

✠ MIDWEEK OF LENT 1 ✠

February 25, 2026



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

✝ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church ✝

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

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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.

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Midweek Lent

It Is Finished

The Holy Week Prophecies of Zechariah

The theme of our Midweek Lenten services this year is: “It Is Finished.” At each service, we will hear prophecies about our Lord God’s work to save sinners from the book of Zechariah. Zechariah described the events of Jesus’ suffering and death with such vivid clarity—centuries before those events took place—that he is referred to as the “Holy Week Prophet.” We will see that because Jesus fulfilled every prophecy God made to his people about the coming Messiah and perfectly carried out God’s plan of salvation, he could cry from the cross, “It is finished!”

Midweek of Lent 1

What’s He Worth to You?

God called Zechariah to shepherd his flock – the people of Israel. These sheep needed help. They were sick, weak, and vulnerable. Their spiritual health had deteriorated under their religious leaders, who had been unfaithful in their duties. These sheep had no value to anyone else, so they were “marked for slaughter.” Jesus similarly grieved over the people of his day. In their sin and unbelief, they had strayed from their Shepherd. By the looks of them, they had no value. They too should have been considered worthless sheep “marked for slaughter.”

What about us? What value do we have to God, the sinners that we are? Consider how far we sheep have strayed! Well, if Jesus were asked, “What is that sinner worth to you?” he would answer without hesitation, “Everything!” Jesus values us so much that he was willing to be sold for 30 pieces of silver, betrayed with a kiss, handed over to his enemies, sentenced to death as a criminal, suffer the punishment we deserve, and die in our place. Tonight we will hear that because Jesus saved us from sin, death, and the devil, he is worth everything to us!

Evening Prayer

Vespers

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 music or announcements. Please remain silent as you prepare for worship.

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

Service of Light

Tolling of the Bells

Opening Hymn

420 "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"



1 Je - sus, I will pon-der now on your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see your great dis - tress, an - guish, and af - flic - tion,
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone make me see your pas - sion,
4 Grant that I your pas-sion view with re - pent - ant griev - ing;



with your Spir - it me en - dow for such med - i - ta - tion.
bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness and your cru - ci - fix - ion;
but its cause to me make known and its ter - mi - na - tion.
let me not bring shame to you by un - ho - ly liv - ing.



Grant that I in love and faith may the im - age cher - ish
make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails did wound you,
Ah! I al - so and my sin wrought your deep af - flic - tion;
How could I re - fuse to shun ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure



of your suf-f'ring, pain, and death that I may not per - ish.
how for them you died, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.
this in - deed the cause has been of your cru - ci - fix - ion.
since for me God's on - ly Son suf - fered with - out mea - sure?

5 If my sins give me alarm
and my conscience grieve me,
let your cross my fear disarm,
peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won
by your holy passion.
If for me he slays his Son,
God must have compassion!

6 Graciously my faith renew;
help me bear my crosses,
learning humbleness from you,
peace mid pain and losses.
May I give you love for love!
Hear me, O my Savior,
that I may in heav'n above
sing your praise forever.

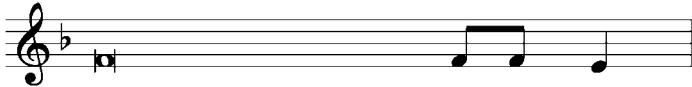
Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: Melchior Vulpus, c. 1570–1615 Text and tune: Public domain

Opening Sentences

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

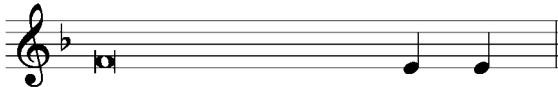
Please stand

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



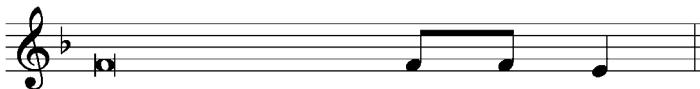
the light no darkness can o - ver - come.

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,



and the day is almost o - ver.

Be our light and scatter the darkness,



and hear our evening prayer and praise.

*Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship.
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Hymn of Light *Phos hilaron*

(Psalm 18:28; Isaiah 9:2; John 1:5-9)



1 Glad - d'ning light of pur - est glo - ry, shin - ing
2 In the fad - ing light of eve - ning, as the
3 For your gift of life un - end - ing, joy - ful



down from heav'n on high, from the ev - er -
set - ting sun de - parts, Fa - ther, Son, and
voic - es ev - er sing hymns of praise that



liv - ing Fa - ther— hail, most bless - ed Je - sus Christ!
Ho - ly Spir - it— we a - dore you, Lord our God.
right - ly hon - or, Son of God, your sav - ing name.

Text: Michael D. Schultz Text and tune: © 2021 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, for you are merciful and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Please be seated

Psalm 141

(Psalm 141:1-4,8)

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing up
of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Tune: David Schack Tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord, and let your mercy descend on us, that we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Service of the Word

Penitential Psalm

Psalm 6

Psalm 6 is the first of the seven penitential psalms. Martin Luther said, "David is tormented by the law and the anger of God, and is driven to despair. But at the end the psalmist sees that his prayer has been heard, and he is a trustworthy example for all those who find themselves in such affliction."

- ¹ LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger.
Do not discipline me in your wrath.
- ² **Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am fading away.**
Heal me, LORD, for my bones are trembling,
- ³ **and my soul is terrified.**
But you, O LORD—how long?
- ⁴ Turn, O LORD, and deliver my soul.
Save me because of your mercy.
- ⁵ **For in death no one remembers you.**
In the grave who praises you?
- ⁶ I am worn out from my groaning.
I flood my bed all night long.
With my tears I drench my couch.
- ⁷ **My eyes are blurred by sorrow.**
They are worn out because of all my foes.
- ⁸ Turn away from me, all you evildoers,
because the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.
- ⁹ **The LORD has heard my cry for mercy.**
The LORD accepts my prayer.
- ¹⁰ They will be put to shame.
All my enemies will be terrified.
They will turn back.
They will be put to shame in an instant.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Plot, Passover, and Lord's Supper

26 When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, ²“You know that after two days it will be the Passover, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

³Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas. ⁴They plotted together how to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. ⁵But they said, “Not during the Festival, or else there might be a riot among the people.”

⁶When Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷a woman approached him holding an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume. She poured it on his head as he was reclining at the table. ⁸But when his disciples saw this, they were upset and said, “Why this waste? ⁹This perfume could have been sold for a lot of money and given to the poor.”

¹⁰Jesus was aware of this and said to them, “Why are you causing trouble for this woman? She has done a beautiful thing for me. ¹¹You are always going to have the poor with you, but you are not always going to have me. ¹²When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. ¹³Amen I tell you: Wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told in memory of her.”

¹⁴Then one of the Twelve, the one named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵and said, “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶From that time on Judas was looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

¹⁷On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

¹⁸He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him the Teacher says, ‘My time is near. I will observe the Passover with my disciples at your house.’”

¹⁹The disciples did as Jesus commanded them and prepared the Passover. ²⁰When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve.

²¹As they were eating, he said, “Amen I tell you: One of you will betray me.”

²²They were very sad and began to say to him one after another, “Surely, not I, Lord?”

²³ He replied, “The one who dipped his hand in the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man is going just as it is written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would be better for that man if he had not been born.”

²⁵ Judas, who betrayed him, replied, “Surely, not I, Rabbi?”

He said to him, “Yes, you are the one.”

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples. He said, “Take, eat, this is my body.” ²⁷ Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the new testament, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you that I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” ³⁰ After they sang a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

³¹ Then Jesus said to them, “This night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ ³² But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

³³ Peter answered him, “Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.”

³⁴ Jesus said to him, “Amen I tell you: Tonight before the rooster crows you will deny me three times.”

³⁵ Peter said to him, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you.” And all the disciples said the same.

Thus far the Passion History of Our Lord.

All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:6,5 NIV)

Please remain silent for meditation



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, fount of pur - est plea - sure,
 2 In thine arms I rest me; foes who would op - press me
 3 Sa - tan, I de - fy thee; death, I now de - cry thee;
 4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,
 5 Hence, all fear and sad - ness! For the Lord of glad - ness,



tru - est friend to me. Ah, how long in an - guish
 can - not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing,
 fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt not harm me
 Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!
 Je - sus, en - ters in. Those who love the Fa - ther,



shall my spir - it lan - guish, yearn - ing, Lord, for thee?
 ev - 'ry heart be quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear.
 nor thy threats a - larm me while I sing of peace.
 Naught to me thy sto - ry told with tempt - ing voice.
 though the storms may gath - er, still have peace with - in.



Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer
 Light - nings flash and thun - ders crash; yet, though sin and
 God's great pow'r guards ev - 'ry hour; earth and all its
 Pain or loss or shame or cross shall not from my
 Yea, what - e'er I here must bear, thou art still my



naught to hide thee; naught I ask be - side thee.
 hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
 depths a - dore him, si - lent bow be - fore him.
 Sav - ior move me since he deigns to love me.
 pur - est plea - sure, Je - sus, price - less trea - sure!

Sermon Text

Zechariah 11:7-13

⁷ So I shepherded the flock which is to be slaughtered, especially the most afflicted of the flock. I took two staves for myself. One I called Favor and the other Union. Then I shepherded the flock. ⁸ I removed three shepherds in one month. I grew very impatient with the flock, and they really detested me. ⁹ So I said, "I will not shepherd you. Whatever is dying, let it die. Whatever is being destroyed, let it be destroyed. And let those who remain devour one another's flesh."

¹⁰ I took my staff, Favor, and I broke it in two, to cancel my covenant that I had made with all the peoples. ¹¹ So it was cancelled on that day, and the most miserable of the flock, who were watching me, knew that this was the word of the LORD.

¹² Then I said to them, "If it seems good to you, pay me my wages. But if it does not, withhold them." So they weighed out thirty pieces of silver as my wages.

¹³ Then the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter, this magnificent price at which they valued me." So I took the thirty pieces of silver, and I threw them into the House of the LORD, to the potter.

Sermon

"What's He Worth to You?"

Song of Praise

947 *"Lamb of God, Pure and Holy"* (stanza 1)

Please remain seated

1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,
ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.
All sin you car - ried for us, else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Text: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485—after 1546; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
Tune: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485—after 1546. Text and tune: Public domain

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

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

Please stand

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the gifts of humility and repentance, and for the will to bear our crosses as we follow Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For perspective to see that, apart from Christ, gain is loss, and in Christ, loss is gain, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For minds set on heavenly things, for hearts that long for heavenly glory, and for perseverance to press on and take hold of our heavenly prize, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Prayer

Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

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

Benedicamus

(Psalm 103:1)

Let us praise the Lord.



Blessing

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



Please be seated

Closing Hymn

398 "Not All the Blood of Beasts"



1 Not all the blood of beasts on Is - rael's al - tars slain
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, takes all our sins a - way,
3 In faith I place my hand on that dear head di - vine,
4 My soul looks back to see the bur - den you did bear
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - jice to see the curse re - move;



could give the guilt - y con - science peace or wash a - way the stain.
a sac - ri - fice of no - bler name and rich - er blood than they.
as pen - i - tent - ly here I stand and lay on him my sin.
when hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there!
we bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice and sing his bleed - ing love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt. Tune: William Daman, c. 1540-1591 Text and tune: Public domain

The Pastor departs in silence

Please remain silent for meditation





Special thanks to:

Joel Schwartz for playing organ...
and Mark Buske for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream.

There will not be any post-service music or announcements.

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.**

You will not be ushered out. You may depart any time after the closing hymn.

If you have an offering, you can place it in the collection box located in the narthex.

If you wish to give your offering via [PayPal](#), you can scan the QR code on the last page of this bulletin.

Thank you for your financial support of our congregation!

Please refrain from conversation until after you have departed the church building
so those who wish to remain in church to pray and meditate may do so in silence.

Pastor Berg will be available in the narthex shortly after the service if you would like to speak with him.

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



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Evening Prayer from Christian Worship

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