

# ✚ MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 3 ✚

December 17, 2025



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57<sup>th</sup> St.

West Allis, WI 53214

# ✚ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church ✚

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Nain is a member congregation of the  
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
[www.wels.net](http://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.

# Midweek of Advent 3

December 17, 2025



*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 3*

## ***The Song of Simeon***

When the Bible was translated into Latin, "Nunc Dimittis" were the first words of the song that the elderly believer Simeon sang when he held the infant Jesus in his arms. He said, "Lord, *now* (nunc) *you dismiss* (dimittis) your servant in peace, according to your word" (Luke 2:29).

Simeon saw that the Child who had come to the temple was in fact The Temple, God's true and everlasting dwelling place with his people (John 1:14; 2:18-22). And so Simeon sang and rejoiced that God had sent salvation to his faithful ones and had made it known to them.

God has revealed himself to us through his gospel as well! Through this revelation, he gives us himself and all that he is and has. The Holy Spirit has given us the eyes faith to "see" the salvation of our God (Isaiah 40:5; Luke 3:6). Therefore, like Simeon, we too rejoice and sing his praises. Furthermore, we too can confidently depart this world in peace, knowing that our sins are forgiven and our home in heaven is secure all because of the Christ.

The "Song of Simeon" is a beautiful expression of praise to God for sending the Savior into the world and for keeping his promise to bring peace, forgiveness, and salvation to all who believe.

# Evening Prayer

## Vespers

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**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.*

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## Service of Light

### Opening Hymn

497 "O Light of Gentile Nations"



1 O Light of Gen - tile na - tions, O Sav - ior from a - bove,  
2 Dear Lord, your ser - vants meet you in ev - 'ry ho - ly place  
3 Lord, when life's trou - bles touch us, you seem to hide your face,  
4 Let us, O Lord, be faith - ful like Sim - eon to the end



drawn by your Spir - it's lead - ing, we come with joy and love  
where you your - self have prom - ised that we should see your face.  
and through our tears we of - ten can scarce - ly sense your grace.  
so that his prayer ex - ult - ant may from our hearts as - cend:



in - to your ho - ly tem - ple and wait with rev - 'rent mind  
To - day you still al - low us who gath - er round you here  
Then be our joy and bright - ness, our cheer in pain and loss,  
"O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in peace, I pray,

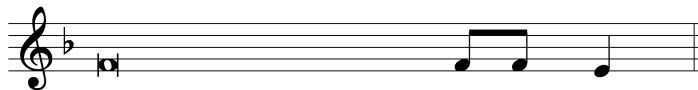


as Sim - eon once had wait - ed his God and Lord to find.  
in arms of faith to hold you as did that a - ged seer.  
our sun in dark - est ter - ror, the glo - ry round our cross.  
since I have seen my Sav - ior and here be - held his day."

## Opening Sentences

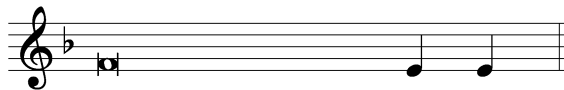
(John 8:12; Luke 24:29; 1 John 1:5)

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



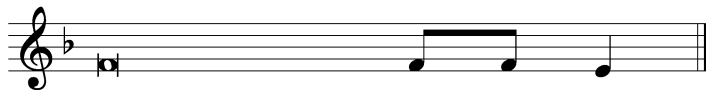
**the light no darkness can o - ver - come.**

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 118:28; 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 9:2-7

*The prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of the Savior. A Light will dawn. He will scatter the darkness, defeat God's enemies, establish an everlasting Kingdom, and bring peace to his people. He will be everything the LORD has promised. This prophecy is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.*

- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.  
They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time,  
like the celebration when people divide the plunder.
- <sup>4</sup> For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them.  
You have broken the bar on their shoulders and  
the rod of their oppressor,  
as you did in the day of Midian.
- <sup>5</sup> Every boot that marched in battle  
and the garments rolled in blood will be burned.  
They will be fuel for the fire.
- <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born.  
To us a son is given.  
The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.  
He will be named:  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.
- <sup>7</sup> There will be no limit to his authority  
and no end to the peace he brings.  
He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness  
from now on, into eternity.  
The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Forty days after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph went to the temple in Jerusalem to complete the rite of purification after childbirth for Mary (cf. Leviticus 12:2-8), present and dedicate Jesus as the firstborn “holy to the Lord” (cf. Exodus 13:1-13), and offer the prescribed sacrifices. While at the temple, the family encountered two believers who were waiting for the fulfillment of God’s promise to send the Messiah. God allowed elderly Simeon and Anna to see their Savior with their own eyes. This filled them with peace.*

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> (As it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male will be called holy to the Lord.”) <sup>24</sup> And they came to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, waiting for the comfort of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary according to the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him into his arms and praised God. He said,

- <sup>29</sup> Lord, you now dismiss your servant in peace, according to your word,
- <sup>30</sup> because my eyes have seen your salvation,
- <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared before the face of all people,
- <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.

<sup>33</sup> Joseph and the child’s mother were amazed at the things that were spoken about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Listen carefully, this child is appointed for the falling and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup> Anna, a prophetess, was there. She was a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old. She had lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then she was a widow of eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple complex, since she was worshipping with fasting and prayers night and day. <sup>38</sup> Standing nearby at that very hour, she gave thanks to the Lord. She kept speaking about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.



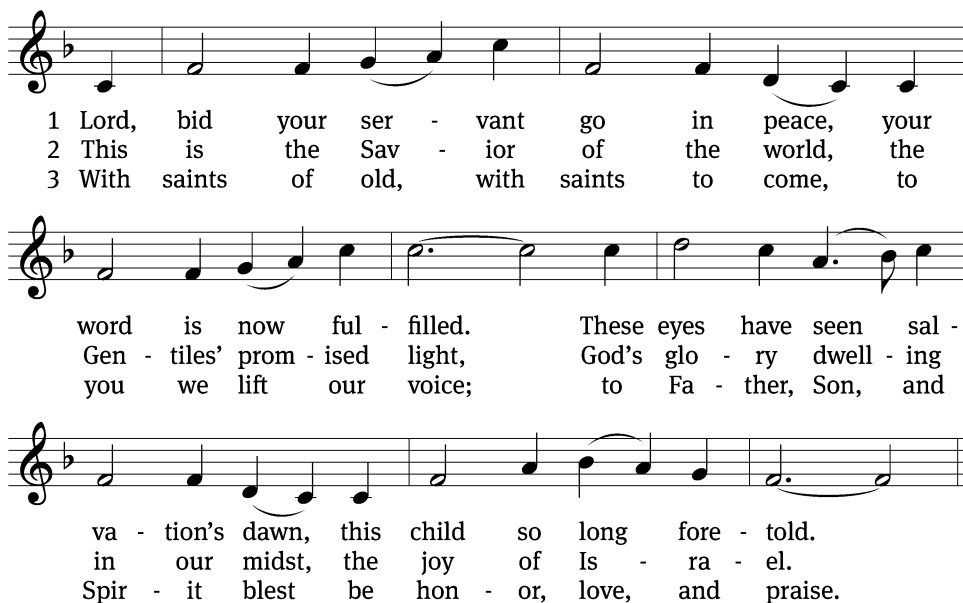
<sup>39</sup> When they had accomplished everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town, Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon Hymn

950 “Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace”



1 Lord, bid your ser - vant go in peace, your  
 2 This is the Sav - ior of the world, the  
 3 With saints of old, with saints to come, to

word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -  
 Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing  
 you we lift our voice; to Fa - ther, Son, and

va - tion's dawn, this child so long fore - told.  
 in our midst, the joy of Is - ra - el.  
 Spir - it blest be hon - or, love, and praise.

*Text (sts. 1–2): James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, b. 1948    Tune: American  
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## Sermon

Luke 2:29–32

“The Song of Simeon”

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

(Luke 2:29-32)

*Please remain seated*

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'In peace, Lord, you let your ser-vant now de-part ac-cord-ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.'

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. Tune: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993 Text: Public domain  
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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 perseverance of faith to wait patiently for God to fulfill his promises to us in his good time, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the boldness of faith to freely praise God and openly proclaim his glory to others, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the confidence of faith to meet the end of our days with peace of mind and heart, knowing that our salvation has been accomplished by Christ, 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.**

## **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.**

(Psalm 103:1)

Thanks be to God.

(2 Corinthians 13:14)



309 vv 1, 6 "The Advent of Our King"

*Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.    Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–1776    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

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### 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 Peter Hermanson 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](http://www.wels.net)*

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

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