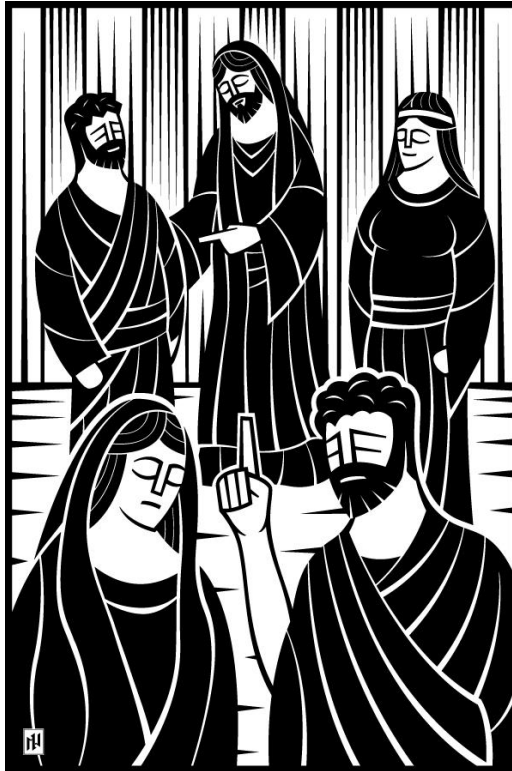


✝ SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS ✝

January 3, 2021



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.facebook.com/nainlutheran



Pastor: Joseph M. Berg

Phone: 414-810-3392

Email: revjberg@gmail.com

Organist: Juanita Becker

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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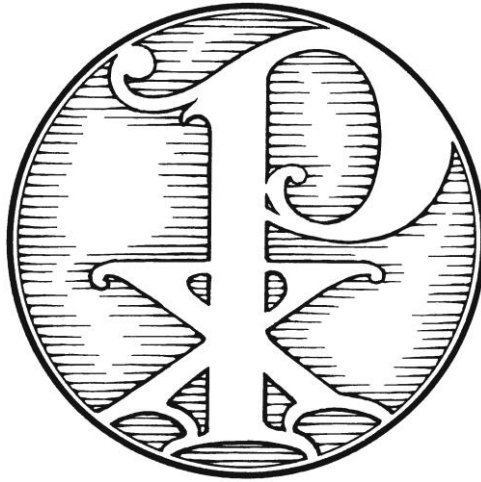
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SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sunday – January 3, 2021



Jesus Reveals and Gives Himself through the Gospel

There are really two miracles in Christmas: that God has become man in the lowliness of the manger, and that he has made it known to us. Why not to everyone else? Because so many are more interested in their own opinions than in Jesus' revealed Word.

In today's Gospel we hear that those who did not compare Jesus with what the Bible promised concerning him missed out on who he really was; they knew a little of that Word but were not married to it. The real Jesus, the Savior and God-man, does not give himself apart from his Word.

People are still divided about Jesus. God wants us to stay on the correct side of the divide from now until eternity. Therefore as we begin a new year of getting to know Jesus, let us listen ever more attentively to his Word, so that he may hold us close to himself through it.

✚ 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)

OPENING HYMN

41 "Let All Together Praise Our God"



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his
2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine A ser - vant's
4 A won - drous change which he does make: He takes our
5 He serves that I a lord may be— A great ex -



high - est throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain And
in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
form to take; In want and low - li - ness must die Who
flesh and blood, And he con - ceals for sin - ners' sake His
change in - deed! Could Je - sus' love do more for me To



gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.
in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
heav'n and earth did make, Who heav'n and earth did make.
maj - es - ty as God, His maj - es - ty as God.
help me in my need, To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door
Of paradise today.
The angel guards the gate no more;
To God our thanks we pay,
To God our thanks we pay.

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.

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)

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy

on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

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.



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



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;



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

Micah 5:2-5a

** After the reading of the Lesson:*

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 148

* *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..."*



All: ***Refrain***

Males: Praise the LORD from the heavens,*

Females: *praise him in the heights above.*

Praise him, all his angels,*
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon,*
praise him, all you shining stars.

Refrain

Praise the LORD from the earth,*
lightning and hail, stormy winds that do his bidding,

you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,*
wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,

kings of the earth and all rulers on earth,*
young men and maidens, old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the LORD,*
for his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

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 2:10-18**

** After the reading of the Lesson:*

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY **Psalm 98:3b** **(Psalm 150; Revelation 19)**

M: Alleluia. "All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God." Alleluia.



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

GOSPEL OF THE DAY **John 7:40-43**

** Please stand.*

M: The Holy Gospel for the Second Sunday after Christmas, according to St. John, chapter seven.

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.*



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



voice; He from whom joy stream - eth Poor
 thee. Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O
 vine. Death o'er us had reign - ed Through
 ground? Where the an - gels sing - ing With



in a man - ger lies; Not so bright - ly
 pure and ho - ly Child; Through thy grace and
 sin and van - i - ty; He for us ob -
 all his saints u - nite, Sweet - est prais - es



beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
 mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
 tain - ed E - ter - nal joy on high.
 bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



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

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 262 “All Glory Be to God Alone”

** 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.*

DEDICATION OF THE NEW PASCHAL CANDLE

** Please remain seated.*

M: Let us pray.

O Lord our God, we praise and thank you for establishing among us a place where we may worship you and where your Word may be proclaimed and your sacraments received. You have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift. You are pleased with the offerings of faith which your people bring to glorify your holy

name. Look with favor on us as we present this new Paschal Candle to your praise and glory.

C: Amen.

M: We dedicate this candle for service at the altar of God, in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

May it remind us continually that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, the Light that shines in our hearts to give us the knowledge of the glory of God.

M: Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help, that in all our works—begun, continued, and ended in you—we may glorify your holy name and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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

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.

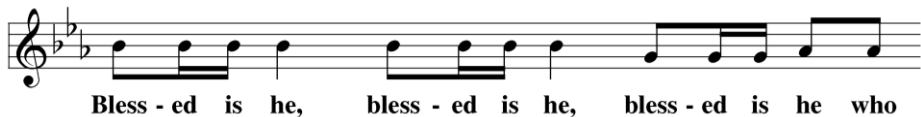
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. (Psalm 107:1; Psalm 136)

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)



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)



The musical notation is written on five staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

* 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 67 "What Child Is This"
359 "Jesus, My Great High Priest"

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.

The musical notation is written on a single staff in treble clef with a common time signature (C). It consists of four lines of music. The first line contains the lyrics 'C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing'. The second line contains 'to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-'. The third line contains 'pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the'. The fourth line contains 'Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.' The melody is simple and melodic, with a final cadence at the end of the fourth line.

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

42 vv 1,2,5 "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"



1 Come, your hearts and voic - es rais - ing, Christ the
2 See how God, for us pro - vid - ing, Gave his
5 Gra - cious Child, we pray you, hear us; From your



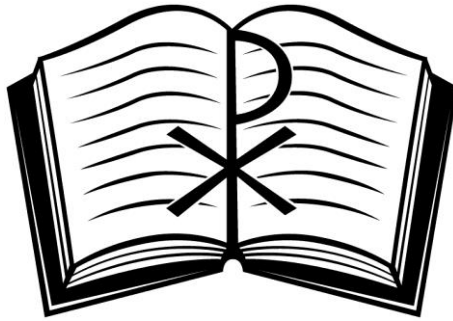
Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing his love a -
Son and life a - bid - ing; He our wea - ry steps is
low - ly man - ger cheer us. Gent - ly lead us and be



maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.
guid - ing From earth's woe to heav'n - ly joy.
near us Till we join th' an - gel - ic choir.



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: Juanita Becker for playing organ; Peter Hermanson for serving as cantor; and Ben Leyrer and Oliva Hermanson for running the audio, playing the music, and recording a video of the service on Saturday.

*All worshipers are encouraged to take home a copy of our **weekly newsletter, the "Nain Messenger"** to stay informed about all congregational news. Several copies are available on the countertop in the narthex.*

"The Congregation at Prayer," a document offering suggestions for daily devotions and Scripture readings, is posted on 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*

The Paschal Candle

Paschal, meaning "having to do with the Passover," is a word associated with Easter, for it was at the conclusion of the Jewish Passover Festival (the "Pasch") that Jesus rose from the dead and proved himself to be the true Passover Lamb whose blood removes the threat of death (Exodus 12 & 1 Corinthians 6:6-8).

Paschal Candles are usually very large, white, and inscribed with a cross and the Greek letters Alpha (Α) and Omega (Ω) – the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet – which symbolize that Christ is eternal, the beginning and end (Revelation 1:8; 22:13).

The Paschal Candle is lit every Easter morning to symbolize that Christ is alive and lives among his people. It is then lit for every service during the season of Easter as we continue to celebrate Christ's resurrection. The candle is also lit at Holy Baptisms and Christian funerals, reminding us of the believer's new birth and resurrection to eternal life through Christ our Lord.