

✚ FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT ✚

December 21, 2025



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

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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.

Rorate Coeli

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21, 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!

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Imminent Arrival of Emmanuel

The Fourth Sunday in Advent is traditionally known as "Rorate Coeli" Sunday. The Sunday derives its name from the Latin words of the Introit (i.e. the opening verses) of the day: "Shower down (*Rorate*), you heavens (*Coeli*), from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness" (Isaiah 45:8).

Emmanuel is an important person. "Emmanuel" (or "Immanuel") means "God with us." It was a special name given to Jesus already 700 years before he was born. Who is with us when Jesus is with us? God himself. God became a human being in a special way, becoming truly human but remaining fully God. God is still with us. We encounter him in a special way when we gather with two or three others in worship around the means of grace – the gospel in Word and Sacraments. He is so near to us that the thrill of anticipation is almost unbearable. Let it wash over you as you celebrate Christmas this week.

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

496 "Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love"



1 Je - sus! Name of won - drous love, name all oth - er names a - bove,
2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, to the maid - en moth - er told,
3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth to the fall - en here on earth
4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, giv - en to the ho - ly Child



un - to which must ev - 'ry knee bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
kneel - ing in her low - ly cell, by the an - gel Ga - bri - el.
for the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall his peo - ple save."
when the cup of hu - man woe first he tast - ed here be - low.

5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n
under all the mighty heav'n
whereby those to sin enslaved
burst their fetters and are saved.

6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
human name of God above;
pleading only this, we flee
helpless, O our God, to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt. Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, Halle, 1704, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

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)

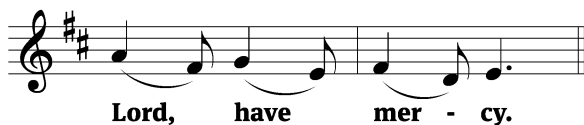
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son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

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy Kyrie

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

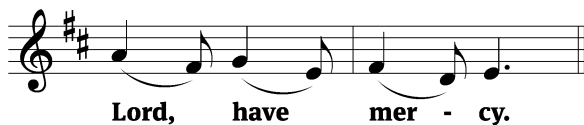
In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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.



Advent Candle Dialogue

(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)*

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. *(Isaiah 9:6)*

Therefore, since the children share flesh and blood,

he also shared the same flesh and blood,

so that through death he could destroy the one who had the power of death (that is, the Devil)

and free those who were held in slavery all their lives

by the fear of death. *(Hebrews 2:14,15)*

Today we lit four Advent candles, remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary.

He came to share our humanity.

We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior.

He came to save his people from their sins.

We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

We lit four Advent candles as a sign of our hope and joy.

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 part 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 follows the same musical notation style.

*Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Canticum 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 your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

Isaiah prophesies that a virgin would give birth to God in the flesh.

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz again. He said, ¹¹ “Ask for a sign from the LORD your God. Ask for it either in the depths below or in the heights above.”

¹² But Ahaz responded, “I will not ask. I will not test the LORD.”

¹³ So Isaiah said:

Listen now, you house of David. Is it not enough for you to test the patience of men? Will you test the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give a sign for all of you. Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and name him Immanuel.

The Word of the Lord.

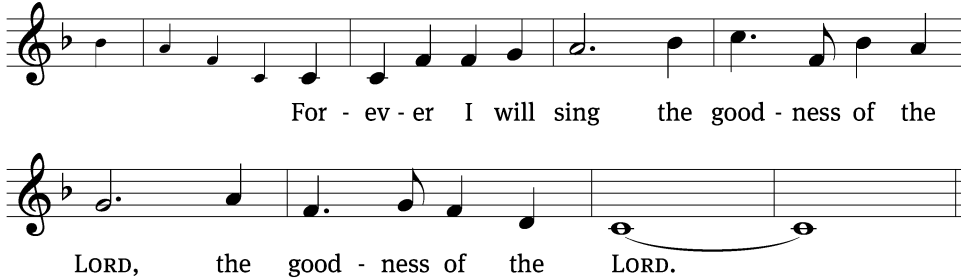
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 89 A “Forever I Will Sing”

The Church sings Psalm 89 in services where we thank God for keeping his promises over long periods of time. It is the last psalm in Book II of the Psalter.

Refrain



Tone



I will sing of the LORD's great love for- / ever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all gener- / ations.
I will declare that your love stands firm for- / ever,
that you have established your faithfulness in / heav'n itself.
The heavens praise your / wonders, LORD,
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the / holy ones.

Refrain

Who is like you, LORD God Al- / mighty?
You, LORD, are mighty, and your faithfulness sur- / rounds you.
Blessed are those who have learned to ac- / claim you,
who walk in the light of your / presence, LORD.
They rejoice in your name / all day long;
they celebrate your / righteousness.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen.**

Refrain

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Setting: © 2011 Faith Alive Christian Resources. Used by permission: License no. 130002495*

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

Paul looks back and sees God's promise to send the Messiah kept when God became one of us.

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,
² which he promised in advance through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures. ³ This gospel is
about his Son—who in the flesh was born a descendant of David, ⁴ who in the spirit of
holiness was declared to be God's powerful Son by his resurrection from the dead—Jesus
Christ, our Lord. ⁵ Through him we received grace and the call to be an apostle on behalf of
his name, to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, ⁶ including you, who
were called by Jesus Christ.

⁷ To all those loved by God who are in Rome, called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:23



Refrain

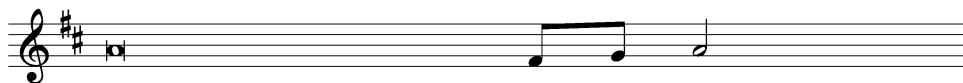


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Tone



The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,



Refrain

and they will call him Im - man - u - el.

Tune: © 2010, 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

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

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph knew full well that Mary would give birth to a son who would be Emmanuel, God with us.

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother, Mary, was pledged in marriage to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to divorce her privately. ²⁰ But as he was considering these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³“Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel,” which means, “God with us.”

²⁴ When Joseph woke up from his sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him. He took Mary home as his wife, ²⁵ but he was not intimate with her until she gave birth to her firstborn son. And he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

327 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

This ancient advent hymn originated in part from the “Great ‘O’ Antiphons,” a portion of the medieval Christian liturgy based on seven Old Testament titles given to Christ.

N.B. We will sing each of the seven original verses of this hymn, only four of which are included in the hymnal.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!**



(Isaiah 7:14)

**O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!**



(Isaiah 11:2)

**O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the Law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!**



(Isaiah 33:22)

O come, O Root of Jesse, free
 your own from Satan's tyranny;
 from depths of hell your people save,
 and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to you, O Israel!



(Isaiah 11:1)

O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to you, O Israel!



(Isaiah 22:22)

O come, O Dayspring from on high,
 and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to you, O Israel!



(Isaiah 9:2)

O come, Desire of nations, bind
 in one the hearts of all mankind;
 O bid our sad divisions cease,
 and be yourself our King of Peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to you, O Israel!



(Isaiah 2:4)

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt. Text: Public domain

Sermon

Matthew 1:18-25

"Christ Is Our Immanuel and Our Jesus"

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

Christmas

Let us pray.

Gracious Father, when the time had fully come, you sent your Son to carry out your plan to save the world from the tyranny of sin, the threat of death, and the power of Satan. As we anticipate the celebration of his birth at Christmas, strengthen our faith as we ponder the depth of your divine love.

Lead us to quiet awe as we remember your gracious compassion.

Impress on us the poverty and pain your Son endured in our place, how he willingly set aside his power and place in heaven and assumed the weakness of an infant and the starkness of a stable. Lead us to acknowledge the sins which compelled his humiliation and the love which accepted his lowliness.

Forgive us and move us to trust in his mission to save us.

Take away our fears and fright and fill us with joy as we hear the message that Jesus was born for us and that he came to restore peace with you and mend the bond broken by sin. Move us to sing our carols and hymns not with passing pleasure but with the depth of praise for his extraordinary love.

Let our songs and hymns reflect our faith in the redemption gained by Christ.

Lead us to kneel at his manger with hearts of faith and to see there the God-man who takes away the sins of the world. Guide and guard us so that the happiness shared with family and friends does not delay or discourage our journey to his holy crib.

Make the birth of Christ our highest priority and deepest pleasure.

Fill us with an eager joy that moves us to share the good news with others, especially those who may have forgotten or dismissed the love of God in Christ. Give us faith-filled maturity to recognize that the best gift we can give to children is the story of Jesus who was born as a baby and died on a cross to save them for heaven.

Move us to tell the good news we have seen and heard.

Special prayers and intercessions

The Christian Church has traditionally marked December 21 as a day to remember God's work through St. Thomas, Apostle; December 26 as a day to remember God's work through St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr; and December 27 to remember God's work through St. John, Apostle and Evangelist. We will recognize these minor church year festivals in our prayers today.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

During this hectic holiday, provide us with quiet times to remember what the birth of Jesus really means for us and all people, that he came to free us from the evil forces that separated us from your love, that he lived and died to forgive our sins, and that he rose in triumph to prepare a place where we will live with you forever.

Move us to sing with hearts of faith, "Glory to God in the highest!" 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.



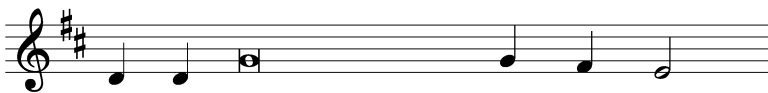
And al - so with you.

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.
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 + 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.

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 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.

Distribution Hymn

320 "As Angels Joyed with One Accord"



1 As an - gels joyed with one ac - cord up - on the
2 He came, not clothed in maj - es - ty nor pow'r that
3 This done, he soared to God's right hand, yet or - phaned
4 In ev - 'ry age— let praise a - bound— he comes; we



ad - vent of our Lord, so let us glad - ly
suits his de - i - ty. In low - ly state he
not his cho - sen band, for he, not bound in
hear his voice re - sound. His glo - rious gos - pel



praise the name of him who from the Fa - ther came.
walked till he in dy - ing set us cap - tives free.
grace and pow'r, at - tends his own each day and hour.
does not cease to bring us com - fort, joy, and peace.

5 He comes in water to the child
and cleanses it, from birth defiled.
This washing seals his pard'ning grace
and shows the Father's kindly face.

6 He comes to us in bread and wine
to give himself and gifts divine.
O praise him for this sacrament,
redeeming love's great testament!

7 Lift up your heads! All grief and pain
shall vanish when he comes again.
Where we shall see him face to face,
there joy alone shall have a place.

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905–1996, abr., alt.

Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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Distribution Hymn

321 "God's Own Son Most Holy"



1 God's own Son most ho - ly came a ser - vant
2 Still he comes in preach - ing, truth e - ter - nal
3 Still he comes pro - vid - ing proof of love a -
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re -



low - ly, came to live a - mong us,
teach - ing: "Turn a - way from e - vil;
bid - ing: he whose death has freed us
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing



came to suf - fer for us; bore the cross to
turn to me, my peo - ple. I pro-nounce you
gives him - self to feed us, thus to us ex -
that, your grace re - ceiv - ing, we may here con -



save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
sin - less; trust in my for - give - ness."
tend - ing peace and joy un - end - ing.
fess you till in heav'n we bless you.

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547, abr.; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963 Tune: attr. Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534
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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.

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.

*Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., b. 1944 Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958, alt.
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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

332 “Let Us All with Gladsome Voice”



1 Let us all with glad-some voice praise the God of heav - en,
2 To this vale of tears he comes, here to serve in sad - ness,
3 We are rich, for he was poor; is not this a won - der?
4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, bless us and be near us.



who, to bid our hearts re - joice, his own Son has giv - en.
that with him in heav'n's fair homes we may reign in glad - ness.
There - fore praise God ev - er - more here on earth and yon - der.
Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

Text: German, 17th cent; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Tune: Ander Theil Des Dresdenischen GesangBuchs, Dresden, 1632, alt. 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.



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!

Please join us this week as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord!

Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24 – 5:00 pm

Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25 – 10:00 am

The services will be live streamed on Nain's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@nainlutheran

Special thanks to:

Juanita Becker for playing piano... Abigail Peterson for serving as cantor...

Aaron Palmer for serving as distribution assistant... Kyle Peterson 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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