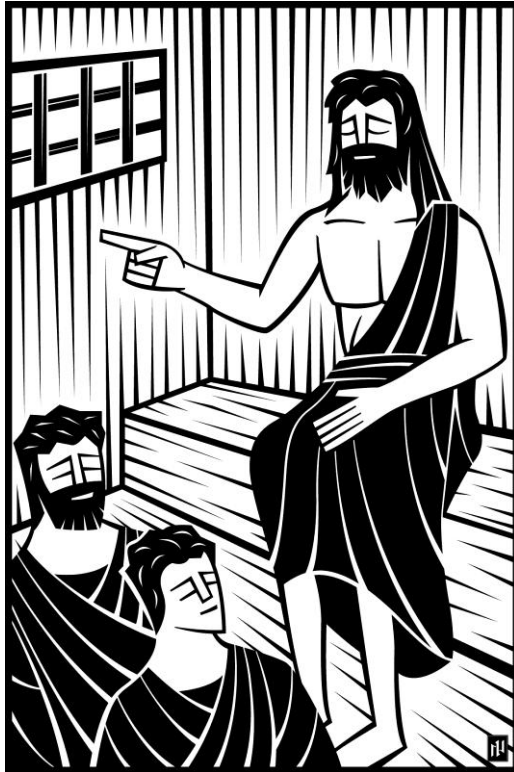


✝ THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT ✝

December 14, 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

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.

Gaudete

Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 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!

Third Sunday in Advent

Imminent Arrival of the Messiah

The Third Sunday in Advent is traditionally known as "Gaudete" Sunday. The Sunday derives its name from the Latin words of the Introit (i.e. the opening verses) of the day: "Rejoice (*Gaudete*) in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4). The focus of this morning's readings, as well as the pink/rose Advent candle, fit with the mood of the day: joy in Jesus Christ.

The Messiah is an important person. "Messiah" is the same word as "Christ" or "Anointed One." He is someone who has been anticipated for a long time. Now we look at a time when his arrival is imminent! As we reach the midway point of Advent, we ask the Holy Spirit to empower us to rejoice in faith because God fulfills all his promises in the Promised Messiah.

The Service

Setting One

Welcome to God's house in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Please enter the sanctuary quietly so you and others can prepare your hearts for God's worship service.

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

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

The Preparation

Opening Hymn

317 "When All the World Was Cursed"



1 When all the world was cursed by Mo - ses' con - dem - na - tion,
2 Be - fore Saint John was born, he leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,
3 Be - hold the Lamb of God, who bears the world's trans - gres - sion,
4 O grant, dear Lord of love, that we re - ceive, re - joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came with words of con - so - la - tion.
con - fess - ing him as Lord whose moth - er he was greet - ing.
whose sac - ri - fice re - moves the dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.
the word pro - claimed by John, our true re - pent - ance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal the great - er one he named,
By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, a new E - li - jah bold,
Be - hold the Lamb of God, who takes a - way our sin,
that glad - ly we may walk up - on our Sav - ior's way



and him, as yet un - known, as Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
he tes - ti - fied of him whom proph - ets had fore - told.
who for our peace and joy will full a - tone - ment win.
un - til we live with him in his e - ter - nal day.

Invocation

(Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

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.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Lord, have mer - cy.

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 mer - cy.

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



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



A - men.

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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)

Sing out, daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, you daughter of Jerusalem. (Zephaniah 3:14)

I will rejoice greatly in the LORD. My soul will celebrate because of my God.

For he has clothed me in garments of salvation.

With a robe of righteousness he covered me. (*Isaiah 61:10 a*)

Today we lit three Advent candles, remembering Jesus, the Light of the world.

He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers.

John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

We hear his call to see the light.

We lit three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.

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!

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.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

Isaiah tells us that the coming of the Messiah would change everything.

- 35** The wilderness and the desert will be glad.
The wasteland of the Arabah will rejoice and blossom like a crocus.
- ² It will bloom lavishly,
and there will be great joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it.
It will be excellent like Carmel and Sharon.
They will see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.
- ³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make the shaky knees steady.

- 4 Tell those who have a fearful heart:
Be strong.
Do not be afraid.
Look! Your God will come with vengeance.
With God's own retribution, he will come and save you.
- 5 Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,
and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged.
- 6 The crippled will leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy.
Waters will flow in the wilderness,
and streams in the wasteland.
- 7 The burning sand will become a pool,
and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water.
There will be grass, reeds, and rushes where the haunts of jackals once lay.
- 8 A highway will be there,
a road that will be called the holy way.
The impure will not walk there.
It will be reserved for those who walk in that holy way.
Wicked fools will not wander onto it.
- 9 No lion will be there,
nor will any ferocious animal go up on it.
They will not be found there,
but only the redeemed will walk there.
- 10 Then those ransomed by the LORD will return.
They will enter Zion with a joyful shout,
and everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Happiness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

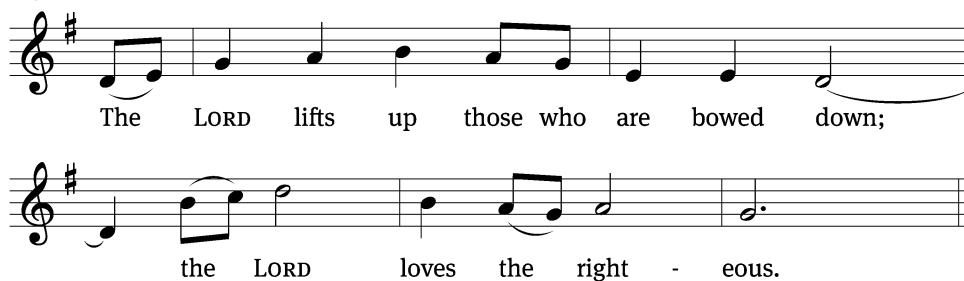
Psalm 146 A "I Will Praise the LORD All My Life"

The Church sings Psalm 146 in services that encourage trust in the Scriptures because they testify about Jesus. It gives particular attention to God's love for the lowly.

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

The Cantor will sing the verses

Refrain



Tone



Congregation: (Refrain)

Cantor:

I will praise the LORD / all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long / as I live.
Do not put your trust in / princes,
in human beings, who / cannot save.
Blessed are those whose help is the God of / Jacob,
whose hope is in the / LORD their God.

Congregation: (Refrain)

Cantor: He upholds the cause of / the oppressed
and gives food to the / hungry.
The LORD sets / pris'ners free,
the LORD gives sight / to the blind.
The LORD reigns for- / ever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations. / Praise the LORD.

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)**

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Second Reading

James 5:7-11

James points to Job as an example of perseverance in the face of suffering.

⁷ Therefore, brothers, be patient until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the valuable harvest from the ground, patiently waiting for it, until it receives the early and late rain. ⁸ You be patient too. Strengthen your hearts because the coming of the Lord is near.

⁹ Do not complain about one another, brothers, so that you will not be judged. Look! The Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ Brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering with patient endurance. ¹¹ See, we consider those who endured to be blessed. You have heard of the patient endurance of Job and have seen what the Lord did in the end, because the Lord is especially compassionate and merciful.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced

Gospel Acclamation

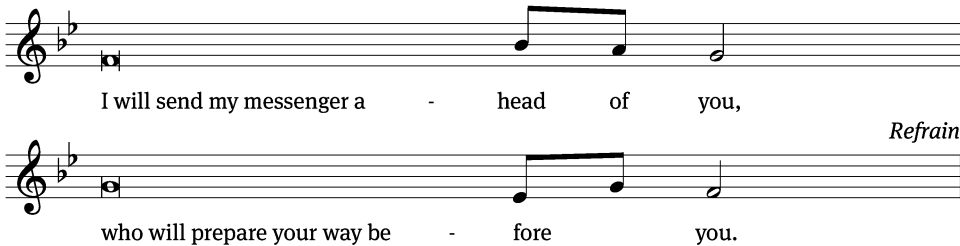
Matthew 11:10



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 11:2-11

John's disciples wanted to verify that Jesus was the Messiah.

² While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples ³ to ask him, “Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?”

⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go, report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me.”

⁷ As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹ So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹ Amen I tell you: Among those born of

women there has not appeared anyone greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

324 “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
3 Re - joice, then, you sad-heart - ed, who sit in deep-est gloom,
4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, let not your souls dis - tress;
5 He comes to judge the na - tions, a ter - ror to his foes,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.
your guilt the Lord will par - don and cov - er by his grace.
a light of con - so - la - tion and bless - ed hope to those



O Je - sus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way,
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing that led you to em - brace
De - spair not; he is near you, he's stand - ing at the door
He comes, for you pro - cur - ing the peace of sin for - giv'n,
who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to show me how to please you, to guide me ev - 'ry day.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race!
who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.
his chil - dren thus se - cur - ing e - ter - nal life in heav'n.
send forth your beams most cheer - ing, and guide us safe - ly home.

Sermon

Matthew 11:2-11

“Rejoice in What You Hear and See!”

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 I

Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.

Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.

Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.

As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.

Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Please stand

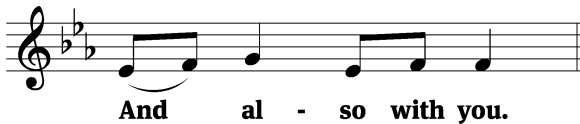
The Sacrament

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)

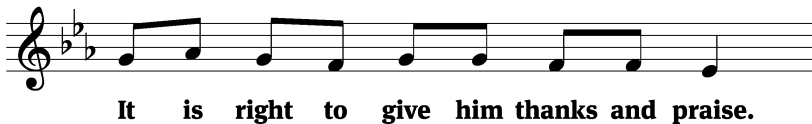
The Lord be with you.



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, 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 heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -
san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,
bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

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.

O Christ, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

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

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

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.

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 Hymn

310 "Arise, O Christian People"



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him, pre - pare for him the
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; turn not from me a -



day;
 best;
 high;
 side,
 pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, who
 cast out what would of - fend him, this
 be - neath his feet in ter - ror the
 and help me to re - ceive you this



takes your sins a - way. To us by grace a -
 great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the
 haugh - ty soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and
 bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger



lone the truth and light were giv - en; the prom - ised
 way: the low - ly val - leys rais - ing, the heights of
 right, that heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion and makes true
 low come now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing your



Lord from heav - en to all the world is shown.
 pride a - bas - ing, his path all e - ven lay.
 prep - a - ra - tion— it is the Lord's de - light.
 prais - es glad - ly and forth your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–1662; (sts. 1–3): tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt.; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt.

Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

312 "Comfort, Comfort All My People"



1 "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; speak of peace," so
2 All their sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each
3 John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert
4 Then make straight the crook - ed high - way; make the rough - er



says our God. "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, groan - ing
dark mis - deed; all that well de - served his an - ger he no
far and near, call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance for the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, read - y



from their sor - rows' load. Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. They have suf - fered man - y a day;
king - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
for his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



of the peace that waits for them; tell them that their
now their griefs have passed a - way. God will change their
Now pre - pare for God a way; let the val - leys
now o'er earth is spread a - broad, and all flesh shall



sins I cov - er, that their war - fare now is o - ver."
ach - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois Text and tune: Public domain

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

(Luke 2:29-32)

Please stand as the canticle is introduced

Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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

Thanksgiving

(Psalm 118:1)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Proclamation

(1 Corinthians 11:26)

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

Post-Communion Prayer

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

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We

ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

(Numbers 6:24-26)

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

Amen.

Please be seated

Closing Hymn

318 “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is
2 See, the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, comes with
3 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the
4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion to the

near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the
par - don down from heav’n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, he will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son with the ev - er -

works of dark - ness, all you chil - dren of the day.”
tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv’n;
with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
last - ing Spir - it while e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt. Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889 Text and tune: Public domain





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



Midweek Advent Service

Wednesday | December 17 | 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 Simeon from Luke 2:28-32, in which Simeon honors God for sending the Savior into the world and for keeping his promise to bring peace, forgiveness, and salvation to all who believe.

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

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 worshipped our Triune God. The Lord be with you this week!

Special thanks to: Kathy Weigand for playing piano... Peter Hermanson for serving as cantor... Aaron Palmer for serving as distribution assistant... Luther Schmeling for serving as usher... and Ben Leyrer 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



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Psalms introduction from Christian Worship: Psalter

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