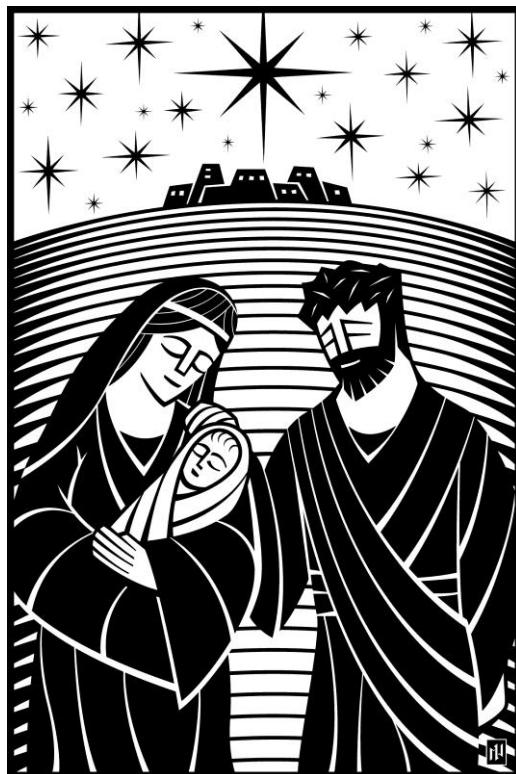


# ⊕ CHRISTMAS EVE ⊕

December 24, 2025



**Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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

West Allis, WI 53214

# ⊕ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church ⊕

1665 South 57<sup>th</sup> Street | West Allis, Wisconsin 53214 | 414-545-6925

[www.nainlutheran.org](http://www.nainlutheran.org) | [www.youtube.com/@nainlutheran](https://www.youtube.com/@nainlutheran) | [www.facebook.com/nainlutheran](https://www.facebook.com/nainlutheran)



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

Pastor: Joseph M. Berg  
Phone: 414-810-3392  
Email: [revjberg@gmail.com](mailto: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.

# Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025



*Christmas*  
***Christ the Savior Is Born***

“Silent Night” was written originally in German by Joseph Mohr, with music composed by Franz Gruber. The carol was first performed on Christmas Eve in 1818 at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria. Legend says the church organ was broken, prompting Gruber to compose a simple guitar accompaniment. Subsequently accompanied by many instruments and translated into many languages, the text paints the picture of the incarnation. The last phrase is repeated, so in the second stanza we hear it twice: “Christ the Savior is born!” Every word of that phrase is significant, and every line of the Christmas carol describes a Bible truth. We use the beloved hymn to ponder the profound message of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

*Christmas Eve*  
***Heavenly Hosts Sing Alleluia***

Families cherish their Christmas traditions. Year after year, many households decorate the tree with the same ornaments, play the same music, bake the same Christmas cookies, and open their presents at the exact same time. When it comes to family Christmases, people generally don’t like things to change.

Because our celebration of Christmas has so many unchanging traditions, we might miss the fact that the birth of Christ the Savior meant radical change for the world. Would the change be an improvement or another step in decline? The angels answer the question. They don’t sing, “Watch out for impending doom!” The heavenly hosts sing, “glory” and “peace,” praising God with alleluias!

# Festival of Lessons and Carols

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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.*

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***Please be sure to take a candle from the narthex to be used towards the end of the service.***

***Please also read the "Candle Lighting Instructions" printed later in this bulletin.***

*There will be no pre-service announcements.*

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

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## Preparation

### Preservice Music

"Let Us All with Gladsome Voice" .....	Woodwind Quartet
Edith Hermanson (flute), Kaia Leyrer (flute), Elizabeth Reichardt (flute), Beatrice Hermanson (oboe)	
"Still, Still, Still" .....	Mara Leyrer (piano), Kaia Leyrer (flute)
"Silent Night, Holy Night" .....	Aurora Schmeling (piano)
"Away in a Manger" .....	Kaia Leyrer (piano), Linnea Leyrer (piano)
"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" .....	Beatrice Hermanson (piano)
"Savior of the Nations, Come" .....	Edith Hermanson (flute)
"The Only Son from Heaven" .....	Edith Hermanson (flute)
"Joy to the World" .....	Theodore Peterson (violin)
"Angels We Have Heard on High" .....	Elanor Schmeling (piano)
"Away in a Manger" .....	Beatrice Hermanson (oboe)
"Silent Night, Holy Night" .....	Edith Hermanson (piano)
"O Come, All Ye Faithful" .....	Otto Peterson (violin)
"Angels We Have Heard on High" .....	Edith Hermanson (piano), Allison Hermanson (trumpet)
"Silent Night, Holy Night" .....	Kaia Leyrer (piano)

## Tolling of the Bells

### Opening Hymn

343 "Once in Royal David's City"

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a  
Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his  
deem-ing love, for that child, so dear and gen - tle, is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er  
cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and mean and  
Lord in heav'n a - bove, and he leads his chil - dren

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
on to the place where he is gone.

*Please stand for stanza 4 and direct your attention to the processional cross as it is brought to the chancel*

4 Not in that poor, lowly sta - ble with the ox - en  
 stand-ing by shall we see him, but in heav-en, set at  
 God's right hand on high. Then like stars his chil - dren  
 crowned, all in white, his praise will sound.

*Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–1895, abr., alt. Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876 Text and tune: Public domain*

## Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Opening Verses

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. (*Isaiah 9:2a, NIV*)

**The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.** (*John 3:19, NIV*)

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

**We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,  
 who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.** (*John 1:14b, NIV*)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given. (*Isaiah 9:6a, NIV*)

**In him was life, and that life was the light of men.** (*John 1:4, NIV*)

## **Bidding Prayer**

Dear people of God, in this Christmas season, it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us –the Christ Child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of this city and for all those in our own congregation.

And, because this would please our Lord, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, and the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, those who do not love him, and those who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

To sum up all these petitions, let us pray as Christ himself taught us.

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

*Please be seated*

# Lessons and Carols

## First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2,6,7

*The prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of the Savior.*

A lesson from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter nine.

- <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>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.**

## Responsive Carol

## 350 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"



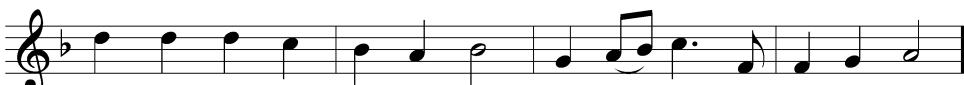
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness!



peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

### Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847 Text and tune: Public domain

## Second Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

*The Savior will shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord.*

A lesson from the book of the prophet Micah, chapter five.

- <sup>2</sup> But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel.  
His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.
- <sup>3</sup> Therefore the LORD will give them up,  
until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child.  
Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel.
- <sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.
- <sup>5</sup> This one will be their peace.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsive Carol

## 333 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (stanzas 1, 2, 4)



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.  
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

*Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893, abr., alt. Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908 Text and tune: Public domain*

## Third Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

*The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will give birth to the promised Savior.*

A lesson from the Gospel of St. Luke, chapter one.

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women."

<sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible for God."

<sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "See, I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsive Carol

## 328 "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" (stanzas 1, 2, 3)



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's de - cree:  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;



his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame:  
 a bless - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be.  
 "To me be as it pleas - es God," she said.



"All hail," said he to meek and low - ly Mar - y,  
 Your son shall be Im - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "My soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."



"most high-ly fa-vored maid-en." Glo - ri - a!  
 most high-ly fa-vored maid-en." Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high-ly fa-vored maid-en, Glo - ri - a!

*Text: Basque, c. 18th cent.; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt. Tune: Basque, c. 18th cent. Text and tune: Public domain*

## Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

*recited by the Children's Choir*

*St. Luke records the story of how Christ the Savior was born.*

A lesson from the Gospel of St. Luke, chapter two.

**2** In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **3** This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. **4** And everyone went to register, each to his own town. **5** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. **6** He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

**6** And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsive Carol

344 “What Child Is This” (stanzas 1, 2)

*Stanza 1* Children’s Choir

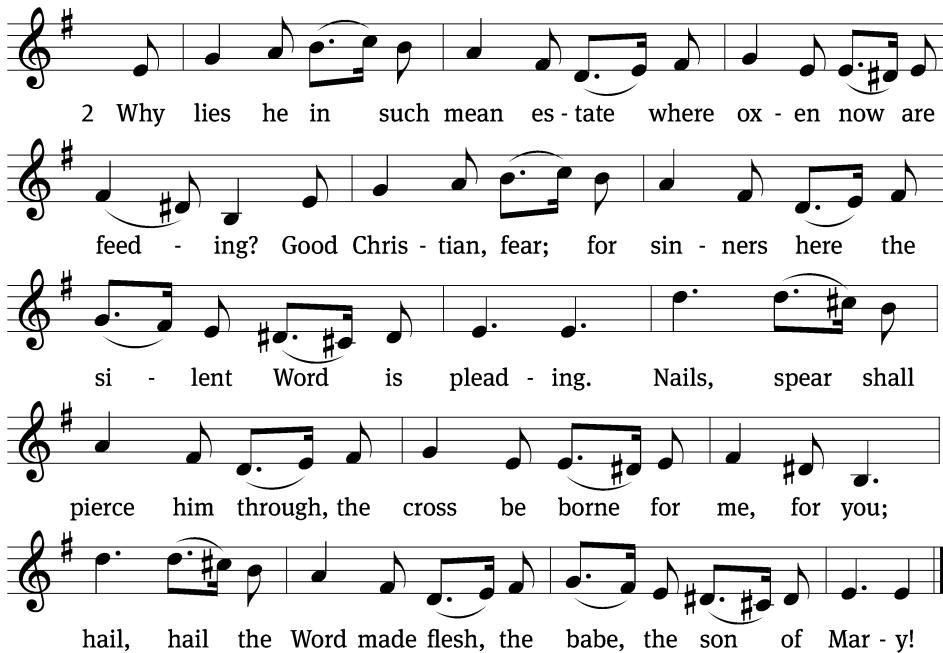
1 What child is this who, laid to rest,  
on Mary’s lap is sleeping,  
whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

*Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.*

*Tune: English, 16th cent.*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

*Stanza 2* Congregation



2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox - en now are  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear, for sin - ners here the  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

## Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:8-14

recited by the Children's Choir

*The angel announces the birth of the Savior.*

A lesson from the Gospel of St. Luke, chapter two.

<sup>8</sup> There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

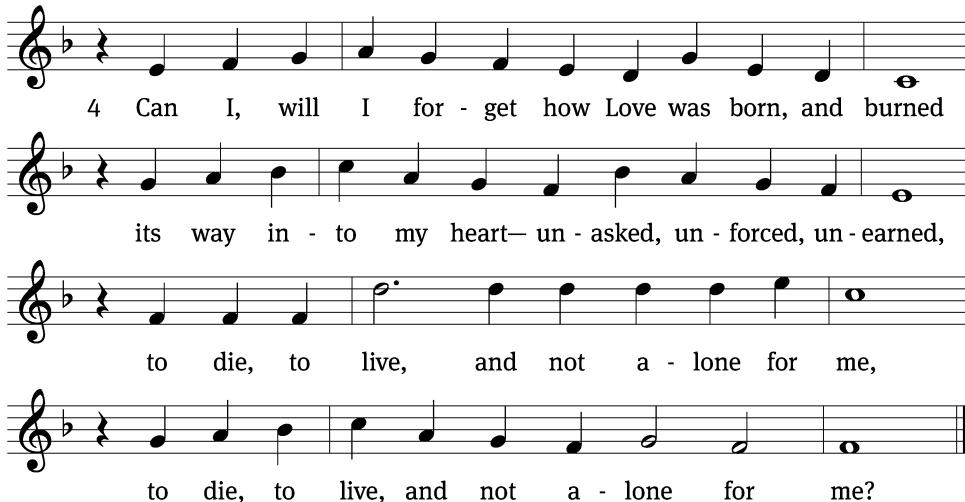
## Responsive Carol

## 345 “Where Shepherds Lately Knelt” (stanzas 1, 2, 4)

*Stanzas 1, 2 Children’s Choir*

- 1 Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel’s word,  
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;  
but there is room and welcome there for me,  
but there is room and welcome there for me.
- 2 In that unlikely place I find him as they said:  
sweet newborn babe, how frail! And in a manger bed:  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.

*Stanza 4 Congregation*



4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned  
its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,  
to die, to live, and not a - lone for me,  
to die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929–2021  
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## Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:15-20

recited by the Children's Choir

*The shepherds go to the manger to visit the Savior.*

A lesson from the Gospel of St. Luke, chapter two.

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsive Carol

## 338 “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

*Stanza 1* Children’s Choir

1 On Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the news the angels bring,  
on Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the news the angels bring,  
news of great joy, news of great mirth,  
news of our merciful King’s birth.

*Stanzas 2, 3* Congregation



2 When sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then life and health come  
3 All out of dark - ness we have light, which made the an - gels



in its place, when sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then  
sing this night, all out of dark - ness we have light, which



life and health come in its place; an - gels and saints with  
made the an - gels sing this night: “Glo - ry to God and



joy may sing, all for to see the new - born King.  
peace to men now and for - ev - er - more. A - men.”

*Text: English, abr. Tune: English Text and tune: Public domain*

## Seventh Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

*The Magi are led by the star to worship their Savior.*

A lesson from the Gospel of St. Matthew, chapter two.

**2** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, **2** “Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” **3** When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** He gathered together all the people’s chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. **5** They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

**6** You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.”

**7** Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

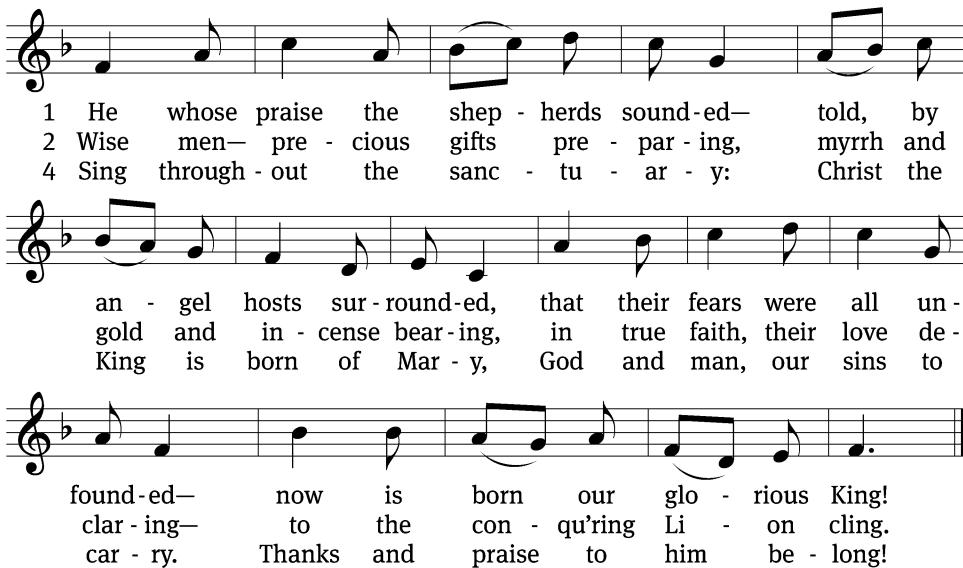
**9** After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. **11** After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **12** Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Responsive Carol

351 “He Whose Praise the Shepherds Sounded” (stanzas 1, 2, 4)



1 He whose praise the shep - herds sound-ed— told, by  
2 Wise men— pre - cious gifts pre - par - ing, myrrh and  
4 Sing through - out the sanc - tu - ar - y: Christ the

an - gel hosts sur - round-ed, that their fears were all un -  
gold and in - cense bear-ing, in true faith, their love de -  
King is born of Mar - y, God and man, our sins to

found-ed— now is born our glo - rious King!  
clar - ing— to the con - qu'ring Li - on cling.  
car - ry. Thanks and praise to him be - long!

Text: Latin, 15th cent.; tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963 Tune: German, 14th cent.  
Text: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: Public domain

## Sermon

Luke 2:8-14

“For You”

## Offering Collection

### 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.

## Candle Lighting Instructions

*The pastor will light his candle from the Christ Candle.*

*He will pass the light to the ushers.*

*The ushers will walk down the center aisle and light the candles of those sitting closet to the aisle.*

*As the light comes to you, please hold your unlit candle to the flame.*

*Only tip the unlit candles. Never tip the lit candles.*

*While your candle is lit, please keep it upright so the wax dripping is minimized.*

*Please do not bring lit candles onto the carpet.*

*Once your candle is lit, hold it to the person next to you so they can light their candle from yours.*

*In this way we symbolize how Jesus – the Light of the world – brings light to a world darkened by sin as his gospel spreads from one person to the next.*

*After all the candles have been lit...*

*The church lights will be dimmed.*

*The pastor will lead the congregation in the candle lighting dialogue.*

## Candle Lighting Dialogue

*Please stand at the direction of the pastor.*

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:

God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

**If we claim to have fellowship with him  
yet walk in darkness,  
we lie and do not live by the truth.** *(1 John 1:5,6, NIV)*

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another,

**and the blood of Jesus, his Son,  
purifies us from all sin.** *(1 John 1:7, NIV)*

As the light of these candles illuminates our faces, it reminds us of Christ, our Light, the Child in the manger at Bethlehem, a Savior suffering our death on the cross, and soon to come from his throne on high as Judge of all. He is our Light here on earth and the eternal Light who enlightens heaven, where there is no need for candle or sun. Rejoice! The Light of the World has come!

## Prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that Light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with such joy that comes from the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the  $\pm$  Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## Closing Hymn

337 “*Silent Night, Holy Night*”

*The Congregation will sing each stanza      (Stanza 1 in German; Stanzas 1-3 in English)*

1 Stil - le Nacht, hei - li-ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,  
ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.  
Hol - der Kna - be im lo - cki-gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li-scher  
Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts - sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

*Text: tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885; Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848  
 Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787-1863 Text and tune: Public domain*



***You may extinguish your candles as the lights are turned back on.***

***Please place your candle in one of the containers in the narthex as you depart.***

***There will be no post-service announcements and you will not be ushered out. You may depart at any time.***

***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!***

***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)***



***Please join us over the next two weeks as we continue to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord!***

*Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day – Thursday, December 25, 10:00 am*

*First Sunday after Christmas – Sunday, December 28, 10:00 am*

*Second Sunday after Christmas – Sunday, January 4, 10:00 am*

*Epiphany of Our Lord – Tuesday, January 6, 7:00 pm*

*The services will be live streamed on Nain's YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/@nainlutheran](https://www.youtube.com/@nainlutheran)*

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***Special thanks to:***

*Linda Loeffel for playing organ.*

*Allison Hermanson for playing trumpet.*

*Abigail Peterson for playing violin.*

*Allison Hermanson (trumpet), Beatrice Hermanson (piano, oboe), Edith Hermanson (piano, flute),  
Kaia Leyrer (piano, flute), Linnea Leyrer (piano), Mara Leyrer (piano),  
Otto Peterson (violin), Theodore Peterson (violin), Elizabeth Reichardt (flute),  
Aurora Schmeling (piano), and Elanor Schmeling (piano)  
for playing preservice music, and Abigail Peterson for directing them.*

*The Sunday School students of the Children's Choir for reciting and singing, Peter Hermanson for directing them,  
and their Sunday School teachers – Peter Hermanson, Ashley Leyrer, and Jessica Reichardt –  
for their work in preparing them to participate in worship.*

*Jerry Loeffel and Michael Kraft for serving as ushers.*

*Joe Lopina for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream.*

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*Scripture taken from: The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version™ (EHV™)  
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*Service based on: "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" from Christian Worship*

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## 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.