

✝ THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD ✝

January 6, 2021



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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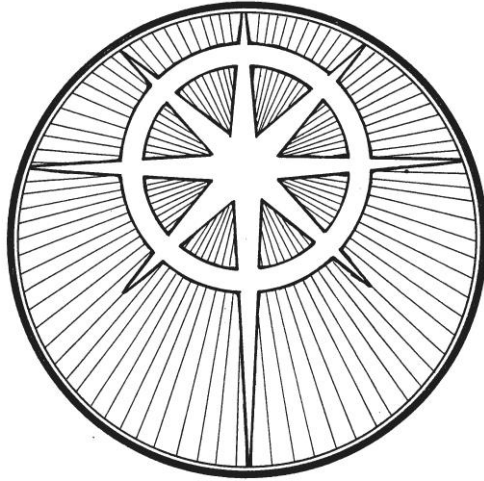
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THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Sunday – January 6, 2021



Jesus Appears as the Savior of the Nations

The Festival of the Epiphany of Our Lord focuses on the Magi's visit to the Christ Child. In that respect, it is a "Thirteenth Day" of Christmas, the Gentile Christmas. It also marks the beginning of a new season of the Church Year. While Christmas has focused on the Incarnation of our Lord – that is, on God becoming flesh – the season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. So bright is the dawning of the Son, so great is the fullness of his glory, that his light not only fills the dark streets of Bethlehem, but the ends of the earth. Jew and Gentile alike gather to worship him who is born ruler of Judah and Shepherd of all Israel.

The Lord himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of his true light. He does so chiefly by his Word of the Gospel, which he causes to be preached within his Church on earth, not only to the Jews, but also to Gentiles. As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ Child with his mother in the house, so does he call disciples from all nations by the preaching of his Word, to find him in his Word and Sacraments, receive his love, and worship him.

✚ 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

80 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch-ing o'er your
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla-tions; Brigh - ter vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend-ing, Watch-ing long in



all the earth; Once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry;
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing—
beam a - far. Seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
Yon - der shines the in - fant light. Come and wor-ship,
You have seen the Sav - ior's star.
In his tem - ple shall ap - pear.



come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

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 (based on John 1)

M: In Christ is life; the life which is the light of the world.

C: **The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

M: There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe.

C: **He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.**

M: The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

C: **Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Whoever follows him will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.**

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)



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.



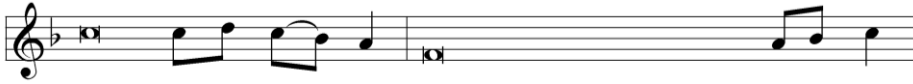
C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



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



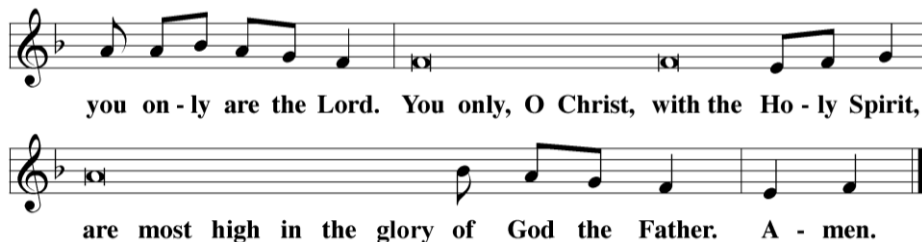
sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



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.

Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; 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 60:1-6

** After the reading of the Lesson:*

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 72

* 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



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God.



Let all the peo - ple praise you.

Psalm tone



All: Refrain

Males: Endow the King with your justice, O God,*

Females: the royal Son with your righteousness.

He will defend the afflicted among the people*
and save the children of the needy.

He will endure as long as the sun,*
as long as the moon, through all generations.

He will be like rain falling on a mown field,*
like showers watering the earth.

Refrain

All kings will bow down to him,*
and all nations will serve him.

All nations will be blessed through him,*
and they will call him blessed.

Praise be to the LORD God, who alone does marvelous deeds.*
May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

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 Ephesians 3:2-12

** After the reading of the Lesson:*

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY Matthew 2:2b (Psalm 150; Revelation 19)

M: Alleluia. (The Magi said of Jesus) "We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." 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 Matthew 2:1-12

** Please stand.*

M: The Holy Gospel for the Epiphany of Our Lord, according to St. Matthew, chapter two.

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 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see and
 2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won, True Son of God and
 3 O might - y Fa - ther, in your Son You loved me ere you
 4 Oh, joy to know that you, my Friend, Are Lord, be - gin - ning
 5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, Let all glad sounds of



hail a - far The light in Ju - dah shin - ing.
 Mar - y's Son, The high - born King of a - ges!
 had be - gun This an - cient world's foun - da - tion.
 with - out end, The first and last, e - ter - nal!
 mu - sic ring In God's high prais - es blend - ed.



O Da - vid's Son of Ja - cob's race, My Bride-groom
 In your blest bod - y let me be, E'en as the
 Your Son has made a friend of me, And when in
 And you at length—O glo - rious grace— Will take me
 Christ will be with me all the way, To - day, to -



and my King of grace, For you my heart is pin - ing.
 branch is in the tree, Your life my life sup - ply - ing.
 spir - it him I see, I joy in trib - u - la - tion.
 to that ho - ly place, The home of joys su - per - nal.
 mor - row, ev - 'ry day Till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.



Low - ly, Ho - ly, Great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
 Sigh - ing, Cry - ing For the sa - vor Of your fa - vor
 What bliss Is this! He is liv - ing, To me giv - ing
 A - men, A - men! Come and meet me, Quick - ly greet me!
 Sing out, Ring out Tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious



SERMON

Matthew 2:1-12

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

82 "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

** 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 – *THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD* (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, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth.

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.
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. 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)

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 90 "The People that in Darkness Sat"
 92 "Brightest and Best"

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

83 vv 1,4 *"As with Gladness Men of Old"*

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, key of D major (indicated by two sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words split across lines. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the third line. The lyrics are: 1 As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the star - be - hold, As with joy they hailed its light, nar - row way; And, when earth - ly things are past, Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, So, most gra - cious Bring our ran - somed souls at last Where they need no



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: Peter Hermanson for serving as cantor; and Ben Leyrer, Peter Hermanson, Oliva Hermanson, and Isaiah Johnston for running the audio, playing the music, and recording a video 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. 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