# + NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

October 19, 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 Church Choir: Lois Buske

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

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## **About Our Worship Service**

Welcome in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Our message is as old as God's Word to mankind: Jesus Christ, crucified and risen to take away our sins. We gather for the Divine Service not merely for the sake of ritual or tradition. Nor do we come to worship primarily to give something back to God. Rather, we meet together to hear and receive what God has done for us. In Word and Sacrament, our gracious Lord gives those who believe in him forgiveness of sins, unity with him in new life, and the promise of eternal salvation in heaven! Through this same gospel he motivates and equips us to follow his holy will for our lives. We hope that you are comforted with the message of Jesus Christ's love for you as you worship today. Please join us again soon!

#### Visitors

Thank you for joining us for worship! Please read the following notes about our congregation. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please speak with the pastor.

#### Our Practice of Closed Communion

If you have not communed with us before, please read the notes printed later in this bulletin under the section titled "Our Holy Communion Practices."

#### Restrooms

Restrooms are located in the downstairs fellowship hall. A wheelchair accessible restroom is located at the front of the church, through the doors to the left of the chancel.

#### **Guest Book**

If you feel comfortable doing so, please sign our guest book located in the narthex so we can have a record of your visit.

#### Parent's Room

Parents with crying children are welcome to use the parent's room, located off the narthex.

#### Chair Lifts

Chair lifts are located off the northwest entrance for those who need to go to the fellowship hall on the lower level but have difficulty with stairs.

# Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost Proper 24

October 19, 2025



Season after Pentecost

## Cause / Effect

"Every why hath a wherefore." That was Shakespeare's poetic way of saying that very little happens by chance. Generally there is an agent behind an action. There is cause and effect. And to navigate life well, it is vital we understand both.

We are nearing the end of the Church Year. This past year, we have reviewed Jesus' life and teaching. The Scripture readings in these final weeks recall some of the major themes that are woven throughout the Church Year. In this final series we will be looking at those themes with the understanding that "every why hath a wherefore." We conclude the year by talking about cause and effect in God's kingdom.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## Promises / Prayer

Disciples of Jesus need to learn how to pray. And learning to pray is not like many of the other things we learn to do in our lives. Once we know how to write our name, tie our shoes, or ride a bike, the learning is done. There is virtually no danger we will forget how to do those things. Not so with prayer. Learning to pray consists of a lifetime of persistence.

So, what is the cause of persistent prayer? The precious promises of God. "God is not human, that he should lie. . . . Does he promise and not fulfill?" (Numbers 23:19). God cannot lie. So, we know every promise he makes us—to forgive, to provide, to help, to be with us—he must keep. When we persistently go to God in prayer and press him to keep his promises, God does not view that as nagging. He loves it! Because it demonstrates that our faith grasps not only that he can do what we ask, but that he will . . . because he promised.

## 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

#### **Preservice Music**

**Opening Hymn** 

and

then

to

sup - port

with con - fi - dence that sure - lv

an-swers our

our

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Edith Hermanson, piano

722 "In Holy Conversation"



pray-ing,

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Fa - ther ev - er

in - ter - cedes.

hears.

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.



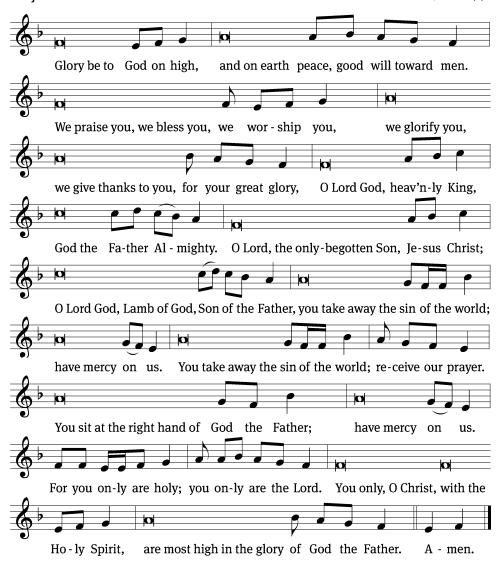
For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



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



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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.

God, our refuge and strength, have mercy on your church as we come in prayer before you. Answer us not in judgment on our sins but in peace and forgiveness; 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 Genesis 32:22-30

In praying that the Lord would keep his promise of blessing, Jacob literally wrestles with God.

<sup>22</sup> He got up that night and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of the Jabbok . <sup>23</sup> He took them and sent them across the stream, and he also sent his possessions across. <sup>24</sup> Jacob was left alone, and he wrestled with a man there until daybreak. <sup>25</sup> When the man saw that he could not defeat him, he touched the socket of his thigh, and the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated as he wrestled. <sup>26</sup> The man said, "Let me go. It's daybreak."

Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."

<sup>27</sup> Then he said to him, "What is your name?"

He said, "Jacob."

<sup>28</sup> Then he said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have fought with God and with men, and you have won."

<sup>29</sup> Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name."

He said, "Why do you ask what my name is?" Then he blessed him there.

<sup>30</sup> Jacob named the place Peniel, because he said, "I have seen God face to face, and my life has been spared."

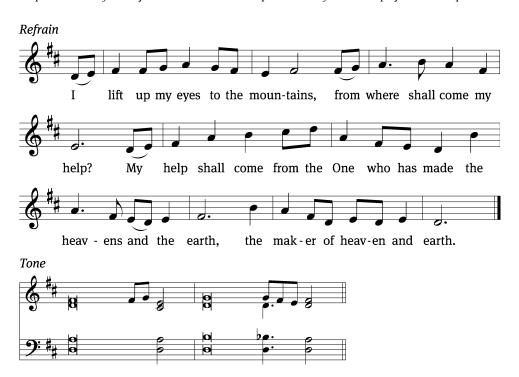
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 121 A "I Lift Up My Eyes to the Mountains"

The Church sings Psalm 121 in services that celebrate the value of faith in God regardless of circumstances. The psalmist confidently asserts that the Lord protects us from both physical and spiritual harm.



I lift up my eyes to the / mountains—
where does my help / come from?
My help comes / from the LORD,
the maker of / heaven and earth.
He will not let your / foot slip—
he who watches over you will not / slumber;
indeed, he who watches over / Israel
will neither / slumber nor sleep.

```
The LORD watches / over you—
the LORD is your shade / at your right hand.
The LORD will keep you / from all harm—
he will watch / over your life;
the LORD will watch over your coming and / going
both now and for- / evermore.
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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 1 John 5:13-15

When we ask God for something that is according to his will—something that he has promised—we can be absolutely confident we will receive it.

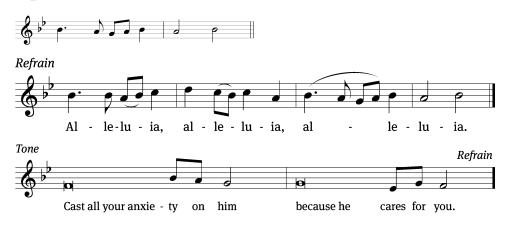
<sup>13</sup> I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

<sup>14</sup> This is the confidence that we have before him: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we also know that we receive the things we have asked from him.

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 18:1-8

Jesus teaches us to be bold and persistent in our prayers.

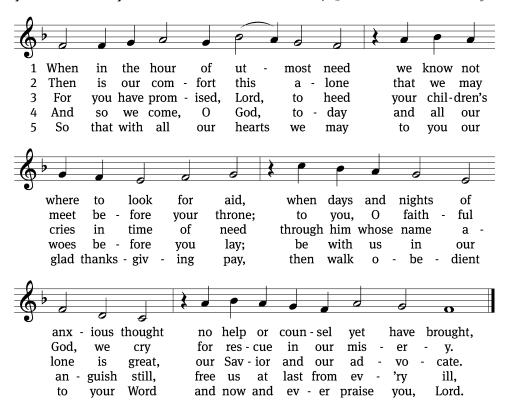
**18** Jesus told them a parable about the need to always pray and not lose heart: <sup>2</sup> "There was a judge in a certain town who did not fear God and did not care about people. <sup>3</sup> There was a widow in that town, and she kept going to him, saying, 'Give me justice from my adversary!' <sup>4</sup> For some time he refused, but after a while he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God or care about people, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice so that she will not wear me out with her endless pleading."

<sup>6</sup>The Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup>Will not God give justice to his chosen ones, who are crying out to him day and night? Will he put off helping them? <sup>8</sup>I tell you that he will give them justice quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated



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Sermon Luke 18:1-8

"Persistent Trust in God's Persistent Love"

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**

Our Synod

Let us pray.

Gracious God, the blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, has redeemed us from sin, and the work of your Spirit in our hearts has brought us to faith. According to your promise, preserve us in faith through your Word and sacraments. Accept our humble thanks for these rich blessings, and help us to rejoice in them and use them faithfully. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, you have brought us together in a church body in which your Word is proclaimed faithfully, the message of reconciliation through Christ is the central focus of ministry, and the mission is to reach the lost and strengthen the saved. For this gift of your grace, we give you thanks. Work in us by your Holy Spirit to rekindle our zeal for the work you have set before us. Lord, in your mercy,

## hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, you have given us opportunities to proclaim your Word in our nation and throughout the world. Move the hearts of more young people to prepare for the ministry. Help us view them as your precious gifts. Bless the work of our schools that prepare them for ministry and provide the opportunities for them to serve in your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

### hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, you have brought us together as a church body that we may proclaim your praise. Inspire us by your grace to let our light shine so that more people may be led to glorify you. Forgive us when we fall short of living and working together as your people. Renew in us a godly determination to serve you and one another in love. Lord, in your mercy,

## hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, you have preserved our synod and blessed its ministry for the past 175 years. We thank you for the faithful ministers of the gospel throughout our history who have taught your truth and proclaimed your Word. Bless us in the future as you have in the past so that our synod, its congregations, and each of us may boldly confess your name for the salvation of precious souls. Lord, in your mercy,

#### hear our prayer.

Special prayers and intercessions

The Christian Church has traditionally marked October 23 as a day to remember God's work through St. James of Jerusalem. We will recognize this minor church year festival in our prayers today.

October 15 marks Nain's  $111^{th}$  anniversary. We give thanks today that God has allowed our congregation to carry out the Ministry of the Gospel for yet another year.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Hear us, help us, and hold your guiding hand over us that in all our service your saving name may be glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### 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.

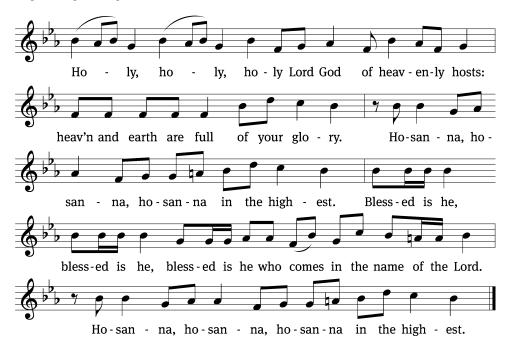


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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."

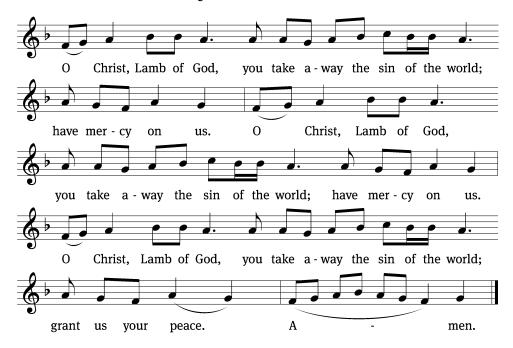
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

## **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.

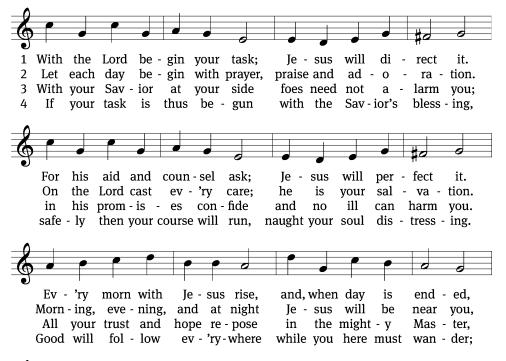
As he dismisses the communicants, the pastor says:

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

Amen.

## **Distribution Hymn**

776 "With the Lord Begin Your Task"



in his name then close your eyes; save you from the tempt-er's might, who in wis-dom tru-ly knows you at last the joy will share

be to him com-mend-ed. with his pres-ence cheer you. how to stem dis-as-ter. in the man-sions yon-der.

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## **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.

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.

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



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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:

Darik Mischke for playing organ... Edith Hermanson for playing piano... Joe Lopina for serving as distribution assistant... Luther Schmeling for serving as usher... Brooke Smith for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream... and Lois Buske 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 "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>



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