

✚ CHRISTMAS DAY ✚

December 25, 2020



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

✝ NAIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ✝

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Choir Director: Lois Buske

Secretary: Ashley Leyrer

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 us 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 as you worship with us today. Please join us again soon!

Visitors

Thank you for joining us for worship! Please read the following notes about our church. 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 note about our Lord's Supper practices printed later in this bulletin under "Distribution."

Rest Rooms 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.

Mother's Room: Parents with crying children are welcome to use the mother's room, located off of the narthex. The room is equipped with speakers so parents can listen to the service.

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.

Scripture taken from: the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION.

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THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday – December 25, 2020



The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us

With the glory of the Lord still shining from the Luke 2 reading last night, we assemble once again to celebrate with joy “the Word” (in Greek: ὁ λόγος) made flesh.

The time had come for God to fulfill what had been spoken of through the prophets. With the birth of Jesus, light shined in darkness. Heavenly messengers and the glory of the Lord told of his birth. The shepherds hastened to the manger to see this special baby. How could they not? This infant is the Eternal Word of God in human flesh, who came down from heaven to save us from our sins.

The Nativity of Our Lord on Christmas Day is the festival of Jesus’ Incarnation – the truth that the eternal Son of God was born in time as the son of Mary so that in his flesh he might free us from the bondage of sin. From the beginning, the solution to sin was the flesh and blood of God. Therefore today we rejoice in Jesus’ Nativity. God in man has come to us to live, die, and rise again to set us free. Glory to God in the highest!

✚ COMMON SERVICE ✚

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.

Personal Prayer for before Worship: O Lord – our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter – we are assembled in your presence to hear your holy Word. We pray that you would open our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of your Word we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus, and grow daily in grace and holiness. Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

THE PREPARATION

(Job 11:13-15; Psalm 25; Isaiah 40:3-5; Hebrews 4:16)

PRELUDE

61 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

OPENING HYMN

55 "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"



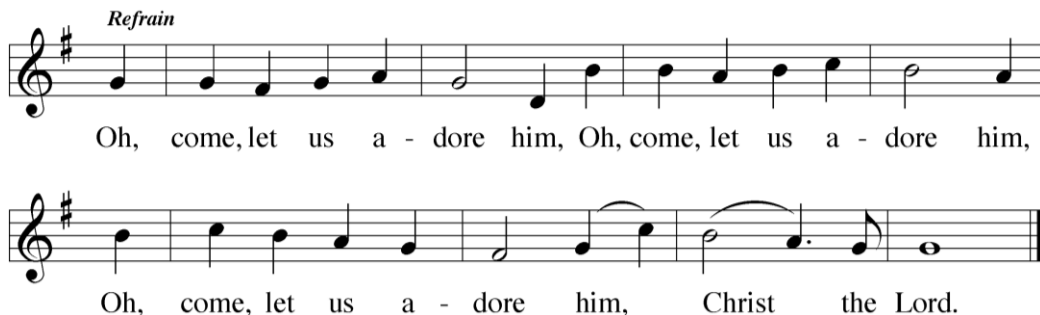
1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes,
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,



Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels.
On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est.
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.



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

** Please stand.*

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

OPENING VERSICLES

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

C: **My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.** (Luke 1:46,47)

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

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

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

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

CONFESSION OF SINS (1 John 1:8-9)

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

** Please remain silent for reflection on God's Word and for repentant self-examination.*

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

KYRIE – LORD, HAVE MERCY (Mark 10:47; Luke 17:12-13)



HOLY ABSOLUTION (John 20:19-23)

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

C: Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS – GLORY TO GOD (Luke 2:14; John 1:29)

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



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

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

sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the

sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of

God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;

you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,

are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

SALUTATION (Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (Philippians 4:6; Matthew 18:19-20)

M: Let us pray.

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

C: Amen.

* Please be seated.

THE WORD

(Romans 10:17; Acts 2:42; 2 Timothy 3:16,17)

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 our church website to read today's "About the Propers," a weekly document explaining the changeable parts of the service.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10

* *After the reading of the Lesson:*

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 98

* *The men & boys will sing the first half of the psalm verse; the women & girls will sing the second half. All will join in the refrain and the "Glory be to the Father..."*

Refrain



Psalm tone



All: **Refrain**

Males: Sing to the LORD a new song,*

Females: *for he has done marvelous things.*

The LORD has made his salvation known*
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness
to the house of Israel;*
*all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.*

Refrain

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,*
burst into jubilant song with music;

make music to the LORD with the harp,*
with the harp and the sound of singing.

Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.*
*He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.*

All: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son***
 and to the Holy Spirit,
 as it was in the beginning,*
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON Hebrews 1:1-9

* After the reading of the Lesson:

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY Galatians 4:4,5 (Psalm 150; Revelation 19)

M: Alleluia. "When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law." Alleluia.



* The pastor processes to the nave floor for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL OF THE DAY John 1:1-14

* *Please stand.*

M: The Holy Gospel for Christmas Day, according to St. John, chapter one.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

* *After the reading of the Gospel:*

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

* *Please be seated.*

HYMN OF THE DAY 35 *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed
3 This is he whom heav'n - taught sing - ers
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him,
5 Christ, to you, with God the Fa - ther,



Ere the worlds be - gan to be, He is
When the vir - gin, full of grace, By the
Sang of old with one ac - cord; Whom the
An - gel hosts his prais - es sing, Pow'rs, do -
And the Spir - it cease - less - ly Hymn and



Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the
Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior
Scrip - tures of the proph - ets Prom - ised in their
min - ions bow be - fore him And ex - tol our
chant and high thanks - giv - ing And un - end - ing

end - ing he, Of the things that are, that
of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -
God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, And that fu - ture years shall
deem - er, First re - vealed his sa - cred
spect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its
si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert
min - ion And e - ter - nal vic - to -

see Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
face Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Lord Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ring Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ry Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

SERMON

John 1:1-14

NICENE CREED (Romans 10:9-10; Philippians 2:10-11)

* Please stand.

C: 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 fully 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.*

OFFERTORY MUSIC 54 *“Where Shepherds Lately Knel”*

** If you have an offering, you can place it in the box in the narthex, mail it to the church, or give online via the link on our church website. Thank you for your financial support of our congregation.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH – CHRISTMAS DAY (1 Timothy 2:1-6; Ephesians 6:18)

** Please remain seated.*

LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4)

C: 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.

THE SACRAMENT

(Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; 1 Corinthians 11)

Visitors, before approaching the altar, please read the note printed later in this bulletin under the section titled "Distribution" so you may be informed about our congregation's Holy Communion practices.

PREFACES

** Please stand.*

M: The Lord be with you. (2 Timothy 4:22; 2 Thessalonians 3:16)

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts. (Colossians 3:1; Lamentations 3:41)

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. (Psalm 107:1; Psalm 136)

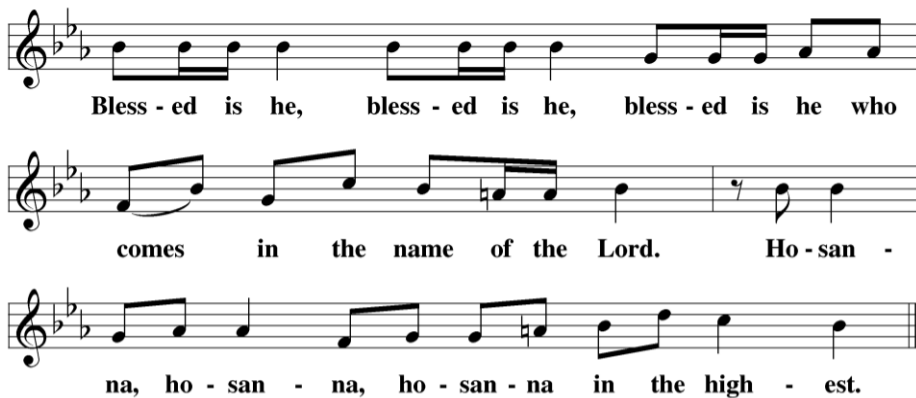
C: It is good and right so to do.

M: 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, for in the wonder and mystery of his 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:

SANCTUS – HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9)

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



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

M: 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."

PAX DOMINI – THE PEACE OF THE LORD (John 20:19)

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI – O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (John 1:29; Isaiah 53:7)





* Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION (1 Corinthians 11:26)

* 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 eating and drinking at our Lord's Table, 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 true Christians 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.

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. 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, when the pastor distributes the bread and body of Christ, he will say, "The body of Christ, given for you." When the pastor distributes the wine and blood of Christ, he will say, "The blood of Christ, shed 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 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 to the pastor that they don't intend to commune.

Personal Prayer for before Holy Communion: Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing.

Receive me, my Savior. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC 50 *"Once in Royal David's City"*
63 *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

Personal Prayer for after Holy Communion: Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS – SONG OF SIMEON (Luke 2:29-32)

* Please stand.



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

THANKSGIVING (Psalm 118:1)

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

M: 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.

C: Amen.

AARONIC BENEDICTION (Numbers 6:24-26)

M: 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.

C: Amen.

** Please be seated.*

CLOSING HYMN 62 "Joy to the World"



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And



earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry
all their songs em - ploy, While fields and
thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to
makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries



heart pre - pare him room And heav'n and
floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re - peat the
make his bless - ings flow Far as the
of his right - eous - ness And won - ders



na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far
of his love, And won - ders of his love, And



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



Personal Prayer for after Worship: Good Shepherd, I was glad to be here, gathered with your flock to worship you. Cause the Word I have heard to take root in my heart and bear fruit in my life. Guide me in paths of righteousness, that my words and actions might lead others to glorify you. In your Name, I pray. Amen.

Thank you for joining us as we together worshiped our Triune God. The Lord be with you this week!

Please contact Pastor Berg if you are need of any pastoral care during the week.

Special thanks to: Linda Loeffel for playing organ; and Ben Leyrer, Peter Hermanson, and Oliva Hermanson for running the sound, playing the music, and recording a video of our service this morning.

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

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