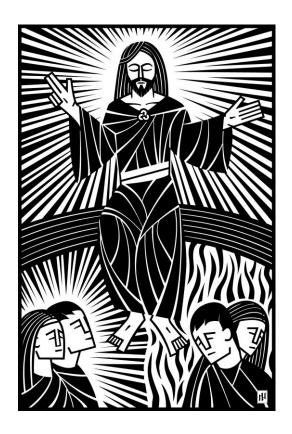
+ TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

November 16, 2025



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St. West Allis, WI 53214

+ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church +

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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.

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost Proper 28

November 16, 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.

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Judgment / Hope

If you were making a list of things that might make society more peaceful, would you include "more judgment"? Likely not. Many people assume that judgement leads to conflict, not peace. However, a lack of judgment is a luxury many cannot afford. Our world is full of victims of abuse, violence, and oppression. In many cases this evil goes unnoticed and unpunished. A future without the hope of judgment means no peace. If there is no hope of judgment, victims would be driven either into total despair or to be consumed by the desire for revenge. A future that includes judgment, however, gives those who are wronged the peace of knowing that one day there will be perfect justice.

When we are horribly wronged, what are our options? Taking matters into our own hands? Despair? Jesus provides a better option. Trust that he will keep his promise to return, bringing judgment. The effect of that promise? We have hope, knowing that every wrong will eventually be righted by the one righteous Judge.

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 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear; The watch-ers on the moun-tain pro-claim the Bride-groom near; 3 You saints, who here in pa - tience your cross and suf - f'rings bore, 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O le - sus, now ap - pear: the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near. ap-proach - es, with al - le - lu - ias forth, as he clear. shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor-row is more. Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad-owed sphere. rise. a - ris - ing and soon is draw-ing nigh. The Bride-groom is mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand. A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb you shall be - hold, With hearts and hands up - lift - ed we plead, O Lord, to see Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid-night comes the crv. A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride-groom is in tri-umph lay be - fore him your shin - ing crowns of gold.

of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free.

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.

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; 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 Malachi 4:1-6

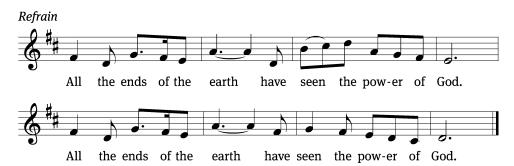
On the day of judgment, those who do evil will be laid low. But that day will mean rescue for those who revere the name of the LORD.

- 4 Look! The day is coming, burning like a blast furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble. The day that is coming will set them on fire, says the LORD of Armies, a day that will not leave behind a root or branch for them. ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise, and there will be healing in its wings. You will go out and jump around like calves from the stall. ³ You will trample the wicked. They will surely be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I take action, says the LORD of Armies.
- ⁴Remember the law of my servant Moses, which I commanded to him at Horeb to serve as statutes and judgments over all Israel.
- ⁵Look! I am going to send Elijah the prophet to you before the great and fearful day of the LORD comes! ⁶He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with complete destruction.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Church sings Psalm 98 in services that praise God for bringing righteousness and salvation to people across the world.



Tone



Sing to the LORD a / new song, for he has done / marv'lous things; his right hand and his / holy arm have worked salvation / for him. The LORD has made his sal- / vation known and revealed his righteousness to the / nations.

Refrain

Shout for joy to the LORD, / all the earth, burst into jubilant song with / music.

Let the rivers / clap their hands, let the mountains sing together / for joy; let them sing be- / fore the LORD, for he comes to / judge the earth.

He will judge the world in / righteousness and the peoples with / equity.

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

2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

The Thessalonian Christians were suffering a persecution. To empower their perseverance, St. Paul assured them of the coming judgment and punishment.

⁵This is evidence of God's righteous verdict that resulted in your being counted worthy of God's kingdom, for which you also suffer. ⁶Certainly, it is right for God to repay trouble to those who trouble you, ⁷ and to give relief to you, who are troubled along with us. When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his powerful angels, ⁸ he will exercise vengeance in flaming fire on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ Such people will receive a just penalty: eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord and from his glorious strength, ¹⁰ on that day when he comes to be glorified among his saints, and to be marveled at among all those who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

The Word of the Lord.

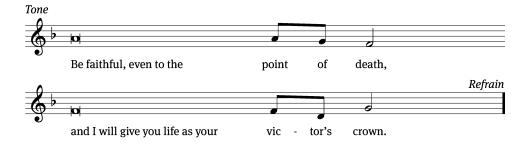
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced

Gospel Acclamation

Revelation 2:10





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

Gospel Luke 21:5-19

Jesus instructs us, when persecuted, to not seek vengeance. Instead, we are to stand firm and persevere, confident in the justice of coming judgment.

⁵ As some were talking about the temple, how it was decorated with beautiful stones and offerings, Jesus said, ⁶ "These things that you see here—the days will come when there will not be one stone left on another—every one will be thrown down."

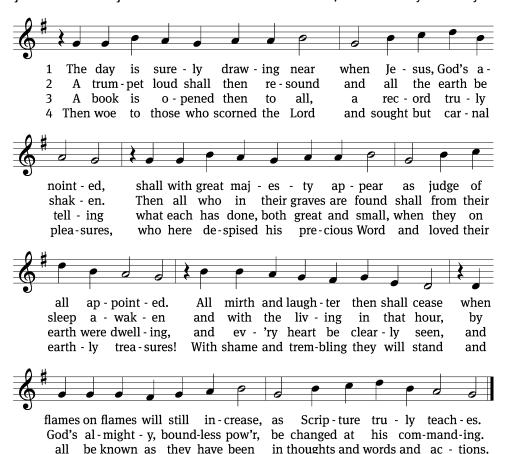
⁷They asked him, "Teacher, when will these things happen? And what is the sign that these things are about to happen?"

⁸ He said, "Watch out so that you are not deceived! For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and 'The time is near.' Do not follow them. ⁹ Whenever you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be terrified, for these things must happen first, but the end will not be right then."

¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, famines, and plagues in various places. There will be horrifying sights and great signs from heaven. ¹² But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, handing you over to synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for my name's sake. ¹³ It will turn out to be your opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand how to defend yourselves, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends. They will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all people for my name's sake. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By patient endurance you will gain your lives.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!



My Savior paid the debt I owe and for my sin was smitten; within the Book of Life I know my name has now been written. I will not doubt, for I am free, and Satan cannot threaten me; there is no condemnation!

the judg - e's stern com-mand

6 O Jesus Christ, do not delay, but hasten our salvation; we often tremble on our way in fear and tribulation. Your saints are waiting patiently; come soon, Redeemer, make us free from ev'ry evil. Amen.

de - liv - ered.

Sa - tan

to

be

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

Offerings

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

(Matthew 18:19,20; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Let us pray...

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)

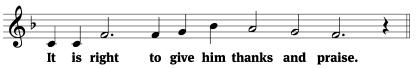
The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



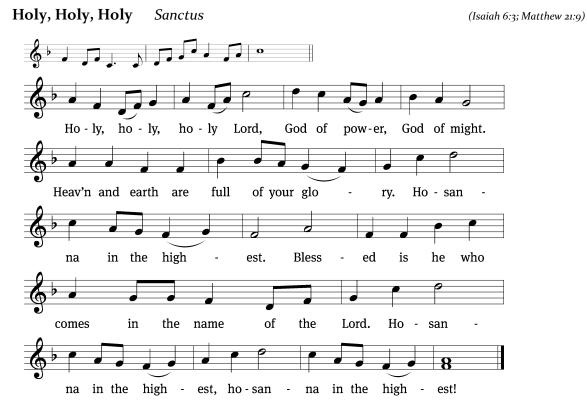
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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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 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:



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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.

O Christ, Lamb of God Agnus Dei

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



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Please be seated

Distribution Hymn

490 "The Clouds of Judgement Gather"



- 1 The clouds of judg-ment gath er, the time is grow-ing late;
- 2 A rise, O true dis ci ples; let wrong give way to right,
- 3 The home of fade-less splen dor, of blooms that bear no thorn,
- 4 Oh, hap-py, ho-ly por-tion, re-lief for all dis-tressed,



be so - ber and be watch - ful, our judge is at the gate: and pen - i - ten - tial shad - ow to Je - sus' bless - ed light: where they shall dwell as chil - dren who here as ex - iles mourn; true vi - sion of true beau - ty, re - fresh-ment for the blest!



the judge who comes in mer - cy, the judge who comes in might the light that has no eve - ning, that knows no moon or sun, the peace of all the faith - ful, the calm of all the blest, Strive now to win that glo - ry, toil now to gain that light;



to put an end to e - vil and di - a - dem the right. the light so new and gold - en, the light that is but one. in - vi - o - late, un - fad - ing, di - vin - est, sweet-est, best. send hope a - head to grasp it till hope be lost in sight.

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent., abr.; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978 Tune: Welsh Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

491 "Come, You Thankful People, Come"



- 1 Come, you thank-ful peo ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
- 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un to his praise to yield;
- 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har-vest home,
- 4 E ven so, Lord, quick ly come to your fi nal har-vest home;



All be safe-ly gath-ered in ere the win-ter storms be - gin. wheat and weeds to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown. from his field shall in that day all of - fens-es purge a - way, gath - er all your peo - ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin,



God. our mak - er, shall pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied. First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap pear. give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in your gar - ner a - bide. there, to



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home. Lord of har-vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be. but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more. Come with all your an - gels, come; raise the glo-rious har-vest home.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893 Text and 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:

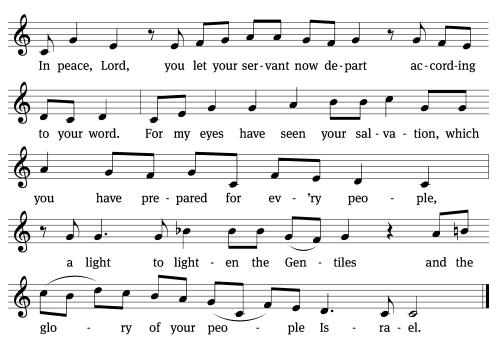
The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go + in peace.

Amen.

In Peace, Lord, You Let Your Servant (CW 968) Nunc Dimittis

(Luke 2:29-32)

Please stand as the canticle is introduced



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



- 1 A bide, O dear est Je sus, a mong us with your grace
- 2 A bide, O dear Re deem er, a mong us with your Word
- 3 A bide with heav'n-ly bright ness a mong us, pre cious Light;
- 4 A bide with rich est bless ings a mong us, boun-teous Lord;



that Sa - tan may not harm us nor we to sin give place. and thus now and here - af - ter true peace and joy af - ford. your truth di - rect and keep us from er - ror's gloom - y night. let us in grace and wis - dom grow dai - ly through your Word.

5 Abide with your protection among us, Lord, our strength, lest world and Satan fell us and overcome at length.

6 Abide, O faithful Savior, among us with your love; grant steadfastness and help us to reach our home above.

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588–1632; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615 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:

Rachel Cordes for playing organ... Aaron Palmer for serving as distribution assistant...

Kyle Peterson for serving as usher... Peter Hermanson for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream...

and Tina Krueger 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>



Scripture taken from: The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version ™ (EHV ™)

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www.wartburgproject.org

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