✝ TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ✝

November 8, 2026



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

+ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church +

1665 South 57th Street | West Allis, Wisconsin 53214 | 414-545-6925

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

WELS Christ's Love, Our Calling.

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

Pastor: Joseph M. Berg
Phone: 414-810-3392
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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.

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 27



Church

The classic image of a church built on the rock finds a fresh treatment in this icon. A circular bounding shape creates structure for the icon and alludes to traditional associations with both unity and eternity. Twelve windows are included as a subtle reference to the importance of the number twelve in Christian theology.

Season after Pentecost

The Beginning of the End

Scripture teaches that the End Times began with Christ's first coming, especially his death and resurrection. Christ will come again on judgment day. Now we live in that in-between time, when salvation has been won, but full glory is still to come. It's the beginning of the end.

Jesus himself makes clear that no one knows the day or hour of his return. This uncertainty is not meant to trouble us, but to keep us spiritually awake. Each day becomes an opportunity to live in repentance and faith, turning from sin and trusting fully in Christ's finished work for us. Until that time, God wants us to remain rooted to him by hearing his Word, receiving the sacraments, trusting in his promise of forgiveness, and then, telling others about his love!

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

It's Time to Watch for the Final Events

Imagine you are planning to take the family out to dinner, but you must wait for someone to get ready. Minute after minute passes. What can happen in that situation? You might become impatient, focus on something else, or become so distracted that you forget the original goal. Perhaps as you wait, you even fall asleep!

As we wait for Jesus Christ to come back on the Last Day, it can be easy for us to get distracted, lose vigilance, and become spiritually drowsy. It's the beginning of the end. God doesn't want to find us asleep when Jesus returns so we miss out on the marriage feast in heaven. So he reminds us that the time between Christ's first and second coming is a time for us to remain spiritually alert. Today we are encouraged to watch for the final events during these end times, so we are prepared to meet our bridegroom when he returns!

The Service

Setting One

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

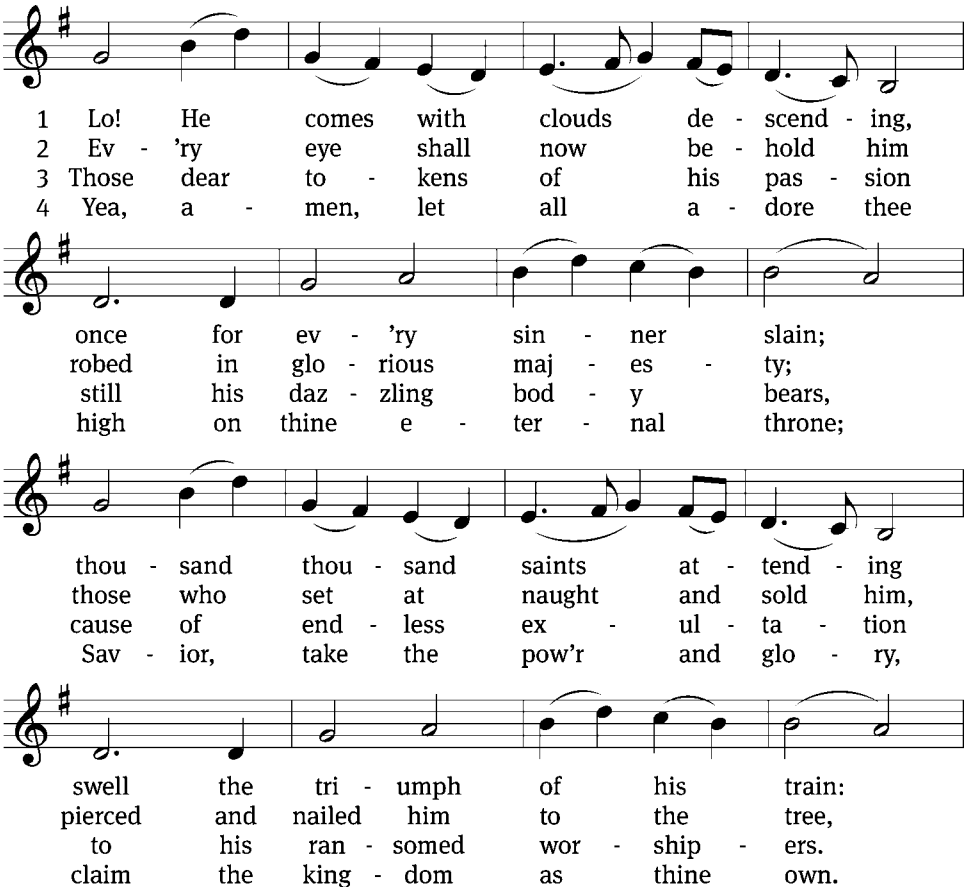
Please enter the sanctuary quietly so you and others can prepare your hearts for God's worship service.

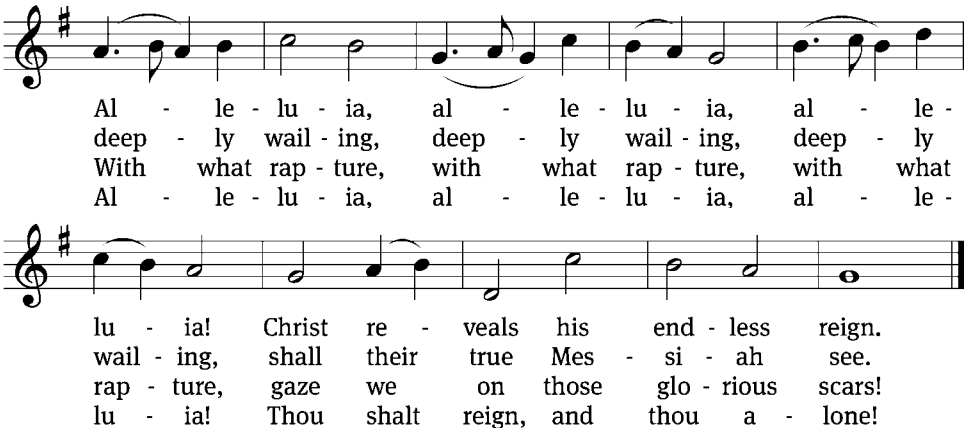
A personal prayer for before worship is printed on the first page of the blue hymnal.

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

The Preparation

Opening Hymn *487 "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"*





Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Tune: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799 Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

Invocation

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

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

Amen.

Confession

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

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

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

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

(Matthew 16:19; John 20:21-23)
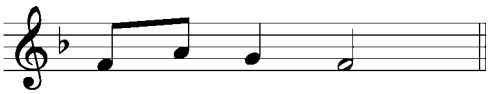
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.
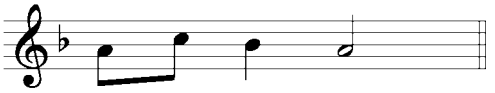
Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

(Psalm 51:1; Mark 10:47; Luke 17:13)
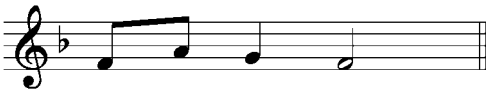
In peace let us pray to the Lord.
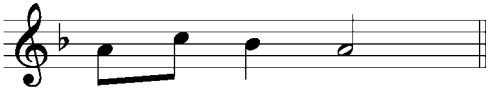


For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



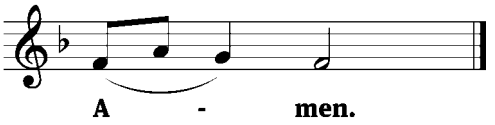
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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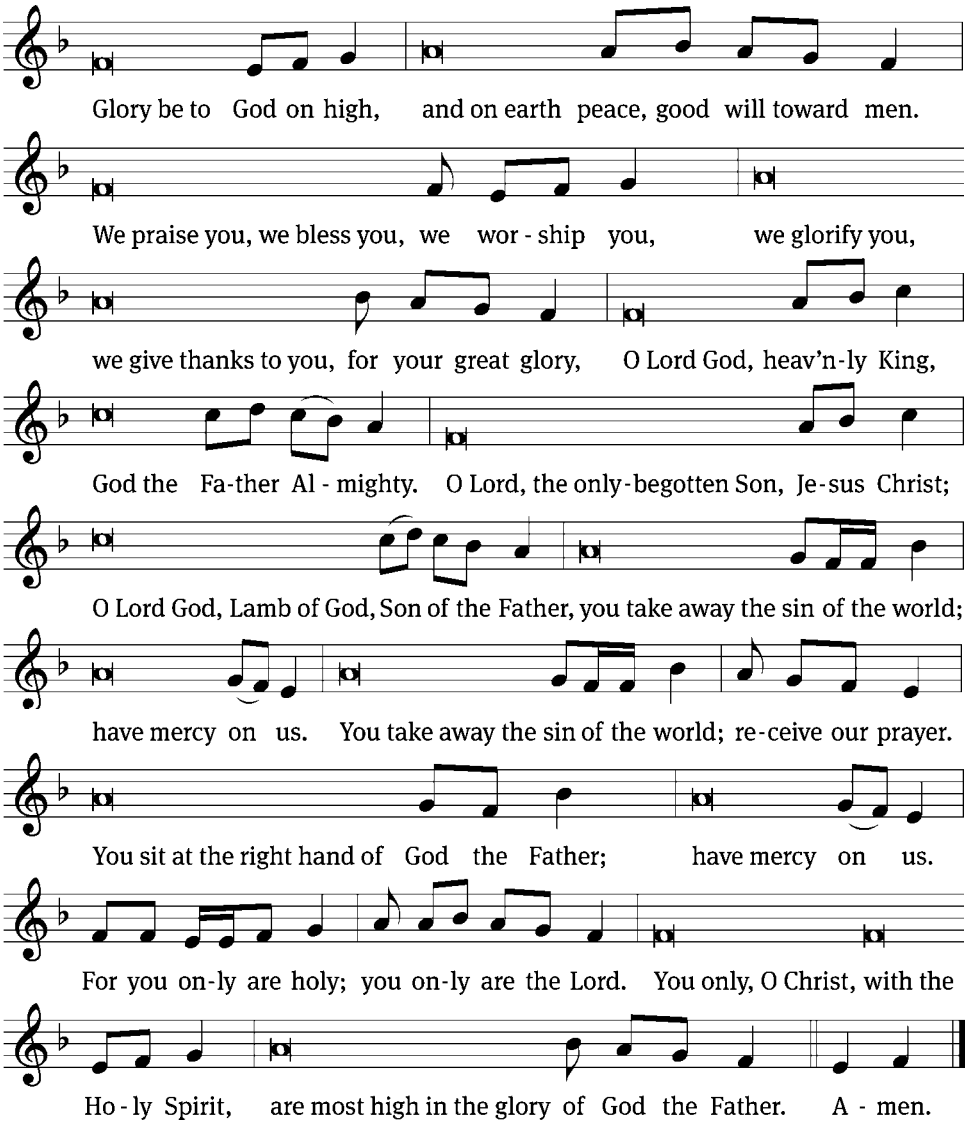


Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



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Glory be to God *Gloria in Excelsis*

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



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 and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; 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 52:1-6

The nation of Israel was sleepwalking through life, exhausted by their present problems. So God sent the prophet Isaiah to wake them from their spiritual slumber and watch for the coming redemption.

52 Wake, awake!
Clothe yourself with strength, O Zion.
Put on your beautiful garments,
Jerusalem, you holy city,
for never again will the uncircumcised
and the unclean enter you.
2 Shake off the dust.
Get up and take your seat, Jerusalem.
Loosen the chains from your neck,
you captive daughter of Zion.
3 Yes, this is what the LORD says.
You were sold for nothing,
and you will be redeemed without money.

4 Yes, this is what the LORD God says.
In the beginning, my people went down to Egypt to stay there for a while.
Later Assyria oppressed them without cause.

5 Now what do I have here? declares the LORD.
Indeed, my people have been taken away for nothing.
Their rulers howl with mockery, declares the LORD.
My name is continually despised all day.

6 Therefore my people will know my name.
So on that day they will know that I am the one—
the one who is saying, "Here I am!"
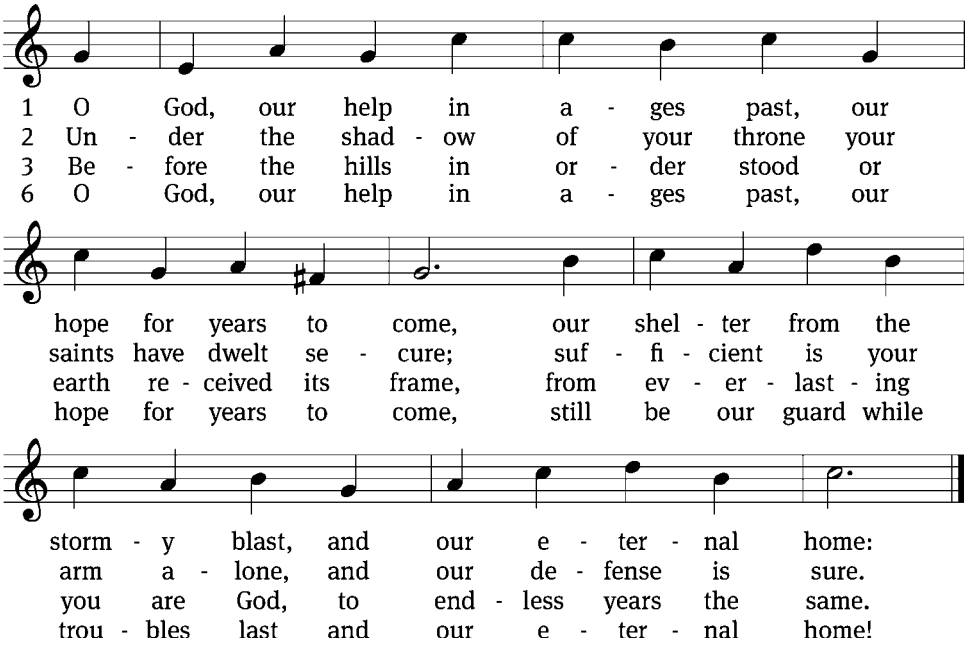
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 90 D *"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"*

The Church sings Psalm 90 in services where we recognize the perspective that comes after the passage of time, especially when joy comes after relief from affliction.



Text: Isaac Watts, abr., alt. Tune: William Croft Text and tune: Public domain

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

St. Paul teaches how we should wait for Jesus' return. Be watchful. Don't fall asleep. Live as children of light.

5 Concerning the times and dates, brothers, there is no need to write to you, [2] for you
yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] When
people are saying, "Peace and security," destruction will suddenly come on them, like labor
pains on a pregnant woman, and they will certainly not escape. [4] But you, brothers, are not
in the dark so that this day takes you by surprise like a thief, [5] for you are all sons of the light
and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. [6] So then let us not
sleep like everyone else, but rather let us remain alert and sober.

[7] To be sure, those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at
night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a
breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. [9] You see, God did not appoint us for
wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. [10] He died for us, so that
whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. [11] Therefore, encourage one
another and build each other up, just as you are also doing.

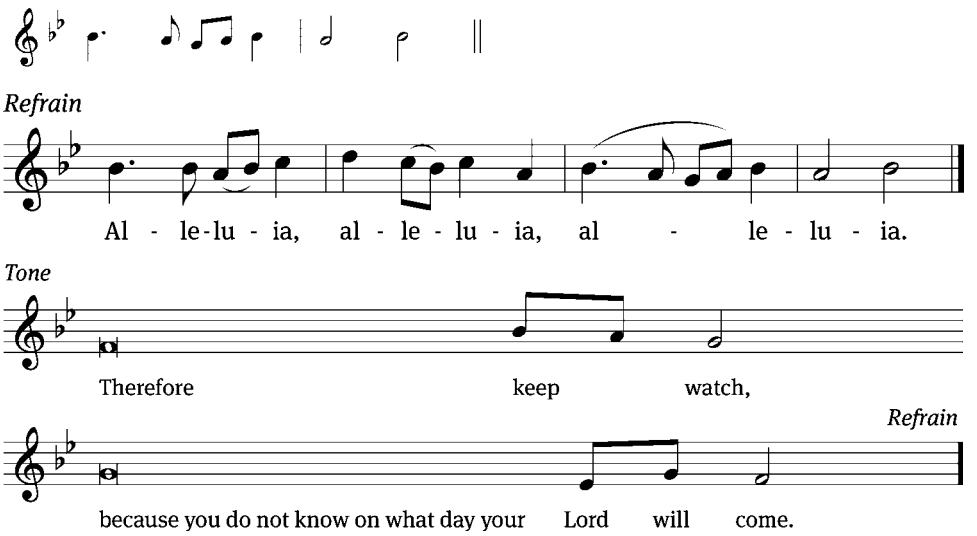
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 24:42

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced



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

Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

The wise, those who are watching and ready for the Bridegroom, enter into the great wedding banquet.

25 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps
and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.
3 When the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them; 4 but the wise
took oil in their containers with their lamps. 5 While the bridegroom was delayed, they all
became drowsy and fell asleep. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look, the bridegroom!
Come out to meet him!' 7 Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The
foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.'
9 But the wise answered, 'No, there may not be enough for us and for you. Instead, go to
those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' 10 But while they were away buying oil, the
bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the
door was shut. 11 Later, the other virgins also came and said, 'Lord, Lord, let us in.' 12 But he
answered, 'Amen I tell you: I do not know you.' 13 Therefore, keep watch, because you do not
know the day or the hour."
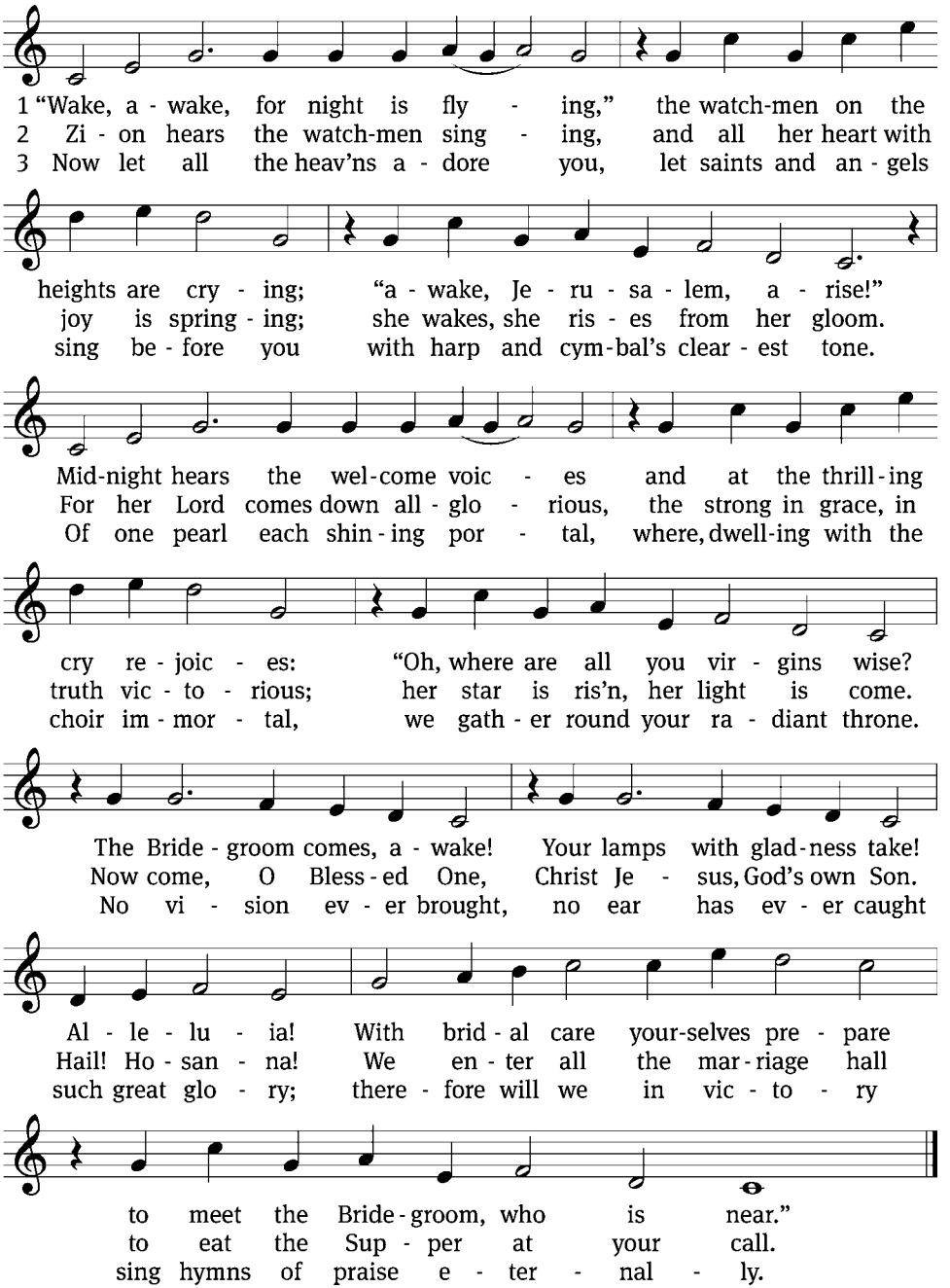
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

486 "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"



Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Matthew 25:1-13 *"Watching Wisely for Christ's Return"*

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.

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.
Plant your Word in our hearts and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.
Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.
Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.
Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.
Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.
Grant them your love and take them into your tender care.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.
Keep us in the true faith and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.
Amen.

Please stand
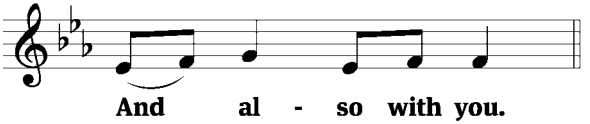
The Sacrament

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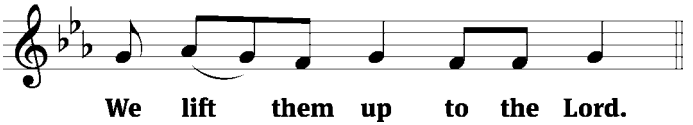
Prefaces

(2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 107:1)
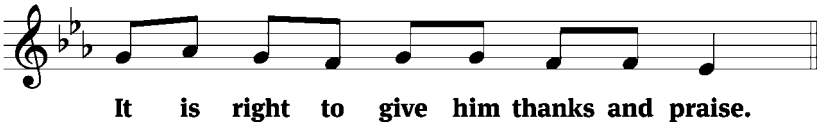
The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



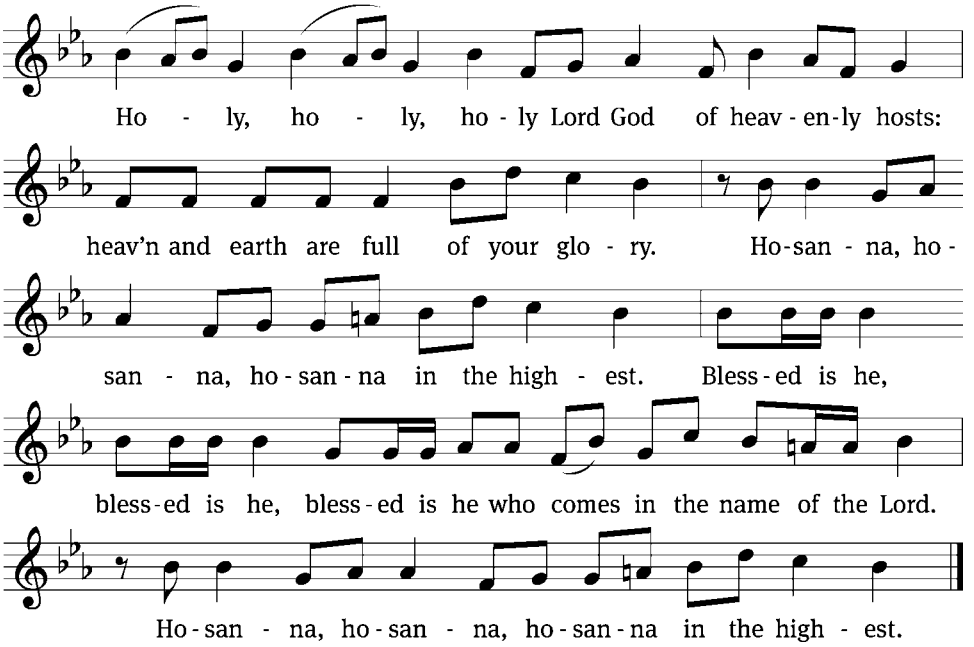
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory.

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)*

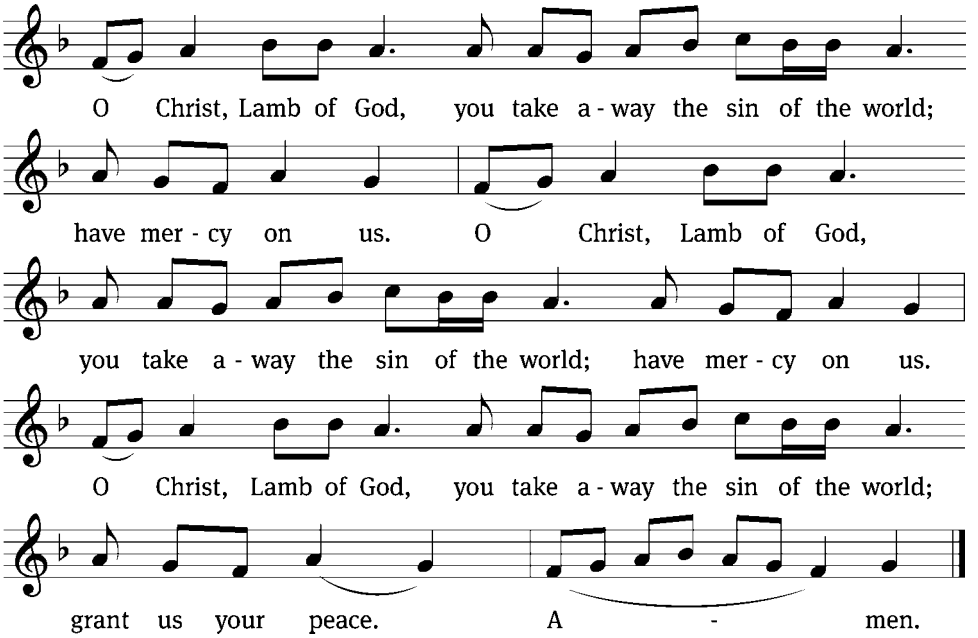
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my T body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my T 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)*
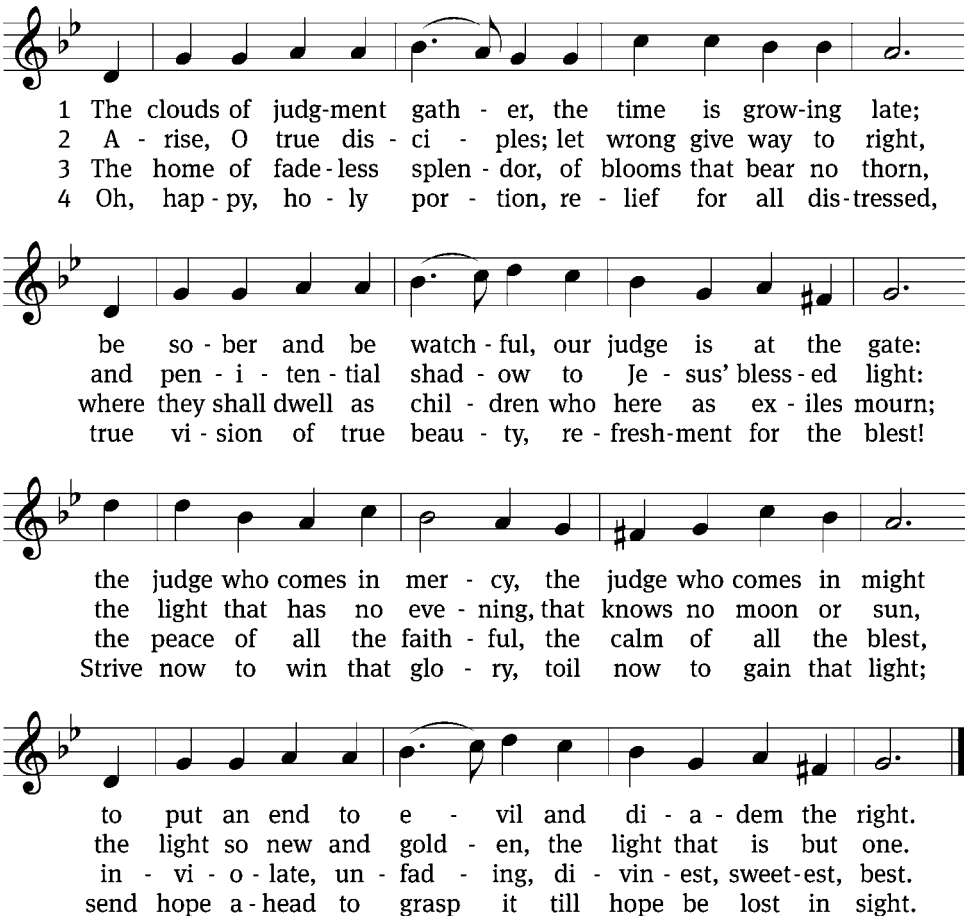
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei* *(John 1:29; Isaiah 53:4-7; 1 Peter 1:18-19)*



Please be seated
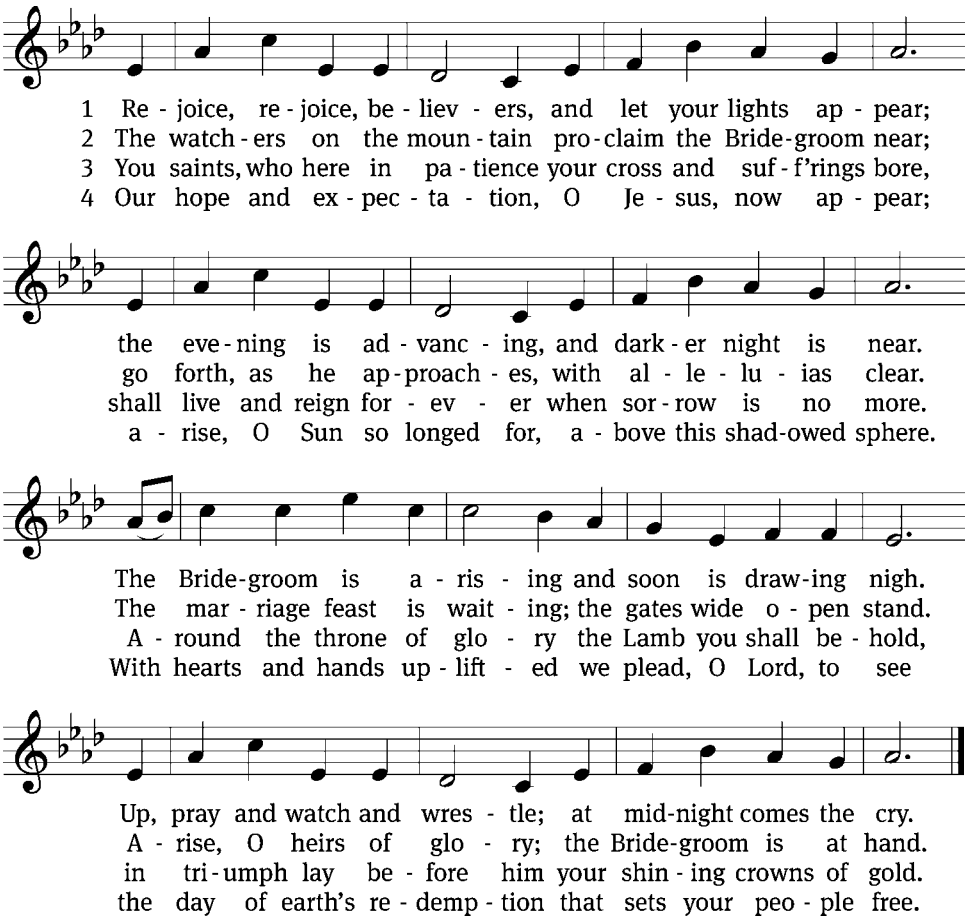
Distribution Hymn *490 "The Clouds of Judgment Gather"*



Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent., abr.; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978 Tune: Welsh
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

493 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722, abr.; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt. Tune: Swedish 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.
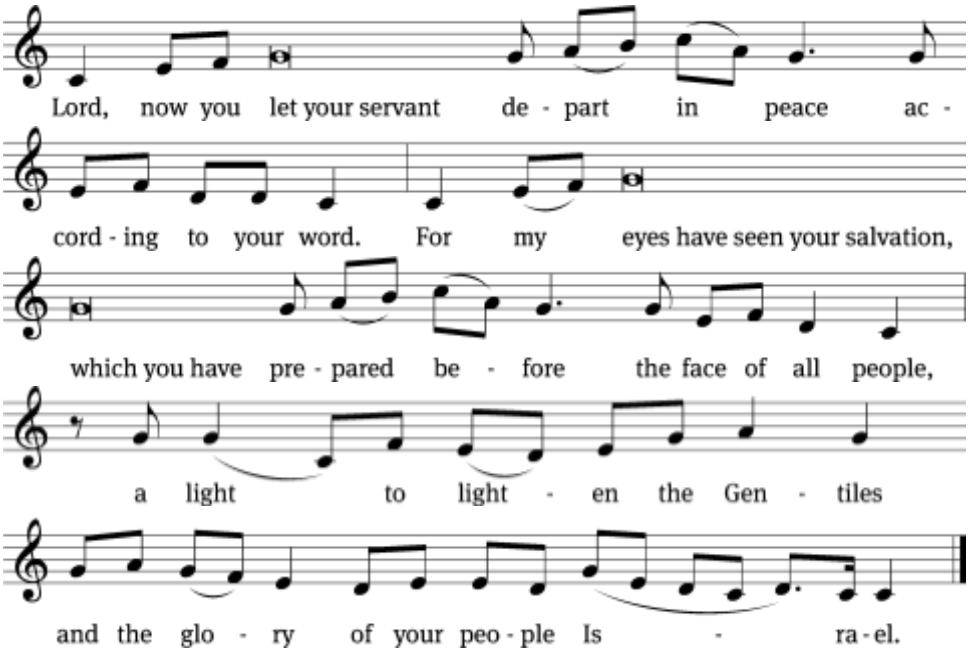
As he dismisses the communicants, the pastor says:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go T in peace.
Amen.

Post-Communion Canticle

951 "Lord, Now You Let Your Servant" Nunc Dimittis

Please stand as the canticle is introduced



Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. ... Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. James E. Engel, 1925–1989 ... 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)*

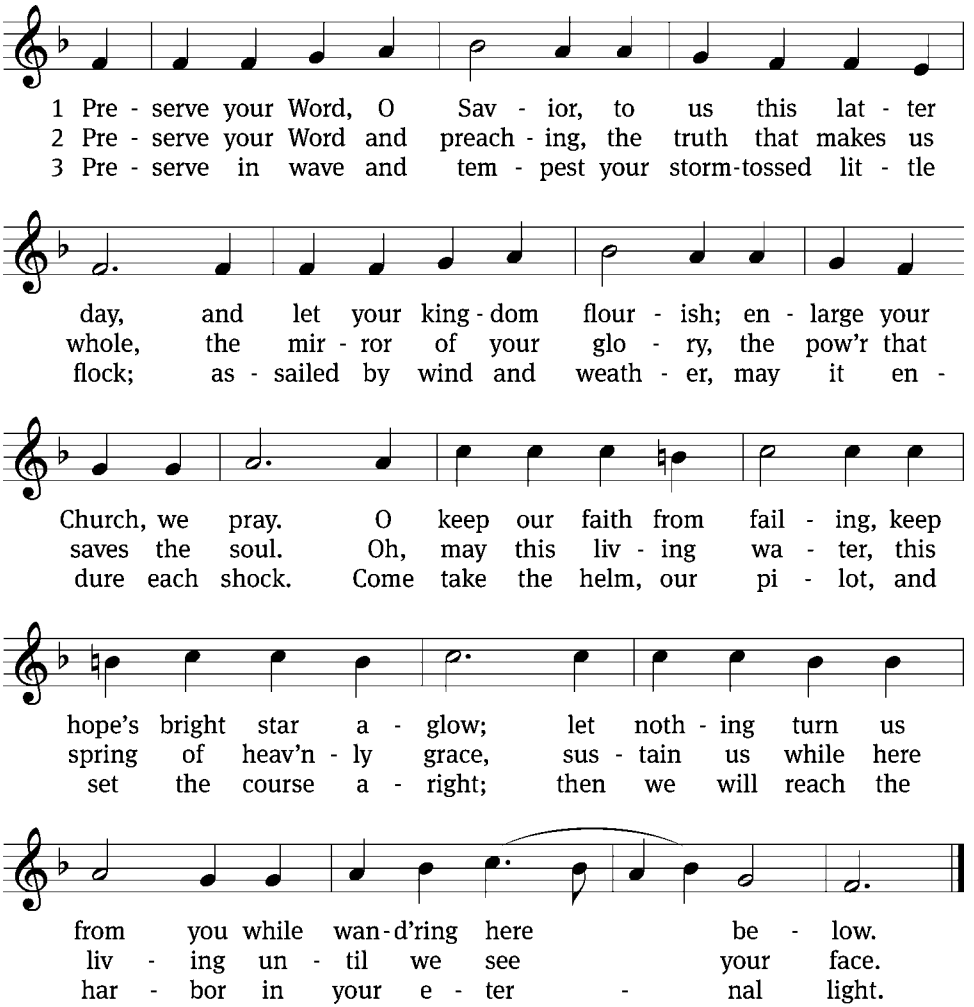
We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.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

Please be seated

Closing Hymn *874 "Preserve Your Word, O Savior"*



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*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!*

Special thanks to:

Nancy Weinkauf for playing piano… Ben Leyrer for serving as distribution assistant…
Matt Reichardt for serving as usher… Peter Hermanson for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream…
and Tina and Hermione Krueger 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

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