✝ TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ✝

November 15, 2026



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

+ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church +

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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
Email: revjberg@gmail.com

About Our Worship Service

Welcome in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Our message is as old as God's Word to mankind: Jesus Christ, crucified and risen to take away our sins. We gather for the Divine Service not merely for the sake of ritual or tradition. Nor do we come to worship primarily to give something back to God. Rather, we meet together to hear and receive what God has done for us. In Word and Sacrament, our gracious Lord gives those who believe in him forgiveness of sins, unity with him in new life, and the promise of eternal salvation in heaven! Through this same gospel he motivates and equips us to follow his holy will for our lives. We hope that you are comforted with the message of Jesus Christ's love for you as you worship today. Please join us again soon!

Visitors

Thank you for joining us for worship! Please read the following notes about our congregation. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please speak with the pastor.

Our Practice of Closed Communion
If you have not communed with us before, please read the notes printed later in this bulletin under the section titled "Our Holy Communion Practices."

Restrooms
Restrooms are located in the downstairs fellowship hall. A wheelchair accessible restroom is located at the front of the church, through the doors to the left of the chancel.

Guest Book
If you feel comfortable doing so, please sign our guest book located in the narthex so we can have a record of your visit.

Parent's Room
Parents with crying children are welcome to use the parent's room, located off the narthex.

Chair Lifts
Chair lifts are located off the northwest entrance for those who need to go to the fellowship hall on the lower level but have difficulty with stairs.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 28



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-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

It's Time to Put Your Affairs in Order

When you know that your death is approaching, you try to put your affairs in order for the sake of others. When you know that the second coming of Christ is approaching, what is the appropriate response? We are not to be sedentary. Jesus has not yet returned because there is still work to be done. And Jesus carries out his good work through us. So until he comes again and says, "Stop!" we will be busy with faithful service.

Christ has given each believer gifts and talents. And when Christ entrusts us with those gifts and talents, he calls us to use them all for his glory. It's the beginning of the end. In the time between Christ's first and second coming, we will use everything the master has given us to live according to his will and to carry out his mission.

The Service

Setting Four

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.

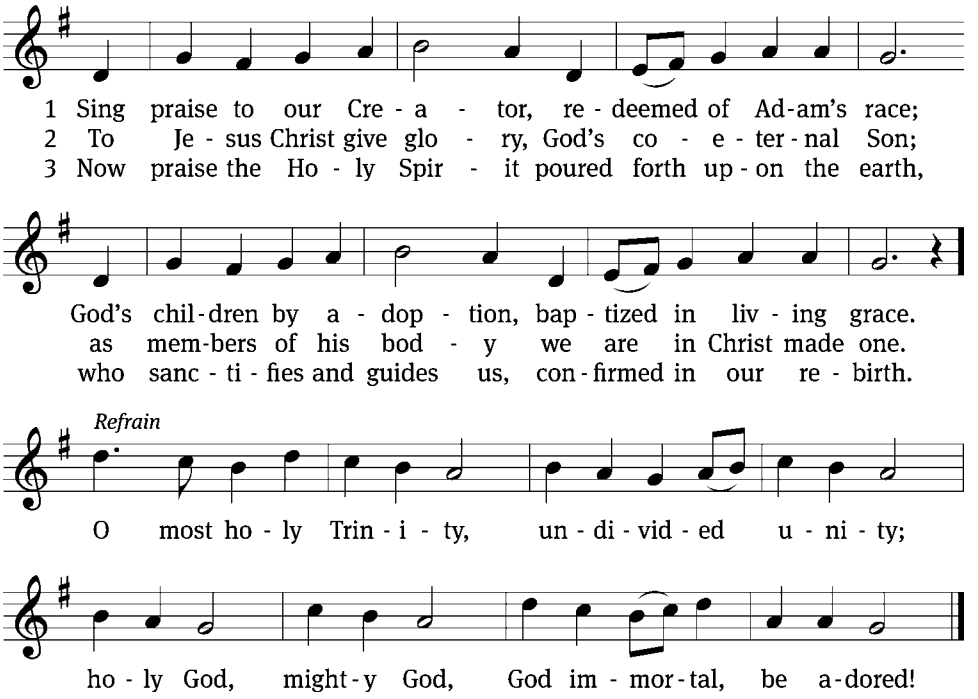
A personal prayer for before worship is printed on the first page of the blue hymnal.

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

The Preparation

Opening Hymn

480 "Sing Praise to Our Creator"



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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.

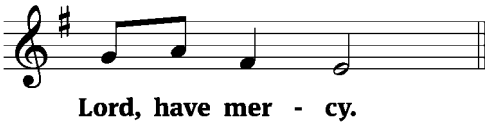
Silence for meditation and reflection

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

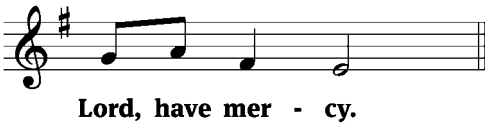
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son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

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie* *(Psalm 51:1; Mark 10:47; Luke 17:13)*

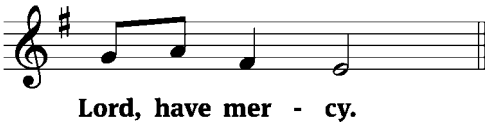
In peace let us pray to the Lord.



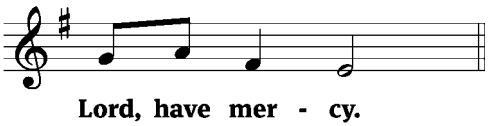
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



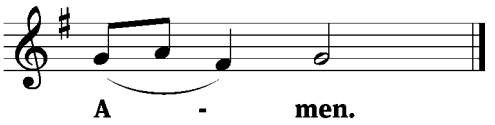
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



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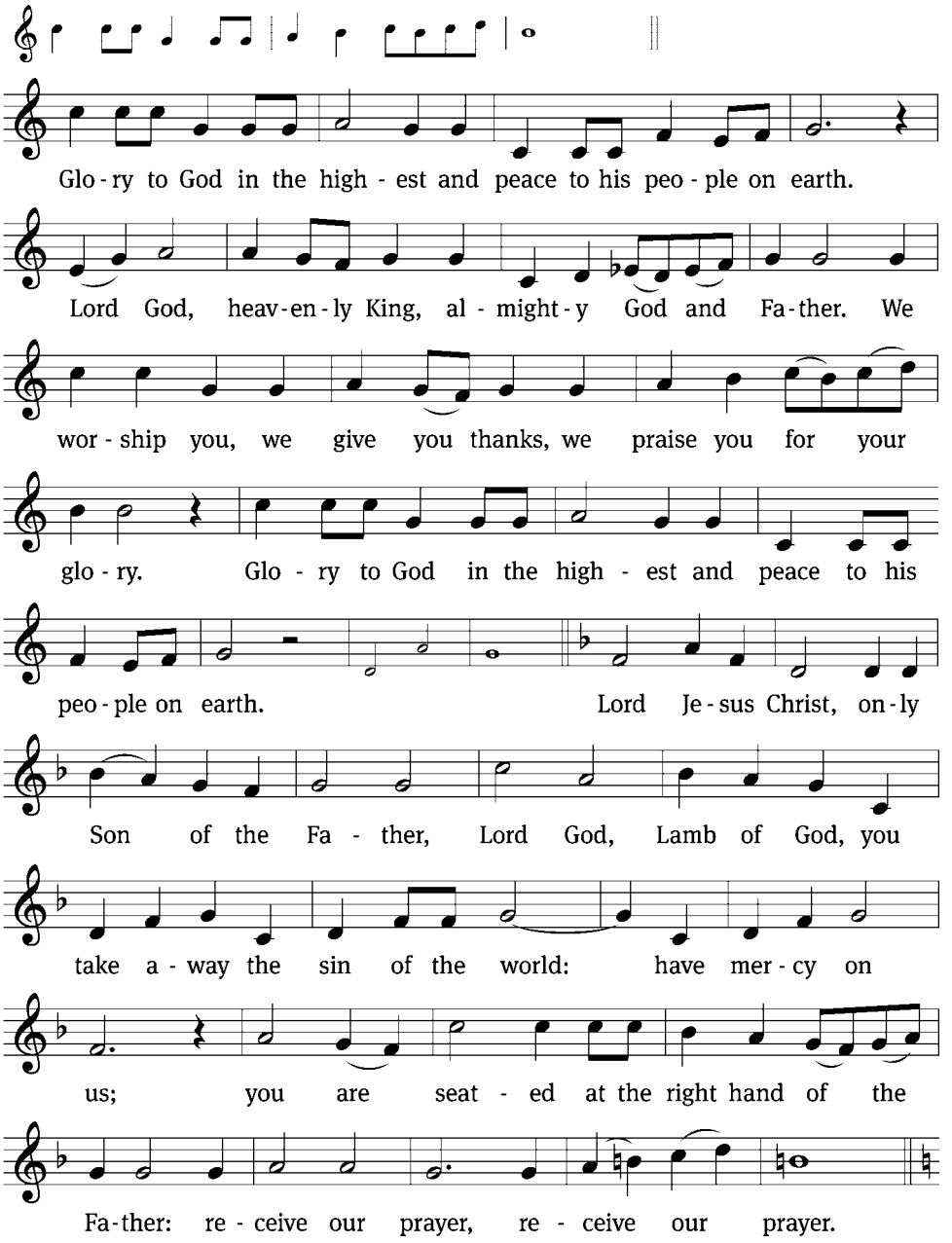
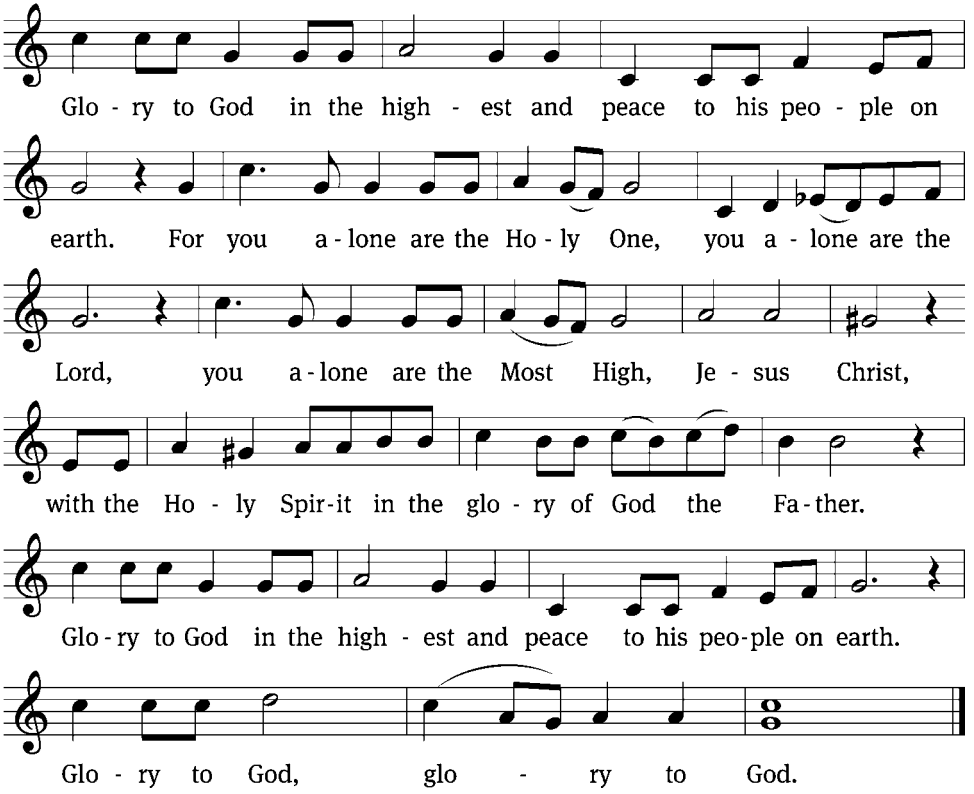
Glory to God in the Highest *Gloria in Excelsis* *(Luke 2:14; John 1:29; Acts 7:56)*





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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.

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; 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 1:10-18

How did Israel respond to all of God's gifts? With grudging service, which is not faithful service. How does God respond to Israel? By promising to make them as pure as newly fallen snow.

10 Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom!
Listen to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah!
11 What do your many sacrifices mean to me? says the LORD.
I have more than enough rams as burnt offerings
and enough fat from well-fed animals.
I am not pleased with the blood of bulls
or the blood of lambs and male goats.
12 When you come to appear before me,
who has asked for this from your hands:
this trampling on my courts?
13 Stop bringing worthless offerings!
Your incense is an abomination to me.
I cannot stand your sinful assemblies
on the new moons, Sabbaths, and holy days.

14 Deep in my soul I hate your new moons and your appointed feasts.
They have become a burden to me.
I am tired of putting up with them.
15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you.
Indeed, even though you make many prayers, I will not hear.
Your hands are full of blood.
16 Wash yourselves. Purify yourselves.
Remove your evil deeds from my sight.
Stop doing evil. 17 Learn to do good.
Seek justice. Relieve the oppressed.
Seek justice for the fatherless. Plead for the widow.

18 Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD.
Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow.
Though they are as red as crimson, they will be like wool.

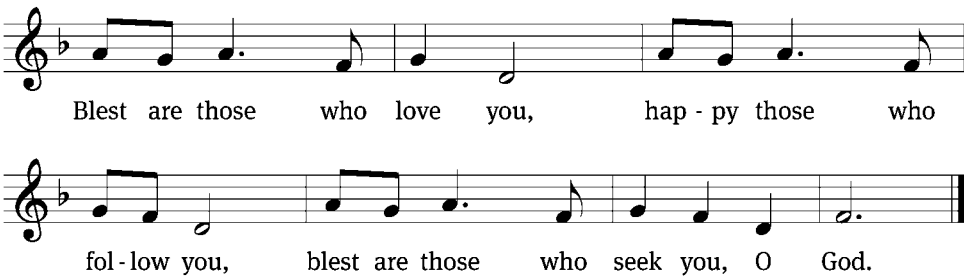
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

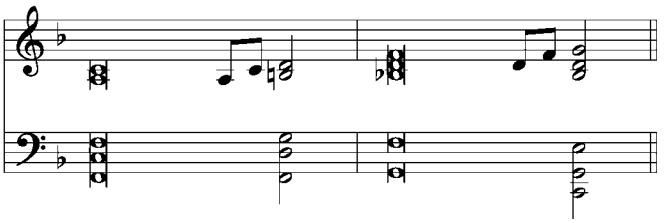
Psalm 128 C *"Blest Are Those Who Love You"*

The Church sings Psalm 128 in services that encourage the faithful use of material blessings. As people live their Christian vocations, blessings from the Lord are both requested and promised.

Refrain



Tone



Blessed are all who / fear the Lord,
who walk in obedi- / ence to him.
You will eat the fruit of your / labor;
blessings and prosperity / will be yours.
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine with- / in your house;
your children will be like olive shoots around your / table.

Refrain

Yes, this will be the / blessing
for the man who / fears the LORD.
May the LORD bless you from / Zion;
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days / of your life.
May you live to see your children's / children—
peace be on / Israel.

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 Romans 12:1-8

When we keep God's mercy in view, we understand and appreciate the gifts he gives us in Christ, and we use those gifts faithfully as our joyful response.

12 Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living
sacrifice—holy and pleasing to God—which is your appropriate worship. 2 Also, do not
continue to conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your
mind, so that you test and approve what is the will of God—what is good, pleasing, and
perfect.

3 So by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of yourself more
highly than you ought, but think in a way that results in sound judgment, as God distributed
a measure of faith to each of you. 4 For we have many members in one body, and not all the
members have the same function. 5 In the same way, though we are many, we are one body
in Christ, and individually members of one another.

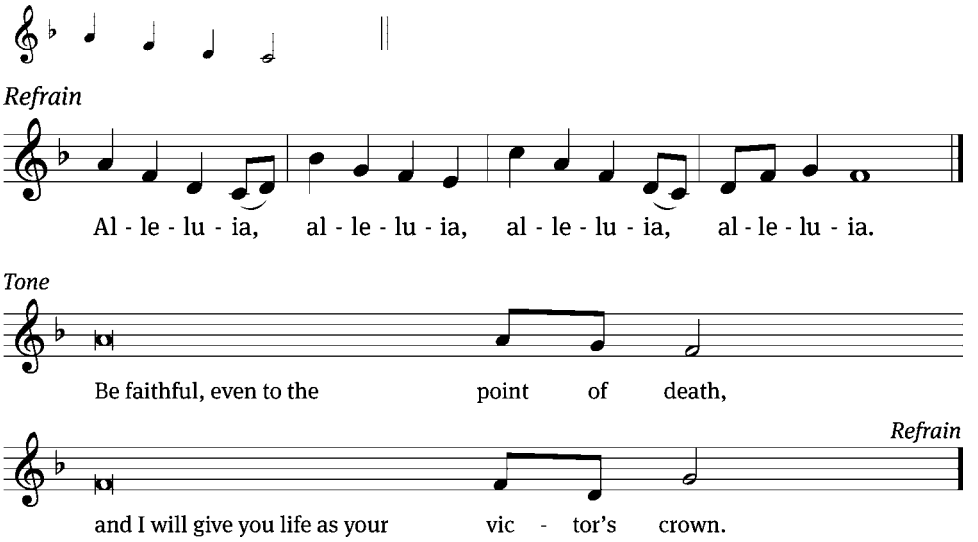
6 We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us. If the gift is prophecy,
do it in complete agreement with the faith. 7 If it is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then
teach. 8 If it is encouraging, then encourage. If it is contributing, be generous. If it is
leadership, be diligent. If it is showing mercy, do it cheerfully.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Revelation 2:10

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 25:14-30

Through a parable Jesus calls his followers to faithful service in grateful response to the gifts that the master has given and in joyful anticipation of the master's impending return.

14 "You see, the kingdom of heaven is like a man going on a journey. He called his
servants and entrusted his possessions to them. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two
talents, and to still another one talent, each according to his own ability. Then he went on
his journey. 16 The servant who had received the five talents immediately put them to work
and gained five more talents. 17 In the same way, the servant who had received the two
talents gained two more. 18 But the servant who had received one talent went away, dug a
hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.

19 "After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.
20 The servant who received the five talents came and brought five more talents. He said,
'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.'

21 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with
a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.'

22 "The servant who received the two talents came and said, 'Master, you entrusted me
with two talents. See, I have gained two more talents.'

23 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with
a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.'

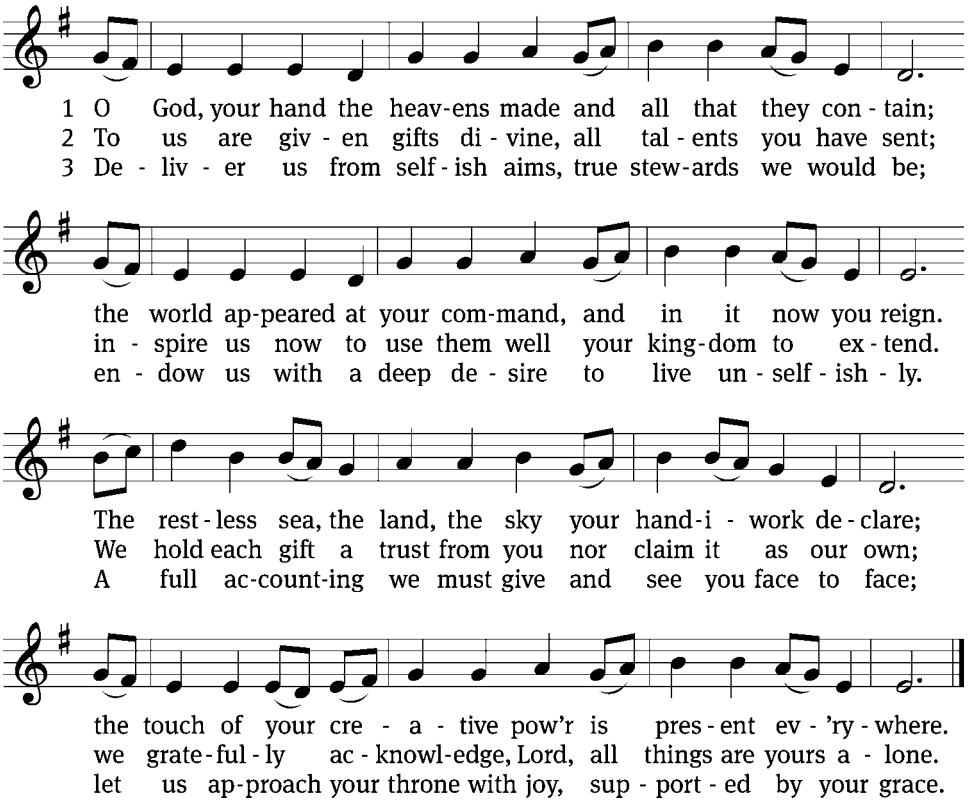
24 "Then the servant who received one talent came and said, 'Master, I knew that you are
a hard man, reaping where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter seed.
25 Since I was afraid, I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is
yours.'

26 "His master answered him, 'You wicked and lazy servant! You knew that I reap where I
did not plant and gather where I did not scatter seed? 27 Well then, you should have
deposited my money with the bankers so that when I came I would get my money back with
interest. 28 Take the talent away from him and give it to the servant who has the ten talents.
29 Because everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. But the one
who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 30 Throw that worthless
servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day *751 "O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made"*



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Sermon Matthew 25:14-30

"Good and Faithful Service"

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 Stewardship

Let us pray.

Lord God, from whom all blessings flow, we praise you for everything you provide to sustain our lives. Lead us every day to be thankful for your gifts and content with what you have given. Today we pray that you would guide us to manage your blessings wisely for the good of your kingdom.
As we use your gifts to meet our needs, move us also to support the ministry of the gospel with our offerings.

Before your Son ascended to your throne, he called us to preach the good news to every creature. In grace you created the public ministry so that we may answer his call by sending others in our place. Impress on us the immense importance of the task you have given us to proclaim your Word to the world.
In our words and in our offerings, move us to be faithful witnesses of your grace.

Work in our hearts so that our gifts do more than support a cause or meet a need. Move us to give out of love for you, our King and Redeemer.
Lead us to bring our gifts to honor you, the Giver of all things.

Teach us to give as an ongoing part of life since the work of the gospel continues every day. Forgive us for the sins of apathy and carelessness and for giving that reacts only to urgent pleas or crises.
Help us see the wisdom of planning our offerings as a regular routine of our faith.

Teach us to determine our offerings in view of your blessings to us. The widow's coins were meager, but they were all she had. Move us to believe that to whom much is given, much is also expected.
Give us courage to bring gifts that reflect your gifts to us.

Teach us to give our offerings as a cheerful response of our faith in you and your Son. Spare us all feelings of obligation or resentment as we give. Help us to see our offerings as the vehicle that carries the gospel to the lost and lead us to rejoice with the angels of heaven over every sinner who repents.
Help us to balance our duty to give with the joy of giving.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Precious Lord, all our blessings come from you. Lead us again and again to thank you and then move us to be wise and faithful stewards of your gifts. May our gifts and offerings bring souls here and far away to the gracious gift of Jesus and his love.
Lord, hear us and grant us this blessing. Amen.

Please stand

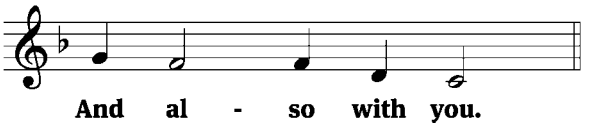
The Sacrament

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

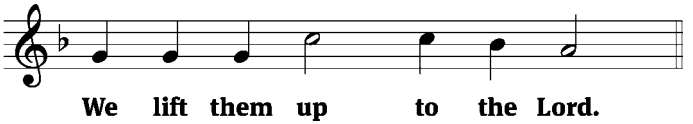
Prefaces

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

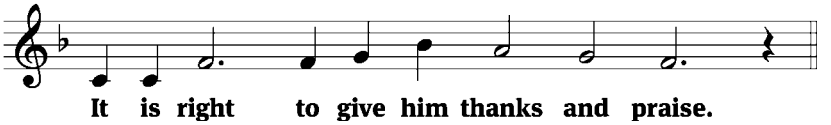
The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

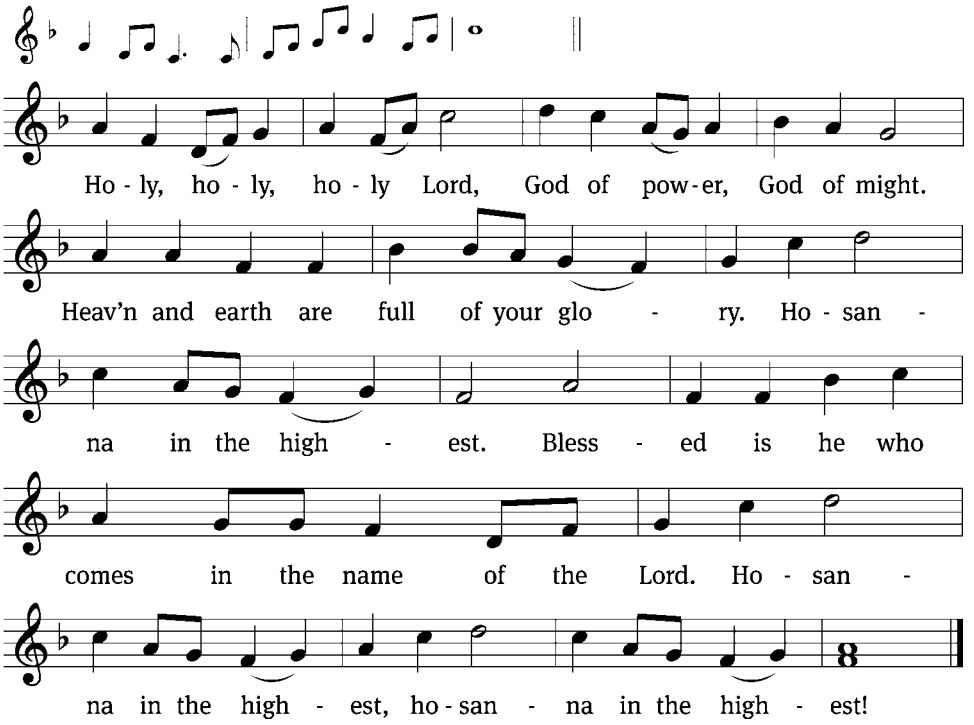


It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again 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)



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Prayer of Thanksgiving

(John 1:3; Romans 8:32)

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.
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)*

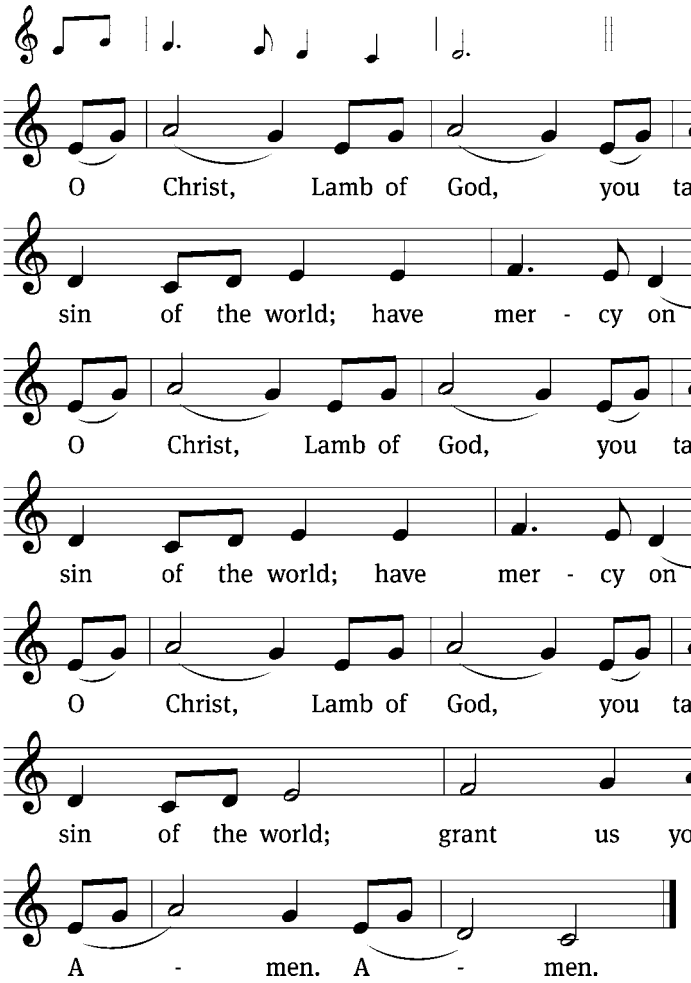
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my T body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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)*



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Please be seated

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

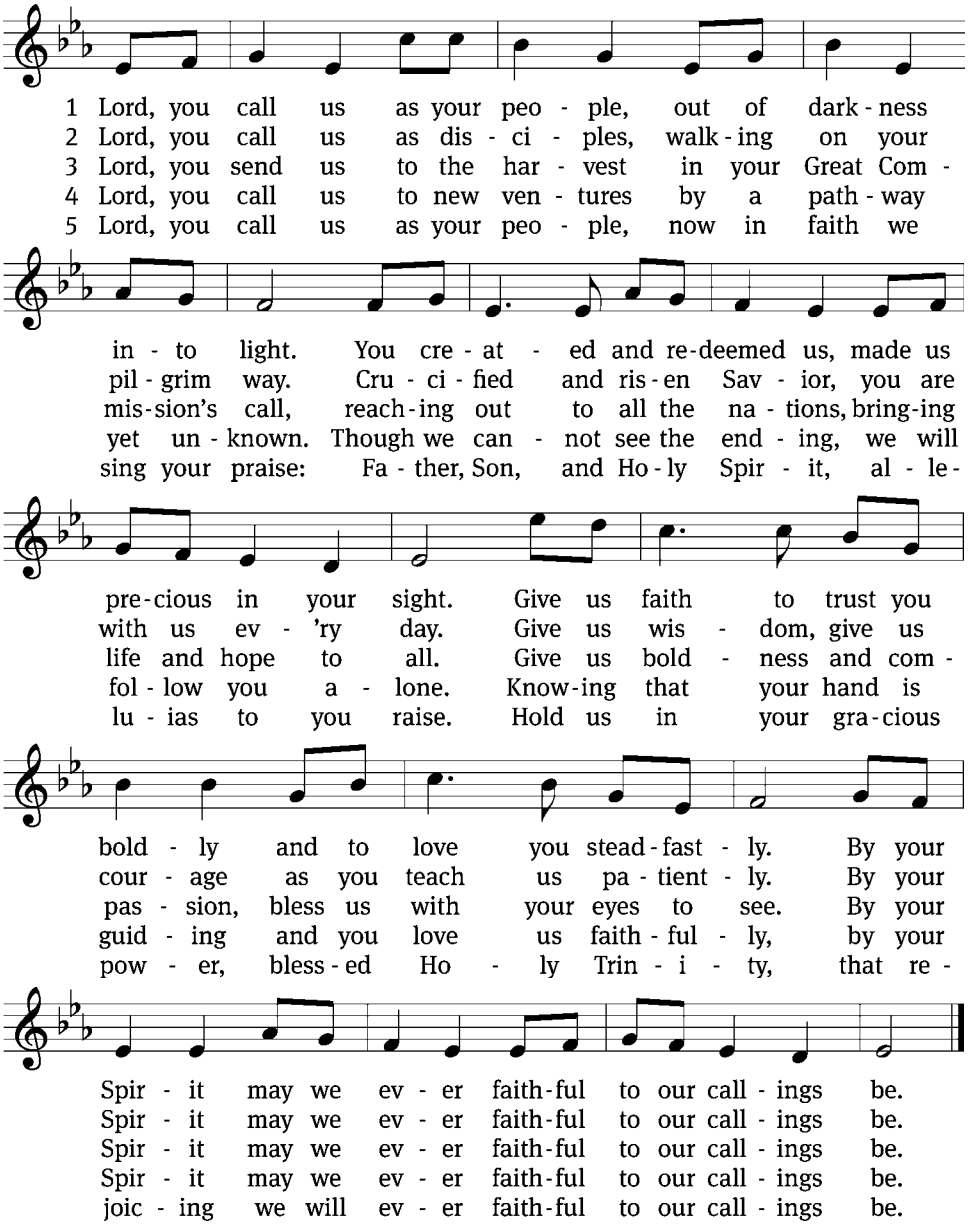
"Christian Questions," a guide for personal preparation before receiving Holy Communion is printed on pages 295-296 in the hymnal. Prayers for before and after communing are printed on the first page of the hymnal.

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 Hymn *736 "Lord, You Call Us as Your People"*



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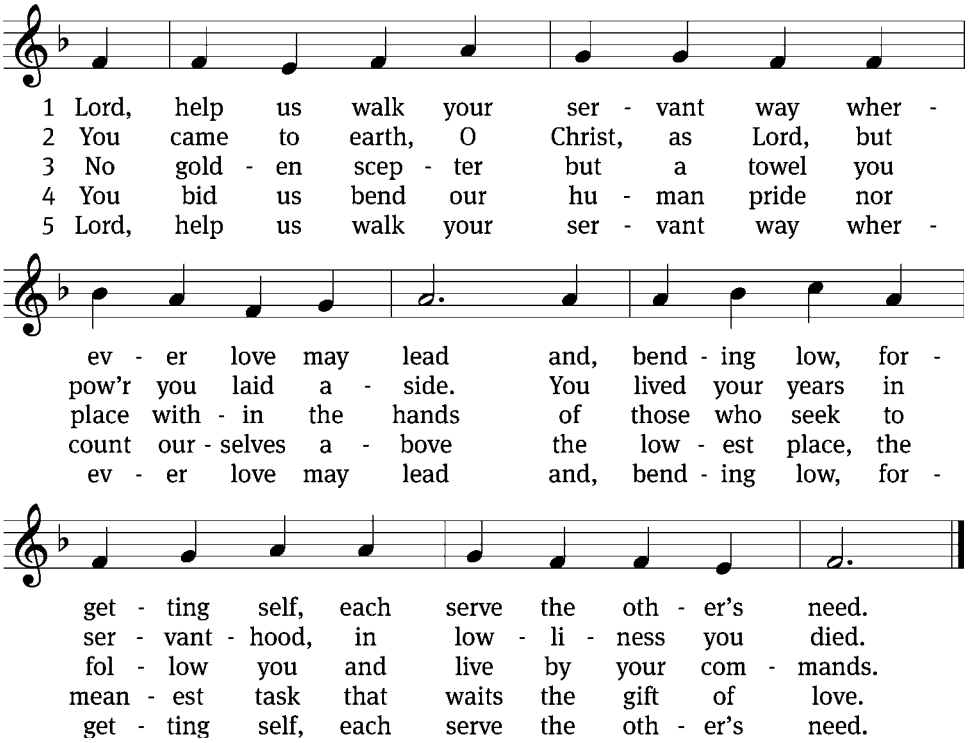
Distribution Hymn

737 "Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way"



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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.

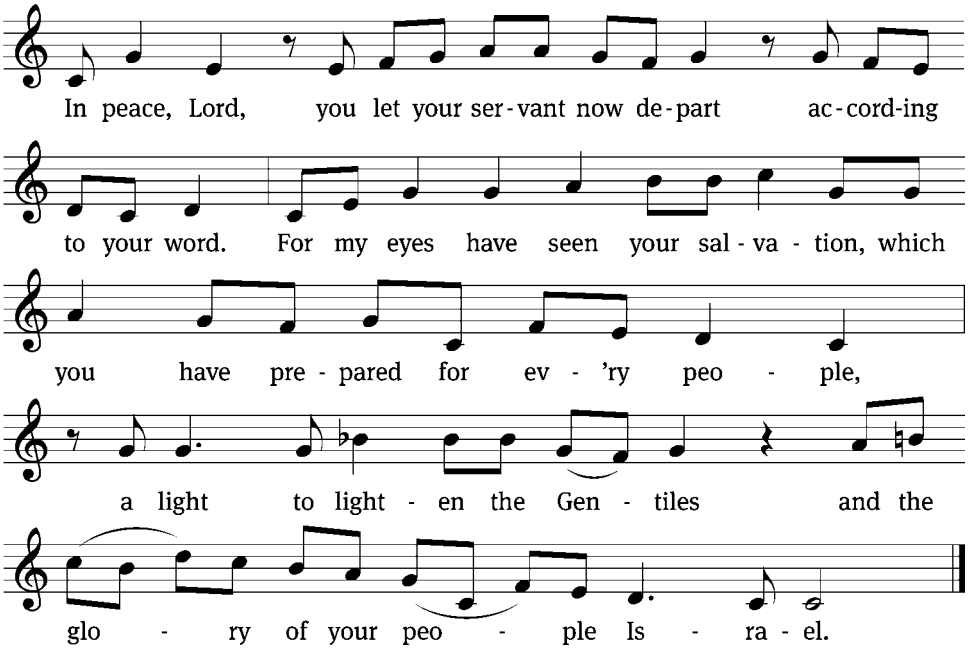
The blood of Christ, poured out for you.
Amen.

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.

Post-Communion Canticle *968 "In Peace, Lord, You Let Your Servant" Nunc Dimittis*

Please stand as the canticle is introduced



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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)

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)

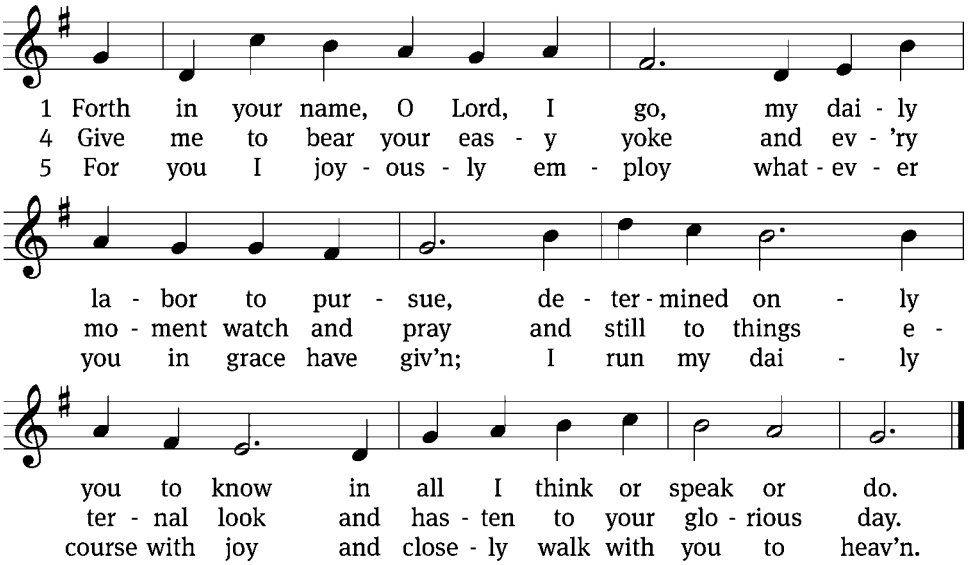
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.

Amen.

Please be seated

Closing Hymn

739 "Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go" (stanzas 1, 4, 5)



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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:

Sarah Bortulin for playing piano… Joe Lopina for serving as distribution assistant…
Luther Schmeling for serving as usher… Brooke Smith 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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