

# ✝ SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS ✝

January 4, 2026



**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

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

Pastor: Joseph M. Berg  
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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.

# Second Sunday after Christmas

January 4, 2026



*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.

*Second Sunday after Christmas*

## ***The Dawn of Redeeming Grace***

We continue the Christmas celebration of the dawning of the light of all mankind.

The sin-darkened eyes of mankind cannot see God in his glory or the blessings Jesus came to bring. God, however, wants us to know him, and so he chose us by grace and enlightened us through the eyes of faith to see himself in Jesus, our flesh-and-blood Savior.

The Incarnation of Jesus Christ reveals the unseen God to the eyes of the faithful. Jesus’ love and grace shine into our hearts to assure us of the forgiveness that he won for us. Jesus came to make the unapproachable God known to us. He came to make the unseen God seen. When Christ the Savior is born, the light of new revelation breaks over the world. When the Son rises, we can clearly see the grace of God, our Redeemer.

# 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

362 "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"



1 Come, your hearts and voic - es rais - ing, Christ the  
2 Christ, from heav'n to us de - scend - ing and in  
3 Ja - cob's Star in all its splen - dor beams with  
4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, from sin's



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; loud - ly sing his  
love our race be - friend - ing, in our need his  
com - fort sweet and ten - der, forc - ing Sa - tan  
fet - ters that pos - sessed us, from the grief that



love a - maz - ing, wor - thy folk of Christ - en - dom.  
help ex - tend - ing, saved us from the wi - ly foe.  
to sur - ren - der, break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.  
sore dis - tressed us, we, the cap - tives, now are free.

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing  
when by faith we grasp this blessing,  
when, O Christ, we come addressing  
thanks to you and highest praise!

6 Gracious Child, in mercy hear us,  
from your lowly manger cheer us,  
gently lead us and be near us  
till we join th' angelic choir.

## Invocation

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

*Please stand*

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

**Amen.**

## Confession

(1 John 1:8-9; Luke 18:13)

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

## Absolution

(Matthew 16:19; John 20:21-23)

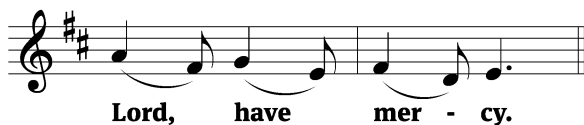
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son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

**Amen.**

# Lord, Have Mercy Kyrie

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

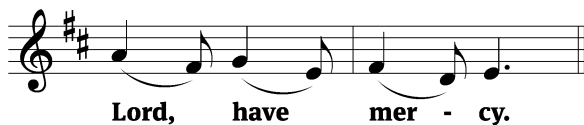
In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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.



# Glory to God in the Highest *Gloria in Excelsis*

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

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to  
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,  
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.  
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and  
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly  
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For  
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the  
Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus  
Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the  
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.  
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to  
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,  
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

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## 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, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; 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*

## First Reading

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

*God promises that his righteousness and glory will be made known to all nations.*

- <sup>10</sup> I will rejoice greatly in the LORD.  
My soul will celebrate because of my God,  
for he has clothed me in garments of salvation.  
With a robe of righteousness he covered me,  
like a bridegroom who wears a beautiful headress like a priest,  
and like a bride who adorns herself with her jewelry.
- <sup>11</sup> For as the earth produces its growth,  
and as a garden causes what has been sown to sprout up,  
so God the LORD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up  
in the presence of all the nations.
- 62** For the sake of Zion I will not be silent.  
For the sake of Jerusalem I will not be quiet,  
until her righteousness goes forth shining brightly,  
and her salvation burns like a torch.
- <sup>2</sup> Nations will see your righteousness,  
and all kings will see your glory.  
You will be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will assign to you.
- <sup>3</sup> Then you will be a beautiful crown in the LORD's hand,  
and a royal diadem in the palm of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

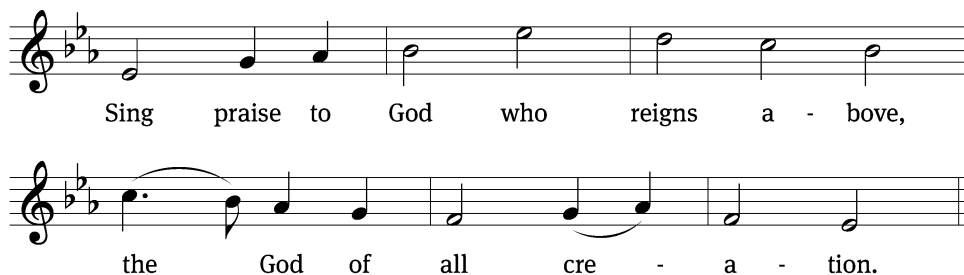
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 135 A      *“Sing Praise to God”*

*The Church sings Psalm 135 to distinguish between false gods and the only true God.*

*Refrain*



*Tone*



**I know that the / LORD is great,  
that our Lord is greater / than all gods.  
The LORD does whatever / pleases him,  
in the heavens and / on the earth.  
Your name, LORD, endures for- / ever,  
your renown, LORD, through all gener- / ations.**

*Refrain*

**The idols of the nations are silver and gold, made by / human hands.  
They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but / cannot see.  
Those who make them will / be like them,  
and so will all who / trust in them.  
Praise be to the LORD from / Zion,  
to him who dwells in Jerusalem. / Praise the LORD.**

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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## **Second Reading**

**Ephesians 1:3-18**

*Paul prays that we might know God better.*

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

<sup>4</sup> He did this when he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ. He did this in accordance with the good purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> and for the praise of his glorious grace, which he has graciously given us in the one he loves.

<sup>7</sup> In him we also have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in keeping with the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished on us in all wisdom and insight. <sup>9</sup> He made known to us the mystery of his will in keeping with his good purpose, which he planned in Christ. <sup>10</sup> This was to be carried out when the time had fully come, in order to bring all things together in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup> In him we have also obtained an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in keeping with the purpose of his will. <sup>12</sup> He did this so that his glory would be praised as a result of us, who were the first to hope in Christ.

<sup>13</sup> In him, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and in him, when you also believed, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. <sup>14</sup> He is the down payment of our inheritance until the redemption of God's own possession, so that his glory would be praised.

<sup>15</sup> This is why, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I never stop giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep praying that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, will give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in knowing Christ fully. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be

enlightened, so that you may know the hope to which he has called you, just how rich his glorious inheritance among the saints is.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced*

# Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 98:3



*Refrain*



*Tone*



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

# Gospel

John 1:14-18

*Through Jesus we discover the grace and truth of God the Father.*

<sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> John testified about him. He cried out, "This was the one I spoke about when I said, "The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me." <sup>16</sup> For out of his

fullness we have all received grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son, who is close to the Father's side, has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Please be seated*

## Hymn of the Day

383 "The Only Son from Heaven"



- 1 The on - ly Son from heav - en, fore - told by an - cient seers,
- 2 O time of God ap - point - ed, O bright and ho - ly morn!
- 3 O Lord, our hearts a - wak - en to know and love you more,
- 4 O Fa - ther, here be - fore you with God the Ho - ly Ghost



by God the Fa - ther giv - en, in hu - man form ap - pears.  
He comes, the King a - noint - ed, the Christ, the vir - gin - born,  
in faith to stand un - shak - en, in spir - it to a - dore,  
and Je - sus, we a - dore you, O Pride of an - gel host.



No sphere his light con - fin - ing, no star so  
grim death to con - quer for us, to o - pen  
that we, through this world mov - ing, each glimpse of  
Be - fore you mor - tals low - ly cry, "Ho - ly,



bright - ly shin - ing as he, our Morn - ing Star.  
heav'n be - fore us and bring us life a - gain.  
heav - en prov - ing, may reap its full - ness there.  
ho - ly, ho - ly, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty!"

## Sermon

Ephesians 1:3-6  
“Chosen in Christ”

## 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

(Matthew 18:19,20; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Let us pray.

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

**Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.**

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

**Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.**

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

**Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.**

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

**Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.**

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

**Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.**

*Special prayers and intercessions*

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

**Hear us for Jesus' sake. 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.



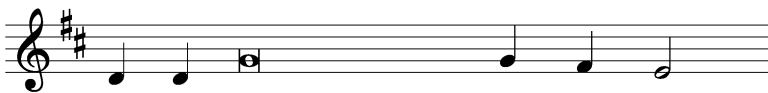
**And al - so with you.**

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, 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)

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

349 “A Great and Mighty Wonder”



1 A great and might - y won - der, a glo - rious mys - ter - y:  
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate and yet re - mains on high,  
3 While thus they sing your mon - arch, those bright an - gel - ic bands,  
4 Since all he comes to ran - som, by all be he a - dored,  
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish and Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



a vir - gin bears an in - fant who veils his de - i - ty.  
and cher - u - bim sing an - thems to shep - herds from the sky.  
re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, and o - ceans, clap your hands.  
the in - fant born in Beth - l'em, the Sav - ior and the Lord.  
and Christ shall raise his scep - ter, de - cree - ing end - less peace.

*Refrain*



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: “To God on high be



glo - ry and peace to all the earth!”

# Distribution Hymn

334 "I Stand beside Your Manger Here"



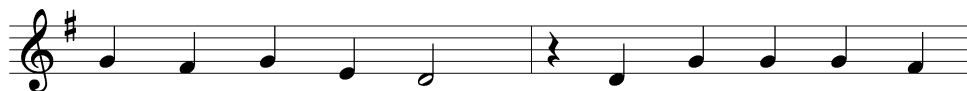
1 I stand be - side your man - ger here, O Je - sus,  
2 Be - fore I ev - er came to be, or knew of  
3 Death held me in the deep - est night till you, my  
4 One thing I hope; my Sav - ior, hear; be - stow on



life from heav - en. The gifts I bring as I draw near  
you, my Sav - ior, you'd cho - sen me, been born for me,  
sun - shine beam - ing, brought joy and bliss and life and light,  
me this bless - ing, that I may ev - er hold you near,



are what to me you've giv - en: my spir - it,  
that I might have your fa - vor. Be - fore you  
in love my soul re - deem - ing. O Sun, your  
you as my own pos - sess - ing. So let my



cour - age, mind, and heart— take all I am, take  
formed me by your hand in grace you had al -  
rays so warm and fair have made my dark - ness  
heart your man - ger be; come, ho - ly Child, lie



ev - 'ry part; in mer - cy let it please you.  
read - y planned how I would learn to love you.  
dis - ap - pear— faith's pre - cious light is shin - ing.  
down in me with all your joy - ful trea - sures.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.; tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963

Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1535, ed. Joseph Klug

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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

363 "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, now raise to heav'n our voice;  
 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to thee.  
 3 Now through his Son doth shine the Fa-ther's grace di - vine.  
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground,



he from whom joy stream - eth poor in a man - ger lies;  
 Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;  
 Death was reign - ing o'er us through sin and van - i - ty  
 where the an - gels sing - ing with all his saints u - nite,



not so bright - ly beam - eth the sun in yon - der skies.  
 thro' thy grace and mer - it, blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
 till he o - pened for us a bright e - ter - ni - ty.  
 sweet - est prais - es bring - ing in heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!	Thou my Sav - ior art!
draw me un - to thee!	Draw me un - to thee!
May we praise him there!	May we praise him there!
Oh, that we were there!	Oh, that we were there!

*Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-1874, alt. Tune: German, 14th cent., alt. Text and tune: Public domain*





*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!*

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**Special thanks to:**

*Juanita Becker for playing organ... Joe Lopina for serving as distribution assistant...  
Kyle Peterson for serving as usher... Ben Leyrer for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream...  
and Joanne Kohler for serving on Altar Duty.*

*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](http://www.wels.net)*

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