

✝ SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT ✝

December 7, 2025



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

✚ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church ✚

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www.nainlutheran.org | www.youtube.com/@nainlutheran | www.facebook.com/nainlutheran



Nain is a member congregation of the
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
www.wels.net

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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.

Populus Zion

Second Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2025



Advent

Imminent Arrival

Do you remember the feeling you had when someone important was about to arrive for a visit? Perhaps there was a mixture of anticipation, excitement, curiosity, and nervousness. During these weeks before Christmas, we anticipate the imminent arrival of Jesus Christ. He's an important person! He is coming to visit us! He first came when he was born 2,000 years ago. He promises to come again in the future on the Last Day. And he is present among us today in his Word and Sacraments. As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christmas, look forward to the end of time, and receive his love through the Means of Grace, suddenly we feel the excitement of Christ's imminent arrival! Come, Lord Jesus!

Second Sunday in Advent

Imminent Arrival of the Judge

The Second Sunday in Advent is traditionally known as "Populus Zion" Sunday. *Populus Zion* means "People of Zion." The Sunday derives its name from the Latin words of the Introit of the day: "Say to the daughter of Zion (*Populus Zion*), 'See, your Savior comes!'" (Isaiah 62:11a).

The judge is an important person. You stand when he enters the courtroom. What he says must be obeyed. If you are the one on trial, his determinations make a big difference in how your life will continue. You might be quite nervous if the judge is about to arrive.

St. John the Baptist invited people to turn their nervousness to repentance. He says that the arrival of the Judge is imminent, and the kingdom of heaven is near! Today, you are invited to hear John, repent, and believe the good news of your coming Savior, who has judged you "not guilty" on account of his perfect life, innocent death, and glorious resurrection on your behalf.

The Service

Setting Three

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

308 "There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying"



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
2 O Chris - tians, you bring good ti - dings; get
3 But the Word of our God is e - ter - nal; the



call from the ways un - trod; Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong. He stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!
peo - ple the com - ing of their King.
na - tions, and he shall right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
Like the flow'rs of the field they per - ish; like
He shall feed his flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
grass their works de - cay. The pow'r and pomp of
lambs shall gent - ly hold, to pas - tures of peace shall



plac - es where the Lord our God may go!
na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.
lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

*Text: James L. Milligan, 1876–1961, alt. Tune: Henry H. Bancroft, 1904–1988 Text: Public domain
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Please stand

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)

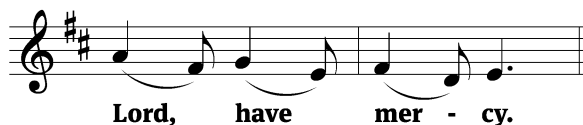
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \dagger 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.



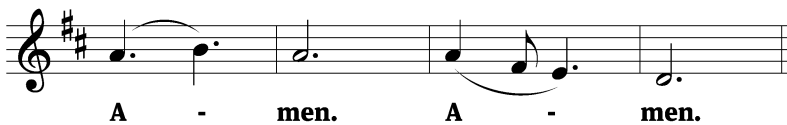
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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 Advent Candle

(John 8:12; Luke 12:35)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned. *(Isaiah 9:2)*

John the Baptist called out in the wilderness, “Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!” *(Matthew 3:2)*

“Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight.” *(Matthew 3:3)*

“Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth.” *(Luke 3:5)*

“And everyone will see the salvation of God.” *(Luke 3:6)*

Today we light two Advent candles, remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.

We hear his call to repent.

We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

For more information about the history and significance of the Advent wreath and candles, please read the notes towards the back of this bulletin

Song of Praise

327 v 1 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

The musical score is written for a single voice on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of a main melody and a refrain. The main melody is in 4/4 time and features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The refrain is marked with a bracket and the word 'Refrain' above it. It also features a mix of note values and includes a final cadence at the end.

*Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cationum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent., alt Text and tune: Public domain*

Traditionally, the "Glory be to God" is not sung during the penitential season of Advent. During this time of preparation, the Church looks forward to the return of the glorious song of the angels on Christmas Day in celebration of God fulfilling his promises in Jesus Christ.

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.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; 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 11:1-10

Isaiah gives the credentials of the one who would come to judge.

- 11** A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse,
and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit.
- ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears,
- ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the poor,
and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death.
- ⁵ Righteousness will be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his hips.

- 6 The wolf will dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat,
the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together,
and a little child will lead them.
- 7 The cow and the bear will graze together,
and their young ones will lie down together.
The lion will eat straw like the cattle.
- 8 The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole,
and the weaned child will put his hand into a viper's den.
- 9 They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD,
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ This is what will take place on that day. The peoples will seek the Root of Jesse, who will be standing like a banner for the peoples, and his resting place will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

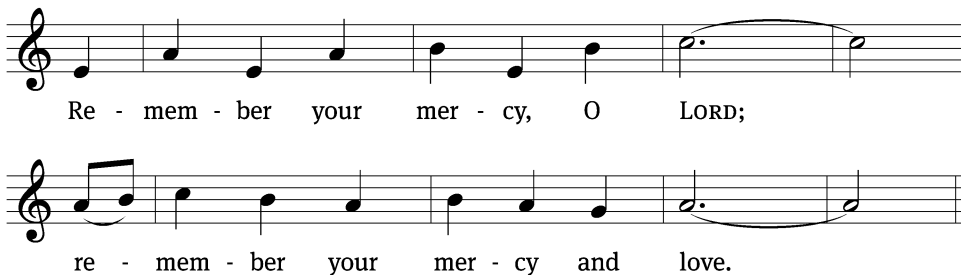
Psalm 130 B “Remember Your Mercy, O LORD”

The Church sings Psalm 130 in services that emphasize repentance and forgiveness through faith in Jesus. It is the 6th of the 7 penitential psalms (Psalms 6, 32, 38 51, 102, 130, 143).

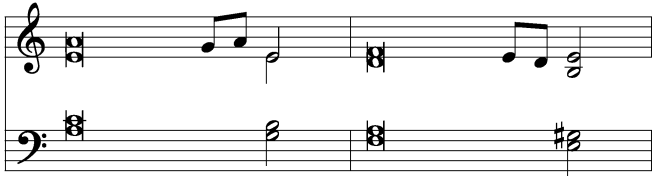
The Congregation will sing the refrains and the “Glory be to the Father...”

The Cantor will sing the verses

Refrain



Tone



Congregation: (Refrain)

Cantor: Out of the depths I cry to / you, LORD;
Lord, / hear my voice.
Let your ears be at- / tentive
to my cry for / mercy.
If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, / who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, / serve you.

Congregation: (Refrain)

Cantor: I wait for the LORD, my whole / being waits,
and in his word I / put my hope.
I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the / morning,
more than watchmen wait for the / morning.
Israel, put your hope / in the LORD,
for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full re- / demption.
He himself will redeem / Israel
from / all their sins.

**Congregation: 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.**

Congregation: (Refrain)

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

God's people face the coming judgment with hope, not fear.

⁴ Indeed, whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that, through patient endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we would have hope. ⁵ And may God, the source of patient endurance and encouragement, grant that you agree with one another in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that with one mind, in one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ For this reason, accept one another as Christ also accepted you to the glory of God. ⁸ For I am saying that Christ became a servant of those who are circumcised for the sake of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs. ⁹ He also did this so that the Gentiles would glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

For this reason I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and I will sing to your name.

¹⁰ And again it says:

Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.

¹¹ And again:

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples give him praise.

¹² And again Isaiah says:

There will be a Root of Jesse,
and he is the one who will rise up to rule the Gentiles;
on him the Gentiles will place their hope.

¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with complete joy and peace as you continue to believe, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced

Gospel Acclamation

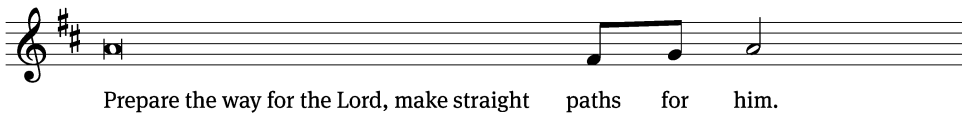
Luke 3:4,6



Refrain



Tone



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

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

John prepared people for the arrival of the Judge by emphasizing the nearness of the kingdom of God.

3 In those days, John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, ² “Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near!” ³ Yes, this is he of whom this was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight.”

⁴ John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem, all of Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him. ⁶ They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming

wrath? ⁸ Therefore produce fruit in keeping with repentance! ⁹ Do not think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ¹⁰ Already the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ I baptize you with water for repentance. But the one who comes after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

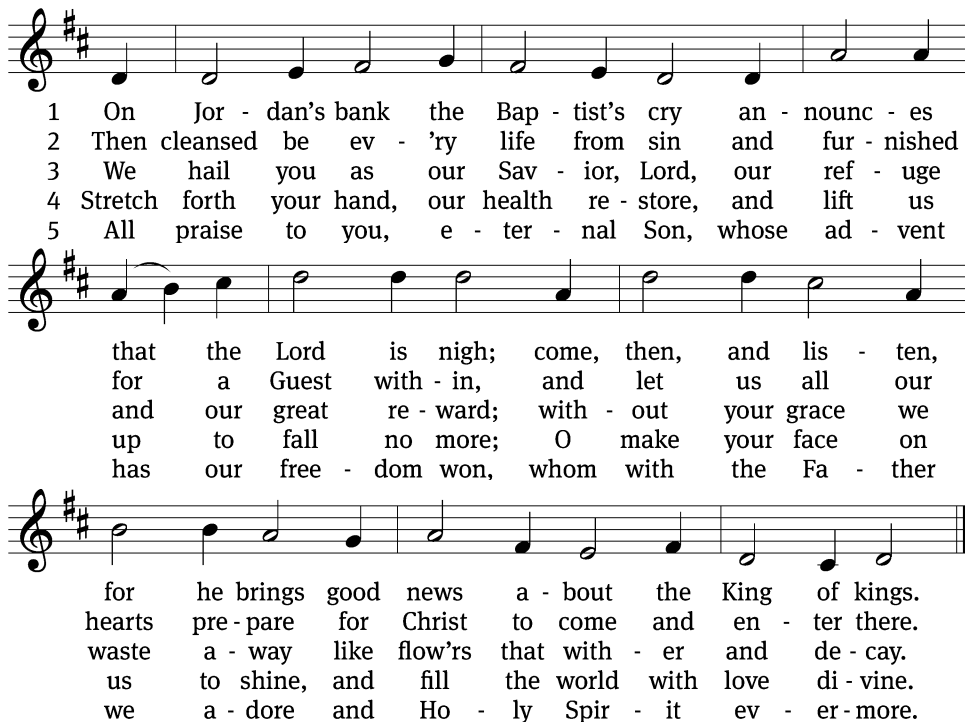
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

316 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin and fur - nished
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and lift us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent
 that the Lord is nigh; come, then, and lis - ten,
 for a Guest with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 up to fall no more; O make your face on
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther
 for he brings good news a - bout the King of kings.
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 us to shine, and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. Composite Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Matthew 3:1-12

“Prepare Your Home for the Savior to Stay”

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 [PayPal](#), 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

Advent II

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they love.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus! 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.



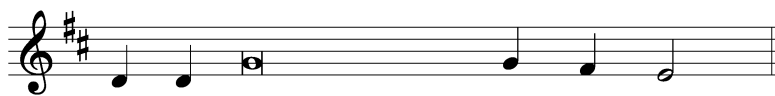
And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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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, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy Sanctus

(Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,



heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



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Prayer of Thanksgiving

(John 1:3; Romans 8:32)

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to 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 \dagger 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 \dagger 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.

Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us, grant us peace.

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Please be seated

Distribution Hymn

360 "Behold, a Branch Is Growing"



1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love - liest form and
 2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom - ise
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



grace! As proph - ets sang, fore - know - ing, it springs from Jes - se's
 sure, and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a vir - gin meek and
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - 'ry -
 woes, O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, who con - quered all our



race and now be - gins to flow'r in midst of
 pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to
 where. True man, and yet true God, from sin and
 foes, bring us at last, we pray, to the bright



cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.
 her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.
 death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

Text: German, 16th cent.; (sts. 1-3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845-1925; (st. 4): John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, alt.

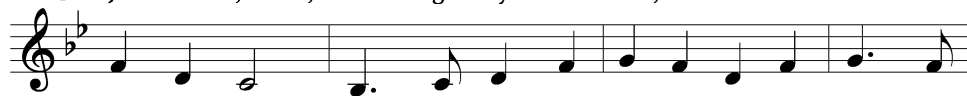
Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, Köln, 1599 Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

311 "Dawning Light of Our Salvation"



1 Long in dark - ness Is - rael wan - dered; long in mor - tal
2 He shall raise a might - y Sav - ior; born of Da - vid's
3 Je - sus, Lord, and might - y Sav - ior, Da - vid's son and



shad - ows we walked in bond - age and self - pit - y, trod in
lin - eage, he comes in cov - 'nant love to claim us, from our
yet his King, dawn - ing light of our sal - va - tion, of your



paths of sin and grief. In the proph - ets' words he told us,
sins to set us free. Light to those who dwell in dark - ness,
sav - ing pow'r we sing! Stand, O lame, and dance, ye bro - ken;



long the God of Is - rael spoke; he a - lone in strength would
life to those from death who flee, joy un - to the earth, and
know the Sav - ior's heal - ing grace. Come, O deaf, and hear him



save us from the hands of all our foes.
glad - ness, to your path - ways dawn - ing peace!
sing - ing; turn, O blind, be - hold his face!



Refrain

Ev - 'ry val - ley be ex - alt - ed! Ev - 'ry moun - tain



be made plane! Crook - ed ways re - pent and straight - en;



all cre - a - tion bend in praise!

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 \dagger in peace.

Amen.

Blessed Be the God of Israel (CW 954:1) *Benedictus*

(Luke 1:68-79)

Please stand as the canticle is introduced

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el, who
comes to set us free and rais - es up new
hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
So have the proph - ets long de - clared that
with a might - y arm God would turn back our
en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.

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)

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through 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)

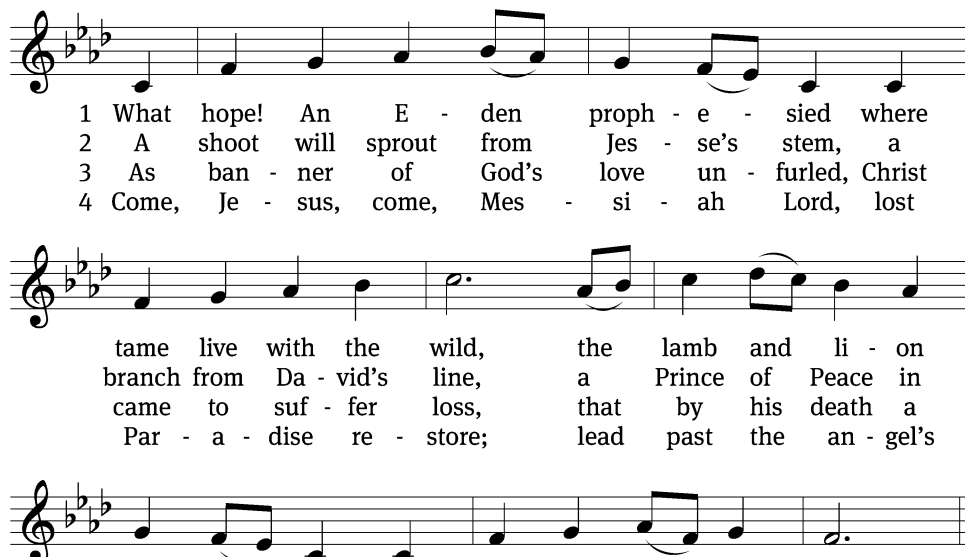
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

Please be seated

Closing Hymn

304 "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied"



1 What hope! An E - den proph - e - sied where
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, a
3 As ban - ner of God's love un - furled, Christ
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, lost

tame live with the wild, the lamb and li - on
branch from Da - vid's line, a Prince of Peace in
came to suf - fer loss, that by his death a
Par - a - dise re - store; lead past the an - gel's

side by side, led by a lit - tle child!
Beth - le - hem: the fruit of God's de - sign.
dy - ing world would ral - ly to the cross.
flam - ing sword— come, o - pen heav - en's door.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955 Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813, ed. John Wyeth
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Midweek Advent Service

Wednesday | December 10 | 4:00 & 7:00 pm

The theme for this year's midweek Advent services is "Bible Songs of Christmas." This Wednesday, we will meditate on the Song of Zechariah from Luke 1:67-79, in which Zechariah praises God for allowing his newborn son John to prepare the way for the Savior's coming, and for keeping his gracious promise to show mercy to his people, forgive their sins, deliver them from their enemies, and save them.

The 7:00 pm service will be live streamed on Nain's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@nainlutheran



The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is believed to have originated in Germany, as a folk custom. The evergreen branches symbolize God's unending love for us, and eternal life found in Christ. The four candles set in the wreath represent the four Sundays in the season of Advent. The lighting of the candles each week in Advent marks the growing anticipation for the birth of Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the World.

The color of the candles is significant. Some churches use three purple or violet candles on the first, second, and fourth Sundays to remind us that Advent is a season of repentance. Other churches use three blue candles on these Sundays to symbolize our hope and expectation at the coming of Jesus, especially his second coming in glory on the Last Day. A rose or pink candle is often used on the third Sunday, historically observed as Gaudete (Rejoice!) Sunday as a reminder that Advent is also a time of joy. The fifth candle, if used, is white. It is lighted on Christmas Day and symbolizes the perfection and purity of God's gift to sinners: his righteous Son, Jesus Christ.

Some traditions associate a theme with each candle. One tradition is as follows...

The **Prophecy Candle** – Also called the Hope Candle, this purple/violet or blue candle symbolizes the Old Testament prophecies of Christ's coming.

The **Bethlehem Candle** – Also called the Peace Candle, this purple/violet or blue candle symbolizes the birth of Jesus to the Virgin Mary in the town of Bethlehem.

The **Shepherds' Candle** – Also called the Joy Candle, this pink or rose-colored candle symbolizes the coming of the Savior into the hearts and lives of believers, like he did with the shepherds at his birth.

The **Angels' Candle** – Also called the Good News Candle, this purple/violet or blue candle symbolizes the final glorious coming of the Savior with all his angels on the Last Day.

The **Christ Candle** – This white candle symbolizes the day of Jesus' birth, the coming we've been waiting for, the advent of Jesus, the Light of the World.



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:

Chris Joch for playing organ... Amy Hermanson for serving as cantor...

Peter Hermanson for serving as distribution assistant... Michael Kraft for serving as usher...

and Brooke Smith for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream.

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: www.wels.net



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

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Psalms introduction from Christian Worship: Psalter

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