

✚ FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ✚

September 18, 2022



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

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Pastor: Joseph M. Berg
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Organist: Jess Brewster
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 those who believe in him forgiveness of sins, unity with him in new life, and the promise of eternal salvation in heaven! Through this same gospel he motivates and equips us to follow his holy will for our lives. We hope that you are comforted with the message of Jesus Christ's love for you as you worship today. Please join us again soon!

Visitors

Thank you for joining us for worship! Please read the following notes about our 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.

Parent's Room

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

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.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 20

September 18, 2022



Sundays after Pentecost

Hard Truth

With a sense of extreme urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even if we do not want to hear them. As Jesus teaches hard truth, he challenges conventional wisdom. He reverses the normal and natural order of things. This should not surprise us, considering this Teacher's life and work are the opposite of what one would expect. When the truth is hard to hear, the first temptation is to deny it. We cannot do that with Jesus' teaching, for he never lies. When the truth is hard to hear, the second temptation is to simply ignore it. To do that with Jesus is to court eternal death. Thus, Jesus' words contain an urgent warning: Listen! Take to heart what Jesus says! For his Word, though it contains hard truth, gives eternal life.

Proper 20

Serve God with Money; You Can't Serve God and Money

There are more than 2300 Bible passages that speak about money. Why? Money is a master Satan frequently tempts us to serve. And that evil foe knows how successful his efforts with money can be. Money provides us with a false comfort and a sense of security. It serves as a source of pride. It serves as a wonderful tool for a favorite pastime: justifying ourselves in our own eyes and the eyes of others. Jesus knows that serving money makes it impossible to serve God. The human heart is not big enough for both. As a result, Jesus does all he can to expose the futility of serving money. He also helps us see that the only one truly worth serving is our gracious, loving God. When we serve God, money is put in its proper place. Instead of money being a lord to serve, it becomes a resource for serving the Lord. This is the hard truth. There is no way for us to serve both God and money. But we can serve God with our money.

The Service

Setting One

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 red hymnal.

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

The Preparation

Opening Hymn

341 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Please stand

Invocation

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

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

(1 John 1:8-9; Luke 18:13)

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just

and will forgive us our sins

and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

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

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

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy Kyrie

(Mark 10:47; Luke 17:13)

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



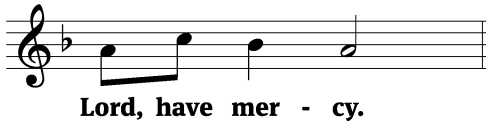
Lord, have mer - cy.

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

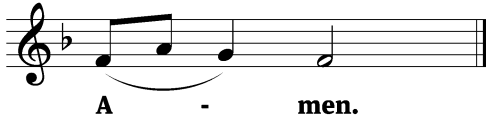


Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



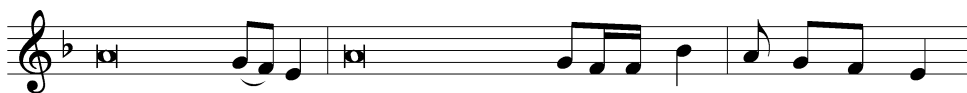
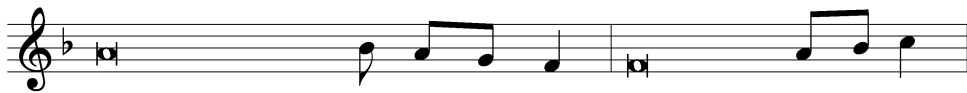
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



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Glory be to God *Gloria in Excelsis*

(Luke 2:14; John 1:29; Acts 7:56)

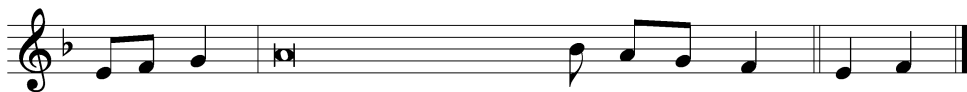




You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



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.

The Word

Salutation

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

(Matthew 7:7-11; Philippians 4:6)

Let us pray.

O God, you have told us not to be anxious about what we need for this life. Move our hearts to seek you and your kingdom, that all good things may be given to us as well; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

King Solomon knew from experience that if you serve money, you will end up disappointed.

After the reading of the Lesson:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 38 *page 81*

The men & boys will sing the first half of the psalm verse; the women & girls will sing the second half.

All will join together to sing the refrains and the “Glory be to the Father...”

Second Reading

1 Timothy 6:6-10,17-19

Saint Paul teaches in straightforward language that serving money will lead to spiritual destruction. But serving God with our money leads to a fulfilling life.

After the reading of the Lesson:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 6:33



Refrain



Tone



Seek first his kingdom and his right - eous - ness,

Refrain



and all these things will be given to you as well.

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The minister processes to the nave floor for the Gospel, symbolizing Christ's presence among us in his Word

Gospel

Luke 16:1-13

All money actually belongs to God; he loans it to us to manage for his glory. Through a parable, Jesus teaches us to be shrewd in the way we use money to serve him.

After the reading of the Gospel:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

421 "All Depends on Our Possessing"

Sermon

Luke 16:1-13

"Your Bill Is Paid in Full"

Please stand

Nicene Creed *Credo*

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

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Please be seated

Prayer of the Church

(Matthew 18:19,20; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Let us pray.

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love and take them into your tender care.

Special prayers and intercessions

The Christian Church has traditionally marked September 21 as a day to remember God's work through St. Matthew, Apostle. We will recognize this minor church year festival in our prayers today.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Offering

(Proverbs 3:9-10; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Matthew 6:19-21; 25-34)

Offering Collection

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 work of the Church.

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.

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!

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.

The Sacrament

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

Please stand

Prefaces

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

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy *Sanctus*

(Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9)



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.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

(John 1:3; Romans 8:32)

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

(Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Words of Institution *Verba* (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

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

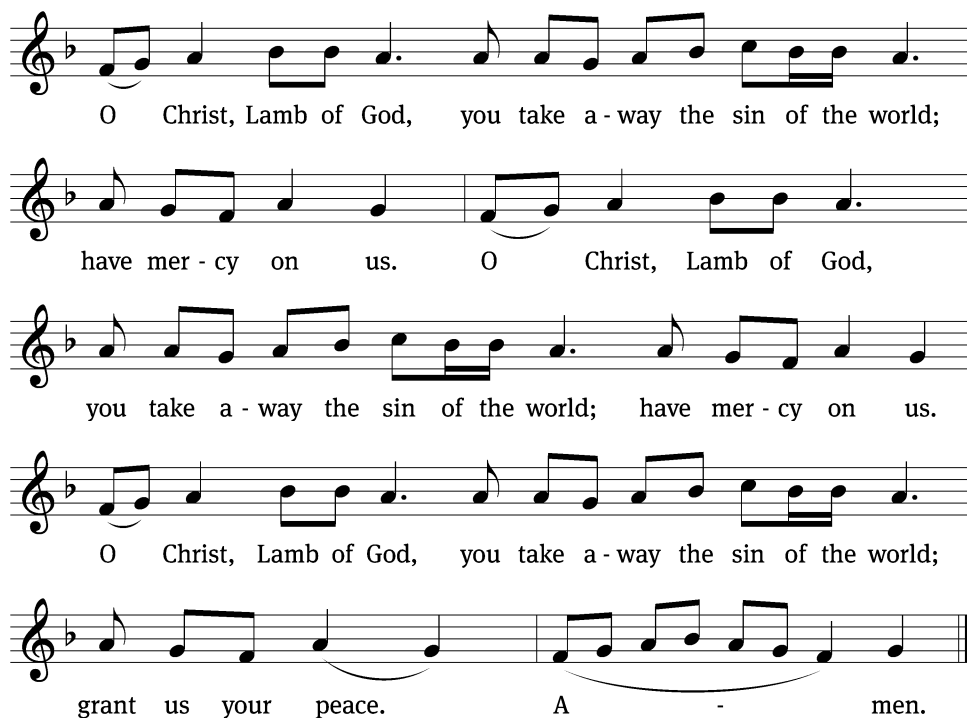
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Peace of the Lord *Pax Domini* (John 14:27; 20:19; 2 Thessalonians 3:16)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei* (John 1:29; Isaiah 53:7)



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 11:23-26; Acts 2:42)

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 believers in God's Holy Christian Church (i.e. the Communion of Saints). Confirmed members of Nain and confirmed visiting members of sister congregations in the WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) and the ELS (Evangelical Lutheran Synod) are welcome to commune.

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, poured out for you." Before consuming the sacramental elements, you may respond to the pastor's words by saying, "Amen" (which is Hebrew for, "Truly," or "Yes, it is so") as a way to confess your belief that the body and blood of Jesus are truly present in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of your sins.

Children and Non-Communicants

Children and non-communicants are welcome to approach the altar to receive a blessing from the pastor. He will make the sign of the cross on the head of each and say, "The Lord bless you." Non-Communicant adults are asked to cross their arms over their chest to indicate that they don't intend to commune.

Distribution Hymn

486 "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

Please stand

Thanksgiving

(Psalm 118:1)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Proclamation

(1 Corinthians 11:26)

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Post-Communion Prayer

(Romans 15:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 3:12, 5:11)

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

(Numbers 6:24-26)

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

Amen.

Please be seated

Closing Hymn

470 "Praise to You and Adoration"



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

You will not be ushered out. You may depart any time after the conclusion of the closing hymn.

*If you haven't done so already, **please write your name in the Friendship Register before you leave.***

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.

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

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



Special thanks to: Jess Brewster for playing organ... Ben Leyrer for serving as distribution assistant... Michael Kraft for serving as usher... Brooke Smith and Joe Lopina for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream... and Kathy Sutton for taking care of altar duty.

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.

For more information about today’s Scripture readings, the current season of the Church Year, and the words and symbols featured on the paraments, please visit the “Worship Resources” page of our website to read this Sunday’s **“About the Propers,”** a weekly document that explains the changeable parts of the service.

“The Congregation at Prayer,” a document offering suggestions for daily devotions and Scripture readings, is also posted on the “Worship Resources” page of our church website.

“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.

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

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

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