

✝ CHRISTMAS DAY ✝

December 25, 2025



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

✚ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church ✚

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www.nainlutheran.org | www.youtube.com/@nainlutheran | www.facebook.com/nainlutheran



Nain is a member congregation of the
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
www.wels.net

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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.

Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day

December 25, 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 Day

Holy Infant So Tender and Mild

From eternity, Jesus has been God, holy and majestic. When we look tenderly at the holy infant, we are looking at the same God who once told the prophet Moses, “No one may see me and live.” How was it then that Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds all saw their holy God and survived? They could live because God became human, hiding his glory within flesh, so that he could come to us without instilling fear or dread.

In chapter one of his Gospel, St. John describes the indescribable: “The Word became flesh and dwelled among us” (John 1:14). The wonder of the Incarnation is that the tender and mild infant in Bethlehem is also the holy Lord God. God himself became flesh and blood—to be born under law, to suffer, and to die that he might redeem us. God came into our broken world to dwell for a time, so we might go to God’s perfect home and dwell for all eternity.

The Service

Setting One

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

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

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

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

There will be no pre-service announcements.

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

The Preparation

Tolling of the Bells

Opening Hymn

354 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes!
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

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

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n!
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

*Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, alt.
Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786, alt. Text and tune: Public domain*

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.

Opening Verses

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come and has redeemed his people. *(Luke 1:68, NIV)*

**He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David.** *(Luke 1:69, NIV)*

When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law,
to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. *(Galatians 4:4,5, NIV)*


**The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.** *(John 1:14, NIV)*

I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.
Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. *(Luke 2:10,11, NIV)*

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.** *(Luke 2:14, NIV)*

Glory be to God *Gloria in Excelsis*

(Luke 2:14; John 1:29; Acts 7:56)



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,

we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;

have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.

For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the

Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

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.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

Church Choir

“Lord, You Were Rich beyond All Splendor”

If you want to follow along, the anthem uses the same words as hymn # 365.

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

The prophet foretold that the Lord would dwell among us and do what was necessary to bring the good news of salvation to the ends of the earth.

- 7 How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a herald,
who proclaims peace and preaches good news,
who proclaims salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God is king!”
- 8 The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voices.
Together they shout for joy,
because with both eyes they will see it
when the LORD returns to Zion.
- 9 Break out, shout for joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem,
because the LORD is comforting his people.
He is redeeming Jerusalem.
- 10 The LORD lays bare his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation from our God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

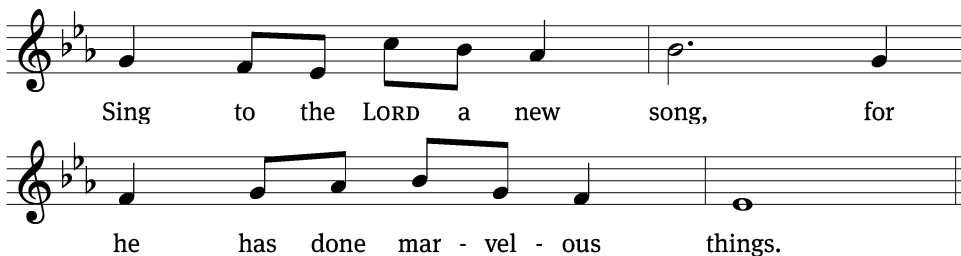
Psalm 98 G “Sing to the LORD a New Song”

The Church sings Psalm 98 in services that praise God for bringing righteousness and salvation to people across the world. It is traditionally sung on Christmas Day.

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

The Cantor will sing the verses

Refrain



Tone



Congregation: *(Refrain)*

Cantor: Sing to the LORD a / new song,
 for he has done / marv'lous things.
The LORD has made his sal- / vation known
 and revealed his righteousness to the / nations.
He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to / Israel;
 all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation / of our God.

Congregation: *(Refrain)*

Cantor: Shout for joy to the LORD, / all the earth,
 burst into jubilant song with / music;
make music to the LORD / with the harp,
 with the harp and the sound of / singing.
Shout for joy before the / LORD, the King.
 He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with / equity.

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

Congregation: *(Refrain)*

Tune: J. Robert Carroll Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Setting: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-9

In the past God sent angels and prophets as messengers to his people. Now God speaks to us directly through his Son.

1 In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. ² In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

⁴ The Son became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say:

You are my Son. Today I have begotten you?

And again:

I will be his Father, and he will be my Son.

⁶ And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said:

Let all God's angels worship him.

⁷ About the angels he says:

He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire.

⁸ But about the Son he says:

God, your throne is forever and ever,
and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy beyond your companions.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Account of Christ's Nativity & Responsive Hymn

Luke 2:1-20

357 "A Glory Fills the Midnight Sky"

² In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ And everyone went to register, each to his own town. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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.

⁸ There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind."

1 A glo - ry fills the mid - night sky and splen - dors
blaze a - broad, a her - ald sent from God on high, the
an - gel of the Lord; the shep - herds trem - ble
at his voice and ter - ror - struck are dumb, but
at his news let earth re - joice, her prom - ised King has come.

¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ 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.

2 This home - less child to shep - herds shown, an in - fant
king new - born, has come to make a cross his throne, his
crown a crown of thorn; the Son of God to
save us all, to bear our earth - ly pains, this
child with - in the cat - tle - stall as King of glo - ry reigns!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926 Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
Text: © 2012 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: Public domain

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

Please stand at the direction of the pastor

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵ The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

⁹ The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

358 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers and sa - ges sang of old with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing, pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he,
 bore the Sav - ior of our race,
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word.
 and ex - tol our God and King.
 and un - end - ing prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been,
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
 Now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed;
 Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion



and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.; (sts. 1–4); tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; (st. 5); tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt.
 Tune: plainsong, 13th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

John 1:1-14

"The Wonder of the Incarnation"

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 Day

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, we give you thanks and praise for sending your one and only Son to share our humanity, carry our guilt, and be the perfect Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

Lord, we praise you.

Keep our faith in your Son alive and strong. Nourish us with your Word and sacraments, and by your Holy Spirit give us strength to overcome Satan's power and empty promises. Help us to withstand the temptations of the world and our sinful nature.

Give us faith and courage.

Remember ministers of the gospel throughout the world who on this day are proclaiming that a Savior has been born. We especially commend to your care missionaries who are serving abroad. Since they cannot enjoy the fellowship of their extended families this Christmas, grant them the inner joy that comes with service in your kingdom.

Protect all those who proclaim the gospel in our place.

We pray for our city and countryside, our neighborhoods and subdivisions, and all the citizens of our country. Give to the leaders of government wisdom to make and uphold laws that promote the good of society. Grant our nation peace, health, and prosperity that we may have the opportunity and resources to spread the good news to all people.

Govern and prosper your people.

Fill us with kindness and arouse us to do good to all people, especially those who are less fortunate than us. Bring your healing to those who are sick or diseased in body or mind, and comfort those who are mourning the death of someone they love. We especially pray for brothers and sisters who are setting aside their celebration today to care for the sick and be at the side of the dying.

Sustain those who endure the troubles of life.

Be a source of strength to all your people and fill them with your power and peace. If any are among us today who have lost the true meaning of this festival, let them rediscover the joy that comes from Christ alone.

Let your peace reign in the hearts of all.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

As you sent your Son to bring peace to all people on earth, so we pray for all people, those known to us and those unknown.

We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please stand

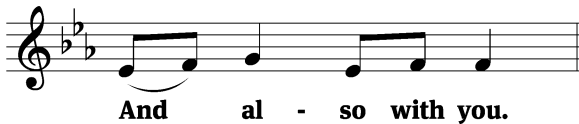
The Sacrament

Visitors, before approaching the altar, please read the notes printed later in this bulletin under the section titled "Our Holy Communion Practices"

Prefaces

(2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 107:1)

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

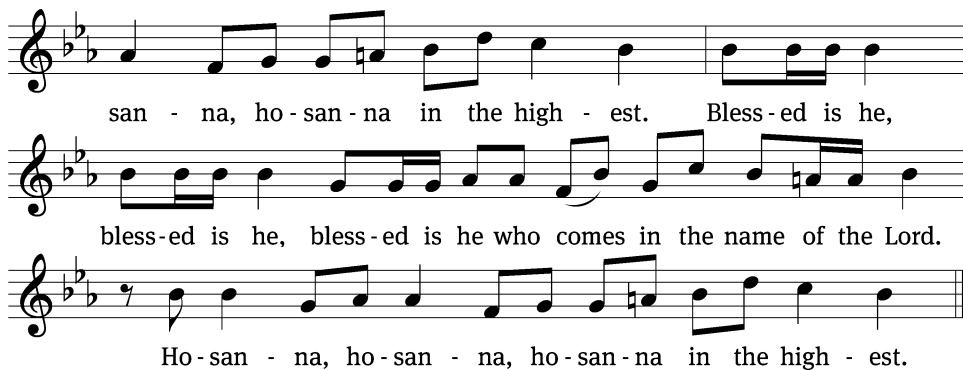


It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. 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)





Prayer of Thanksgiving

(John 1:3; Romans 8:32)

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

(Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution *Verba*

(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my \dagger body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Peace of the Lord *Pax Domini*

(John 14:27; 20:19; 2 Thessalonians 3:16)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

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

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

Please be seated

Distribution Hymn

356 "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
 2 From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
 3 "Fear not," then said the an - gel, "let noth - ing you af - fright;
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ, our Sav - ior, was born on Christ - mas Day
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought ti - dings of the same,
 this day is born a Sav - ior, the true and ra - diant light,
 and in true love and fel - low - ship each oth - er now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray.
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might."
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas is filled with heav'n - ly grace.



O ti - dings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy,



O ti - dings of com - fort and joy.

Text: English, 18th cent. Tune: English Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

353 "Joy to the World"



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

Our Holy Communion Practices

(Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:27-29; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 John 1:3; 2 John 9-11)

Visitors

Before approaching the altar to receive Holy Communion, please read the following notes:

The Holy Bible teaches the celebration of the Lord's Supper is an expression of unity in faith and teaching. To be "in communion" means to share and hold in common. By receiving Holy Communion, we are not only sharing Christ's true body and blood, but we are also confessing that we publicly hold in common the same teachings of God's Holy Word.

We therefore invite to Holy Communion only those Christians who share the same teachings to which we hold, all the while recognizing the true spiritual unity and fellowship of all believers in God's Holy Christian Church (i.e. the Communion of Saints). Confirmed members of Nain and confirmed visiting members of sister congregations in the WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) and the ELS (Evangelical Lutheran Synod) are welcome to commune with us.

If you are a member of another Lutheran synod, another Christian denomination, or of another belief, we ask that you refrain from communing with us at this time. We do this out of love and in accordance with God's words through St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:27-29. The pastor would be happy to speak with you if you have interest in communing in the future or have any other questions or concerns about our practices. Thank you for your patience and understanding, and for respecting our beliefs.

Communicants

"Christian Questions," a guide for personal preparation before receiving Holy Communion is printed on pages 295-296 in the hymnal. Prayers for before and after communing are printed on the first page of the hymnal.

The usher will direct you to the front of the nave, where you will commune. When the pastor distributes the bread and body of Christ, he will say, "The body of Christ, given for you." When he distributes the wine and blood of Christ, he will say, "The blood of Christ, poured out for you." Before consuming the sacramental elements, you may respond to the pastor's words by saying, "Amen" (which is Hebrew for, "Truly," or "Yes, it is so") as a way to confess your belief that the body and blood of Jesus are truly present in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of your sins.

Children and Non-Communicants

Children and other non-communicants are welcome to approach the altar to receive a blessing from the pastor. He will make the sign of the cross on the head of each and say, "The Lord bless you." Non-Communicant adults are asked to cross their arms over their chest to indicate that they do not intend to commune.

Distribution 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.

Holy God, We Praise Your Name (CW 953 : 4) *Te Deum Laudamus* (1 Corinthians 15:20-23)

Please stand as the canticle is introduced

4 You are King of glo - ry, Christ, Son of
God, yet born of Mar - y, for us
sin - ners sac - ri - ficed, on the cross our
sins did car - ry; first to break the bars of
death, you have o - pened heav'n to faith.

*Text: Latin, c. 4th cent.; German version, Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, 1774, abr.; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820-1900, alt.
Tune: Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, 1774, alt. Text and tune: Public domain*

Thanksgiving

(Psalm 118:1)

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

Proclamation

(1 Corinthians 11:26)

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

Post-Communion Prayer

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

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

(Numbers 6:24-26)

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

Please remain standing for the first stanza and follow the processional cross as it is brought out of the nave

Closing Hymn

346 "Angels We Have Heard on High"



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - - -



- - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Please be seated



2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?

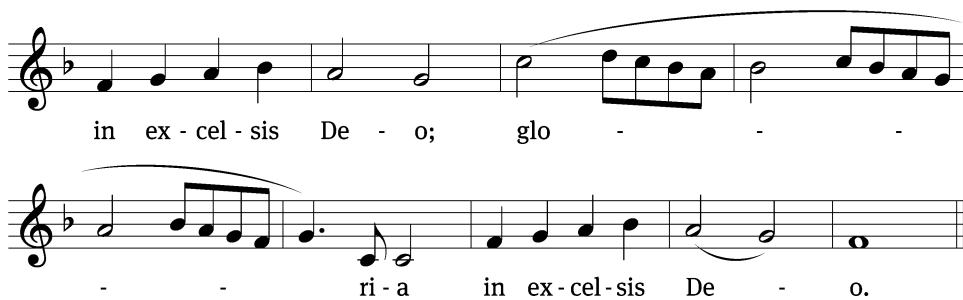
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - ri - a



Text: French; tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt. Tune: French Text and tune: Public domain



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

There will be no post-service announcements.

You will not be ushered out. You may depart the nave at any time.

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!

If you signed up for a poinsettia, you may take it home today,
but please first allow those who want to take a family picture at the front of the church the opportunity to do so.

If you haven't yet paid for your poinsettia and can't pay today, please speak with Pastor Berg.

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

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



Special thanks to:

*Abigail Laitinen for playing organ
Juanita Becker for playing piano
the Church Choir for singing, and Lois Buske for directing them
Matt Reichardt for serving as cantor
Aaron Palmer for serving as crucifer and distribution assistant
Michael Kraft for serving as usher
Brooke Smith 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.*

*Nain is a member congregation of the **Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod**.*

For more information about our synod, please visit its website: www.wels.net



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

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Setting One from Christian Worship

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Psalm introduction from Christian Worship: Psalter

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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.