

✚ THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT ✚

December 12, 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

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Pastor: Joseph M. Berg
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Organist: Deb Buske
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 of Holy Communion."

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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GAUDETE

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 12, 2021



The Season of Advent
When the Lord Comes Near

"Advent" is a Latin word that means "coming." The season of Advent is the four-week period before Christmas that the Church uses to connect the two "comings" of Christ. The first time the Lord came into our world it was as a tiny, helpless baby, born in a manger in Bethlehem. However, when Jesus comes again, it will be in all his power and glory with his angelic army behind him. He will be coming as judge at the end of time. Let us use these four weeks to see how the events of Jesus' first coming remove all our fears about his second coming. We can hold our heads high *when the Lord comes near*.

Third Sunday in Advent
When the Lord Comes Near, He humbles His Enemies

The Third Sunday in Advent is traditionally known as "*Gaudete*" Sunday. The Sunday derives its name from the Latin words of the Introit (opening verses) of the day: "Rejoice (*Gaudete*) in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4). The focus of this morning's readings, as well as the pink/rose Advent candle fit with the mood of the day: joy in Christ.

The Lord who once came near in flesh and now comes near in Word and sacrament will one day come near with consuming fire and judgment. The Lord will humble his enemies. This truth does two important things. First, it adds urgency to God's Advent call to repentance. Second, it gives us comfort when we, as God's people, experience opposition from the world. Those who oppress and harm God's people will face justice.

✚ 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 prayers for worship are printed on pages 10-11, 134-139, and 156 in the front of the hymnal.

"Understanding Lutheran Worship" provides excellent information about the Lutheran Liturgy, the Christian Church Year, and the Books of the Bible. A copy of the booklet is located in the hymnal rack of each pew.

THE PREPARATION

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

OPENING HYMN 7 *"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"*

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

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.



OPENING VERSICLES

M: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

C: on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." (Isaiah 9:2)

M: Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel!

C: Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! (Zephaniah 3:14)

M: I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God.

C: For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness. (Isaiah 61:10)

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.



THE ADVENT CANDLE (John 8:12; Luke 12:35)

M: We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

C: We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

M: We hear his call to see the light.

C: **We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

** For more information about the history and significance of the Advent wreath and candles, please read the notes on the back page of this bulletin.*

SONG OF PRAISE

23 v1 "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

** The hymn verse will be preceded by a brief introduction.*

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive

Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!

Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

** Traditionally, the Gloria in Excelsis is not sung during the penitential season of Advent. During this time of preparation, the Church looks forward to the return of the glorious song of the angels on Christmas Day in celebration of God fulfilling his promises in Christ.*

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

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

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

M: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

* 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 pick up a copy of "About the Propers," a weekly document explaining the changeable parts of the service. Several copies are available on the countertop in the narthex.

FIRST LESSON Zephaniah 3:14-17

The prophet Zephaniah urges us to rejoice. Not only has the Lord taken away our punishment, but he will defeat all the enemies of God's people.

* After the reading of the Lesson:

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 130 page 114 in the front of the hymnal

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

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7

When the world opposes Christ and his Church, Christians do not respond with anxiety or anger, but gentleness. We bring all our concerns to God in prayer and rest in his peace of knowing the Lord will humble his enemies in due time.

* After the reading of the Lesson:

M: The Word of Our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 11:10

(Psalm 150; Revelation 19)

M: Alleluia. "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." 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

Luke 3:7-18

Who is Christ's enemy? Anyone who refuses the gifts of his grace, received humbly in repentant faith.

M: The Holy Gospel for the Third Sunday in Advent, according to St. Luke, chapter three.



* After the reading of the Gospel:

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord!



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

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.*

HYMN OF THE DAY 14 "Arise, O Christian People"

SERMON Luke 3:7-18 "Rejoice in keeping with repentance"

CREATE IN ME (Psalm 51:10-12)

** Please stand.*





* *Please be seated.*

OFFERTORY

* Offering Collection

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.

God, who blesses us with all we have, gives us the privilege of showing him our thanks in many ways. One of these ways is by giving back a portion of what he has given us to support the spread of his Gospel. If you are a guest, please don't feel that you must give an offering. We are happy to share with you the free, good news of Jesus' eternal love for you.

* Friendship Registers

A Friendship Register (i.e. the maroon book) is located at the end of each pew. Sometime before you leave, please write in 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

ADVENT

page 123

in the front of the hymnal

* *Please stand at the direction of the pastor.*

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

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



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



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

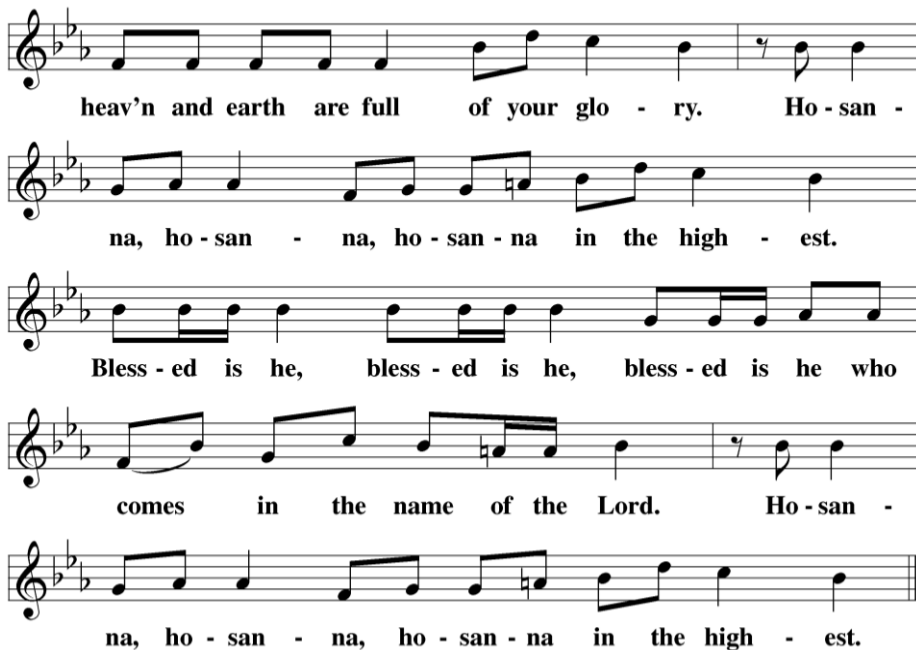


M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

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.



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

A guide for personal preparation before receiving Holy Communion is found on page 156 in the front of the hymnal. Prayers for before and after Holy Communion are found on page 11.

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

You 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 don't intend to commune.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

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

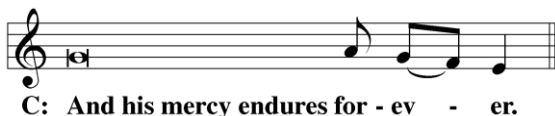
* Please stand.



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 for - ev - er.

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.



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.



* Please be seated.

CLOSING HYMN

12 "Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"

✚ ✚ ✚

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

A personal prayer for after worship is printed on page 11 in the front of the hymnal.

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:** Deb Buske for playing organ; Mark Buske for serving as distribution assistant; Michael Kraft for serving as usher; Peter Hermanson and Aaron Palmer for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream.*

*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.*

***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.*

*Nain is a member congregation of the **Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod**.
For more information about our synod, please visit its website: www.wels.net*

Please join us this Wednesday at 4:00 or 7:00 pm for our midweek Advent service.

We will follow the order of Evening Prayer and hear readings from St. Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians and the Gospel of St. Mark. The 7:00 pm service will be live streamed. Please visit our website to be directed to Nain's YouTube channel.



Advent & Christmas Service Schedule

Please join us for these worship services, as we focus on our Savior's coming to save us from our sins.

First Sunday in Advent	November 28	Sunday	8:00 am	10:30 am
Midweek Advent 1	December 1	Wednesday	4:00 pm	7:00 pm
Second Sunday in Advent	December 5	Sunday	8:00 am	10:30 am
Midweek Advent 2	December 8	Wednesday	4:00 pm	7:00 pm
Third Sunday in Advent	December 12	Sunday	8:00 am	10:30 am
Midweek Advent 3	December 15	Wednesday	4:00 pm	7:00 pm
Fourth Sunday in Advent	December 19	Sunday	8:00 am	10:30 am
The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve	December 24	Friday	4:00 pm	7:00 pm
The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day	December 25	Saturday	8:00 am	10:30 am
First Sunday after Christmas	December 26	Sunday	8:00 am	10:30 am
Second Sunday after Christmas	January 2	Sunday	8:00 am	10:30 am



The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is believed to have originated in Germany, as a folk custom. The evergreen branches symbolize God's unending love for us, and eternal life found in Christ. The four candles set in the wreath represent the four Sundays in the season of Advent. The lighting of the candles each week in Advent marks the growing anticipation for the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

Various traditions explain the color for the candles.

Some churches use three purple or violet candles on the first, second, and fourth Sundays to remind us that Advent is a season of repentance. Other churches use three blue candles on these Sundays to symbolize our hope and expectation at the coming of Jesus; especially his second coming in glory on the Last Day.

A rose or pink candle is often used on the third Sunday, historically observed as Gaudete (Rejoice!) Sunday as a reminder that Advent is also a time of joy.

The fifth candle, if used, is white. It is lighted on Christmas Day and symbolizes the perfection and purity of God's gift to sinners: his righteous Son, Jesus Christ.

Some traditions associate a theme with each candle. One tradition is as follows...

The **Prophecy Candle**: Also called the Hope Candle, this violet or blue candle symbolizes the Old Testament prophecies of Christ's coming.

The **Bethlehem Candle**: Also called the Peace Candle, this violet or blue candle symbolizes the birth of Jesus to the Virgin Mary in the town of Bethlehem.

The **Shepherds' Candle**: Also called the Joy Candle, this pink or rose-colored candle symbolizes the coming of the Savior into the hearts and lives of believers, like the shepherds at Jesus' birth.

The **Angels' Candle**: Also called the Good News Candle, this violet or blue candle symbolizes the final glorious coming of the Savior with all his angels on the Last Day.

The **Christ Candle**: This white candle symbolizes the day of Jesus' birth, the coming we've been waiting for, the advent of Jesus, the Light of the World.