in your house;
your children will be like olive shoots around your / table.

Yes, this will be the / blessing
for the man who / fears the LORD.

May the LORD bless you from / Zion;
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days / of your life.

May you live to see your children's / children—
peace be on / Israel.

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

Text: Marty Haugen Tune: Marty Haugen
Text and tune: © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758
Setting: © 2011 Faith Alive Christian Resources. Used by permission: License no. 130002495

## **Second Reading**

1 Timothy 6:6-10,17-19

St. Paul teaches that serving money will lead to spiritual destruction. But serving God with our money leads to a fulfilling life.

<sup>6</sup> But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into the world, and we certainly cannot take anything out. <sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be satisfied.

<sup>9</sup> Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge them into complete destruction and utter ruin. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evils. By striving for money, some have wandered away from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains.

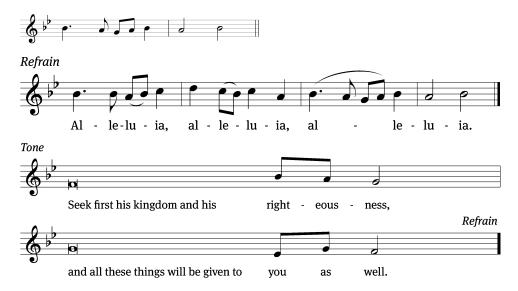
<sup>17</sup> Instruct those who are rich in this present age not to be arrogant or to put their hope in the uncertainty of riches, but rather in God, who richly supplies us with all things for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup> In this way they are storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Matthew 6:33



Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

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

Gospel Luke 16:1-13

All money belongs to God; he loans it to us to manage for his glory. Through a parable, Jesus teaches us to be shrewd in the way we use money to serve him.

16 Jesus also said to his disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager who was accused of wasting his possessions. <sup>2</sup> The rich man called him in and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you can no longer be manager.'

<sup>3</sup> "The manager said to himself, 'What will I do, since my master is taking away the management position from me? I am not strong enough to dig. I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I know what I will do, so that when I am removed from my position as manager, people will receive me into their houses.'

<sup>5</sup> "He called each one of his master's debtors to him. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' <sup>6</sup> He said, 'Six hundred gallons of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and write three hundred.' <sup>7</sup> Then he said to another, 'How much do you owe?' And he said, 'Six hundred bushels of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and write four hundred and eighty.'

<sup>8</sup> "The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the children of the light. <sup>9</sup>I tell you, make friends for yourselves with unrighteous *mammon* so that when it runs out, they will welcome you into the eternal dwellings. <sup>10</sup> The person who is faithful with very little is also faithful with much. And the person who is unrighteous with very little is also unrighteous with much. <sup>11</sup> So if you have not been faithful with unrighteous *mammon* who will entrust you with what is really valuable? <sup>12</sup> If you have not been faithful with what belongs to someone else, who will give you something to be your own? <sup>13</sup> No servant can serve two masters. Indeed, either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and *mammon*."

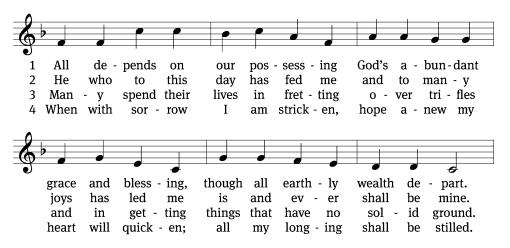
The Gospel of the Lord.

#### Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

## Hymn of the Day

807 "All Depends on Our Possessing"





- Well he knows what best to grant me; all the longing hopes that haunt me, joy and sorrow, have their day.
  I shall doubt his wisdom never; as God wills, so be it ever;
  I commit to him my way.
- 6 If my days on earth he lengthen, he my weary soul will strengthen; all my trust in him I place.
  Earthly wealth is not abiding, like a stream away is gliding; safe I anchor in his grace.

Text: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, Nürnberg, 1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Tune: Johann Löhner, 1645–1705; adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Luke 16:1-13

"Your Bill Is Paid in Full"

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**

Stewardship

Let us pray...

Special prayers and intercessions

The Christian Church has traditionally marked September 21 as a day to remember God's work through St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist. 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.



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.

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



Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006 Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844
Text: © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: Public domain

## **Distribution Hymn**

751 "O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made"



- 1 O God, your hand the heav-ens made and all that they con tain;
- 2 To us are giv en gifts di vine, all tal ents you have sent;
- 3 De liv er us from self-ish aims, true stew-ards we would be;



the world ap-peared at your com-mand, and in it now you reign. in - spire us now to use them well your king-dom to ex-tend. en - dow us with a deep de - sire to live un - self - ish - ly.



The rest-less sea, the land, the sky your hand-i - work de-clare; We hold each gift a trust from you nor claim it as our own; A full ac-count-ing we must give and see you face to face;



the touch of your cre - a - tive pow'r is pres-ent ev - 'ry - where. we grate-ful-ly ac - knowl-edge, Lord, all things are yours a - lone. let us ap-proach your throne with joy, sup - port - ed by your grace.

Text: Frank L. Cross, 1904-2001 Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, alt.
Text: © 1961, ren 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: Public domain

## **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 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.

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

(Luke 2:29-32)

Please stand as the canticle is introduced



Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. ... Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. James E. Engel, 1925-1989 ... Text and tune: Public domain

Thanksgiving (Psalm 118:1)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

Proclamation (1 Corinthians 11:26)

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

#### **Post-Communion Prayer**

(Romans 15:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 3:12, 5:11)

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

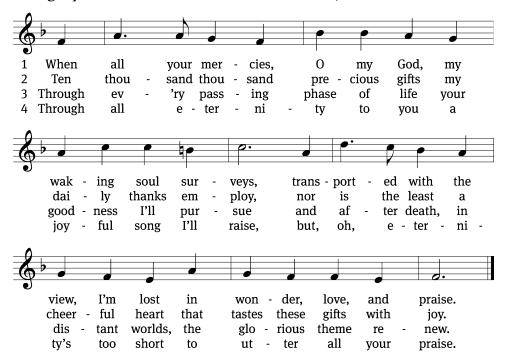
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Please be seated

## **Closing Hymn**

## 604 "When All Your Mercies, O My God"



Text: Joseph Addison, 1672–1719, abr., alt.

Tune: The Whole Booke of Psalmes, London, 1592; attr. George Kirbye, c. 1560–1634 Text and tune: Public domain





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:

Nancy Weinkauf for playing organ... Aaron Palmer for serving as distribution assistant...

Michael Kraft for serving as usher... Brooke Smith for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream...

and Jessica Reichardt 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™)

© 2016 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved.

www.wartburgproject.org

Setting One from Christian Worship
Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.
Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

Psalm introduction from Christian Worship: Psalter © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Reprinted by permission.

Front and back cover artwork by Ian M. Welch https://paramentics.com. Used by permission.

Page 3 artwork courtesy of Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission.

Reprinted under OneLicense.net # 726758.