

✠ MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 2 ✠

December 10, 2025



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.

West Allis, WI 53214

✚ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church ✚

1665 South 57th Street | West Allis, Wisconsin 53214 | 414-545-6925

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

Pastor: Joseph M. Berg
Phone: 414-810-3392
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.

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Midweek Advent

Bible Songs of Christmas

The Bible tells us that around the time Jesus was born, there were believers who burst forth in song to praise God for keeping his promise to send the Savior into the world. We have only the words of these songs, but Christian composers through the ages have set these words to music. During these services, we will look at the background and words of those songs and sing versions of them ourselves to help us prepare for our own celebration of Christ's birth.

Midweek of Advent 2

The Song of Zechariah

When the Bible was translated into Latin, "Benedictus" was the first word of the song that the priest Zechariah sang after the birth of his son, John the Baptist.

The "Song of Zechariah" is a powerful proclamation of God's faithfulness, salvation, and mercy. Zechariah begins his song by blessing the Lord for visiting and redeeming his people. These words highlight God's action in sending the promised Savior from the house of David. Zechariah then praises God for providing deliverance from enemies, not only in a political sense but ultimately from sin, death, and the devil. These words emphasize God's mercy and his holy covenant, grounded in his promises and grace. Zechariah also speaks of John's role as the prophet who will prepare the way for the Lord by preaching repentance and pointing to Jesus.

The "Benedictus" ends with a vision of peace and forgiveness, likening Christ's coming to a sunrise that brings light to those in the darkness of a fallen world.

Evening Prayer

Vespers

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.

There will be no pre-service announcements.

Our worship begins with the tolling of the bells, followed by the opening hymn.

Service of Light

Tolling of the Bells

Opening Hymn

322 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in

set thy peo - ple free; from our fears and
all the earth thou art, dear de - sire of
child and yet a king, born to reign in
all our hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf -

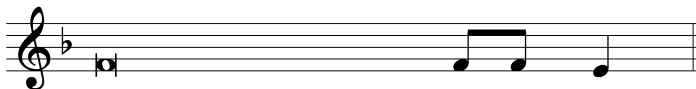
sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Opening Sentences

(John 8:12; Luke 24:29; 1 John 1:5)

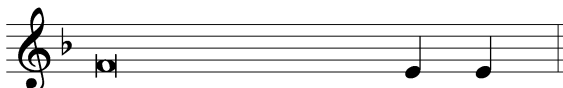
Please stand

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



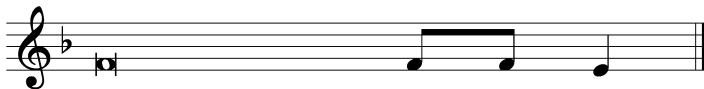
the light no darkness can o - ver - come.

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,



and the day is almost o - ver.

Be our light and scatter the darkness,



and hear our evening prayer and praise.

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Hymn of Light *Phos hilaron*

(Psalm 18:28; Isaiah 9:2; John 1:5-9)



1 Glad - d'ning light of pur - est glo - ry, shin - ing
2 In the fad - ing light of eve - ning, as the
3 For your gift of life un - end - ing, joy - ful



down from heav'n on high, from the ev - er -
set - ting sun de - parts, Fa - ther, Son, and
voic - es ev - er sing hymns of praise that



liv - ing Fa - ther— hail, most bless - ed Je - sus Christ!
Ho - ly Spir - it— we a - dore you, Lord our God.
right - ly hon - or, Son of God, your sav - ing name.

Text: Michael D. Schultz Text and tune: © 2021 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us, and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. By your Word keep our faith burning brightly, that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Please be seated

Psalm 141

(Psalm 141:1-4,8)



Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing up
of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Tune: David Schack Tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord, and let your mercy descend on us, that we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Service of the Word

Reading

Isaiah 40:1-8

Isaiah prophesies about one who could come to prepare people to meet their sovereign LORD. This prophecy is fulfilled in the ministry of John the Baptist.

- 40** Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
- ² Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her.
Her warfare really is over.
Her guilt is fully paid for.
Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.
- ³ A voice is calling out:
In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD.
In the wasteland make a level highway for our God.
- ⁴ Every valley will be raised up,
and every mountain and hill will be made low.
The rugged ground will become level,
and the rough places will become a plain.
- ⁵ Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all flesh together will see it.
Yes, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.
- ⁶ A voice was saying, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry out?"
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside.
- ⁷ Grass withers, flowers fade,
when the breath of the LORD blows on them.
Yes, the people are grass.
- ⁸ Grass withers, flowers fade,
but the Word of our God endures forever.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reading

Luke 1:5-25, 57-79

The angel Gabriel announced to the Zechariah that he and his wife Elizabeth would have a son named John. At first, Zechariah didn't believe God's Word, so he was made to wait in silence until his son was born. Once John was born, Zechariah mouth was opened, and he praised God for keeping his promises.

⁵ In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a certain priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. His wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ They were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and righteous decrees of the Lord. ⁷ They did not have a child because Elizabeth was unable to bear children, and they were both well along in years. ⁸ On one occasion, while Zechariah was serving as priest before God and his division was on duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ The whole crowd of people were praying outside the temple during the hour of the incense offering.

¹¹ An angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and overcome by fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son for you, and you are to name him John. ¹⁴ You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ because he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to drink wine or beer. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ He will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, to turn the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to prepare a people who are ready for the Lord."

¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure of this, because I am an old man, and my wife is well along in years?"

¹⁹ The angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God and was sent to speak to you in order to tell you this good news. ²⁰ Now listen, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things happen, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at the proper time."

²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering what was taking him so long in the temple. ²² When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them. Then they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. He kept making signs to them and remained unable to speak.

²³ When the days of his priestly service were completed, he went back to his home.

²⁴ After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived. She kept herself in seclusion for five months, saying, ²⁵ “The Lord has done this for me in the days when he looked with favor on me and took away my disgrace among the people.”

⁵⁷ When the time came for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they were rejoicing with her. ⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. They wanted to call him Zechariah after the name of the father. ⁶⁰ But his mother answered, “No. He will be called John.”

⁶¹ They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name.”

⁶² They made signs to his father, to see what he wanted to name him.

⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they were all amazed.

⁶⁴ Immediately Zechariah’s mouth was opened, his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵ Fear came on all who lived around them. In the entire hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶ And everyone who heard this took it to heart, saying, “What then will this child be?” Clearly, the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷ His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

⁶⁸ Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel,

because he has visited us and prepared redemption for his people.

⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰ just as he said long ago through the mouth of his holy prophets.

⁷¹ He raised up salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us,

⁷² in order to show mercy to our fathers by remembering his holy covenant,

⁷³ the oath which he swore to Abraham our father,

⁷⁴ to grant deliverance to us from the hand of our enemies,

so that we are able to serve him without fear,

⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,

because you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins,

⁷⁸ because of God’s tender mercies,

by which the Rising Sun from on high will visit us,

⁷⁹ to shine on those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon Hymn

954 "Blessed Be the God of Israel"



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el, who
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord, you



comes to set us free and rais - es up new
cov - e - nant re - call, the oath once sworn to
will pre - pare the way, to tell God's peo - ple



hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all,
they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine



with a might - y arm God would turn back our
of - fer lives of praise, in ho - li - ness and
forth and nev - er cease to drive a - way the



en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
right - eous - ness to serve God all our days.
gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Sermon

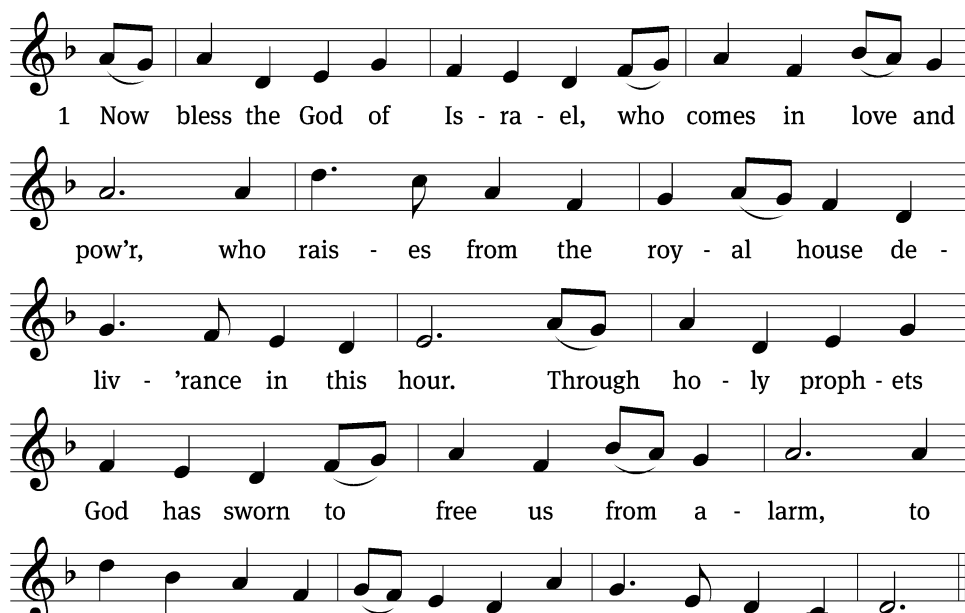
Luke 1:67-79

“The Song of Zechariah”

Now Bless the God of Israel (CW 973:1) *Benedictus*

(Luke 1:68-79)

Please remain seated



1 Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, who comes in love and
pow'r, who rais - es from the roy - al house de -
liv - 'rance in this hour. Through ho - ly proph - ets
God has sworn to free us from a - larm, to
save us from the heav - y hand of all who wish us harm.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

(Psalm 51:1; Mark 10:47; Luke 17:13)

Please stand

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

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:

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

For all who are sad, lonely, anxious, or depressed during this cold and dark time of the year, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the obedience of faith to take to heart the words of John the Baptist: “Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near”, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For eager hearts ready to prepare the way for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of mind to know that God has visited, redeemed, forgiven, delivered, and saved us, and that he enlightens, guides, and comforts us through his Word, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

Prayer

Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



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.

CHRIST+THE SAVIOR IS BORN

Advent & Christmas Service Schedule

First Sunday in Advent

Sunday | November 30 | 10:00 am

Imminent Arrival: of the King

Midweek of Advent 1

Wednesday | December 3 | 4:00 & 7:00 pm

Bible Songs of Christmas: Song of Mary

Second Sunday in Advent

Sunday | December 7 | 10:00 am

Imminent Arrival: of the Judge

Midweek of Advent 2

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

Bible Songs of Christmas: Song of Zechariah

Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday | December 14 | 10:00 am

Imminent Arrival: of the Messiah

Midweek of Advent 3

Wednesday | December 17 | 4:00 & 7:00 pm

Bible Songs of Christmas: Song of Simeon

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday | December 21 | 10:00 am

Imminent Arrival: of Emmanuel

Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve

Wednesday | December 24 | 5:00 pm

Christ the Savior Is Born: Heavenly Hosts Sing Alleluia

Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day

Thursday | December 25 | 10:00 am

Christ the Savior Is Born: Holy Infant So Tender and Mild

First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday | December 28 | 10:00 am

Christ the Savior Is Born: Son of God

Second Sunday after Christmas

Sunday | January 4 | 10:00 am

Christ the Savior Is Born: The Dawn of Redeeming Grace

Epiphany of Our Lord

Tuesday | January 6 | 7:00 pm

Christ the Savior Is Born: Love's Pure Light



Special thanks to:

Joel Schwartz for playing organ... and Joe Lopina for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream.

*A **personal prayer for after worship** is printed on the first page of the hymnal.*

***You will not be ushered out.** You may depart any time after the closing hymn.*

*If you haven't done so already, **please write your name in the Friendship Register before you leave.***

***If you have an offering**, you can place it in the collection box located in the narthex.*

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!

***Thank you for joining us** as we together worshiped our Triune God. The Lord be with you this week!*

*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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Evening Prayer from Christian Worship

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Psalms introduction from Christian Worship: Psalter

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