

✠ EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD ✠

January 6, 2023



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

✚ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church ✚

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Organist: David Porth
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 congregation. 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 notes printed later in this bulletin under the section titled "Our Holy Communion Practices."

Restrooms

Restrooms 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

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.

Epiphany of Our Lord

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Christmas

A Savior Is Born

The first Christmas sermon was preached to a small congregation consisting entirely of shepherds. The preacher was an angel. The message of his sermon? “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you.” That is a heavy word: Savior. It says as much about us as it does about this child. If one needs saving, it means he is totally helpless—completely lost—doomed, without outside intervention. That is how God the Father viewed us: helpless, lost, doomed. So, he sent his only Son to be our Savior. Rejoice! A Savior is born to you!

Epiphany of Our Lord

A Savior Is Born for All the Nations

The twelve days of Christmas culminate with the celebration of the Epiphany of our Lord. We commemorate the day when magi from afar worshiped the Christ Child. Before that day, Jesus had been worshiped by individuals of Jewish descent: the shepherds, elderly Simeon, the prophetess Anna. But Scripture said the coming Savior would be God’s gift to all nations. Epiphany proves that God keeps his promises, as he miraculously led foreigners to worship their Savior. Thus, Epiphany is sometimes called the Gentile Christmas. (The celebration of Epiphany likely precedes that of Christmas. Evidence of the Festival of Epiphany dates to Clement of Alexandria at the end of the second century.)

Epiphany continues to play out to this very day. God worked through a special star to bring the magi into the presence of their Savior—for Christ’s glory and the magi’s blessing. Likewise, God has controlled time and space to bring you into the presence of your Savior—for Christ’s glory and your blessing. Thus, the magi were only the first in a long line of Gentiles who would join Israel in worshiping Jesus as King. Indeed, a Savior is born for all the nations! Come, let us adore him!

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.

A personal prayer for before worship is printed on the first page of the blue hymnal.

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

The Preparation

Tolling of the Bells

Opening Hymn

376 "Rise Up and Shine"



1 Rise up and shine! Your light has come; God's
2 Fling wide your gates, both day and night; no

glo - ry breaks like dawn. For though the earth be
more keep watch or guard. You will be called God's

cloaked in night and gloom shrouds ev - 'ry - one,
ho - ly hill, the cit - y of the Lord.

yet o - ver you the Lord will rise, with
No sound of strife will plague your land, nor

glo - ry gleam - ing clear, till na - tions turn to
harm be - siege your ways; "Sal - va - tion" will you
seek your light and hum - bled kings draw near.
name your walls, and all your por - tals "Praise."

Please stand for the last stanza and direct your attention to the processional cross as it is brought to the chancel.

3 No more will you im - plore the sun to
shed by day its light, nor will you need the
change - ful moon to glis - ten through the night.
Your glo - ry then will be your God, whose
light will nev - er cease. Rise up and shine! Your
light has come to give you joy and peace.

Invocation

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

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

Opening Dialogue

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.

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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy Kyrie

(Psalm 51:1; 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.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



A - men.

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Glory be to God *Gloria in Excelsis*

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



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,



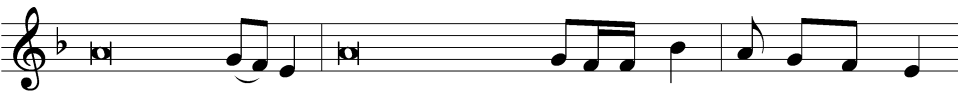
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



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;



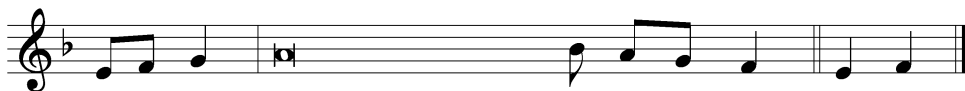
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



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



For you on-ly are holy; 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.

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 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

Isaiah 60:1-6

The prophet foretold that one born king of the Jews would draw kings from distant nations to the light of his glory.

- 60** Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.
- ² Look, darkness covers the earth,
and deep darkness covers the peoples,
but the LORD will dawn upon you,
and his glory will be seen over you.
- ³ Nations will walk to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ Look up. Look all around and see!
All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you.
Your sons will come from far away,
and people will carry your daughters on their side.
- ⁵ Then you will look and be radiant.
Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.
For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you.
The wealth of the nations will come to you.
- ⁶ Caravans of camels will cover your land,
young camels from Midian and Ephah.
All those from Sheba will come.
They will carry gold and incense,
and they will announce the good news of the praise of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

384 “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” (Psalm 72 E)

The entire congregation will sing together the whole Psalm / Hymn



1 Hail to the Lord’s a - noint - ed, great Da - vid’s great - er Son!
2 He comes with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
3 Kings shall bow down be - fore him and gold and in - cense bring;
4 O’er ev - ’ry foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
to help the poor and need - y and bid the weak be strong,
all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing.
from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest.



He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light
To him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as - cend,
The tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;



to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are pre - cious in his sight.
his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.
his name shall stand for - ev - er—that name to us is Love.

*Text: James Montgomery
Tune: Leonhart Schröter
Text and tune: Public domain*

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:2-12

St. Paul explains that people of all nations are united together as complete equals in the Savior’s kingdom of grace.

²Surely you have heard of the administration of God’s grace given to me for you, ³namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly).

⁵This mystery was not made known to people in past generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and people who also share in the promise through the gospel.

7I became a servant of this gospel, in keeping with the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. 8To me—even though I am the very least of all the saints—was given this grace: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ 9and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. 10He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God in the heavenly places might now be made known to the rulers and authorities. 11This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced

Gospel Acclamation

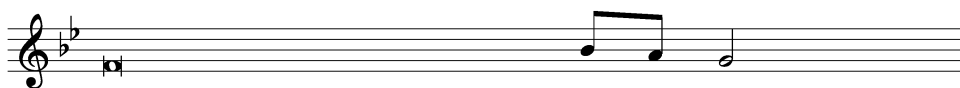
Matthew 2:2



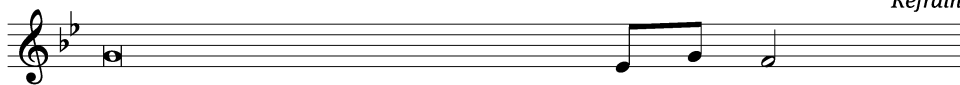
Refrain



Tone



Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?



We saw his star when it rose and have come to wor - ship him.

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

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

Magi from the east were the first in a long line of Gentiles who would join Israel in worshiping Jesus as King.

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ²“Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴He gathered together all the people’s chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

⁶You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.”

⁷Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Since they had been

warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

370 "How Lovely Shines the Morning Star"



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



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



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



my King of grace, for you my heart is pin - ing.
is in the tree, your life my life sup - ply - ing.
it him I see, I joy in trib - u - la - tion.
that ho - ly place, the home of joys su - per - nal.
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



Prince of grac - es, fill - ing all the heav'n-ly plac - es.
rest - ing nev - er till I rest in you for - ev - er.
life for - ev - er; noth - ing me from him can sev - er.
With deep yearn - ing, Lord, I look for your re - turn - ing.
cho - sen na - tion; praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

*Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, abr., adapt
Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608
Text and tune: Public domain*

Sermon

Matthew 2:1-12

“God’s Epiphany Revelation”

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

Create in Me a Clean Heart (CW 942)

(Psalm 51:10-12)

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff the second line, and the third staff the third line. The lyrics are: 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -'.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -



Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev.
Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. James E. Engel, 1925-1989
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Church

Epiphany of Our Lord

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 way is 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 and check any appropriate box. If you want the pastor to reach out to you, please also provide your contact information. Thank you!

The Sacrament

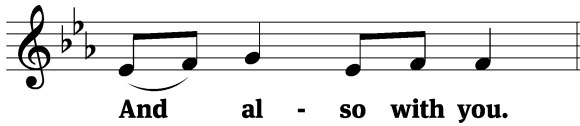
Visitors, before approaching the altar, please read the notes printed later in this bulletin under the section titled "Our Holy Communion Practices"

Please stand

Prefaces

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

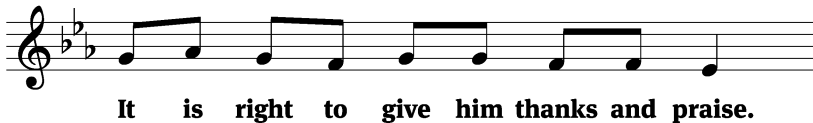
The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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:

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.
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est.

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 53:4-7; 1 Peter 1:18-19)

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)

As he distributes the elements, the minister says to the communicants:

The body of Christ, given for you.

Amen.

The blood of Christ, poured out for you.

Amen.

As he dismisses the communicants, the ministers says:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go ✚ in peace.

Amen.

Our Holy Communion Practices

(Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:27-29; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 John 1:3; 2 John 9-11)

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 receiving Holy Communion, 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 with us.

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 11:27-29. 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

"Christian Questions," a guide for personal preparation before receiving Holy Communion is printed on pages 295-296 in the hymnal. Prayers for before and after communing are printed on the first page of the hymnal.

The usher will direct you to the front of the nave, where you will commune. When the pastor distributes the bread and body of Christ, he will say, "The body of Christ, given for you." When he 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 other 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 do not intend to commune.

Distribution Hymn

372 "As with Gladness Men of Old"



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold,
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day keep us in the nar-row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright need they no cre-at-ed light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright,
there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore,
so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,
and, when earth-ly things are past, bring our ran-somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down.



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led by thee.
so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.
all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo-ry hide.
There for-ev-er may we sing al-le-lu-ias to our King!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.

Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

373 "Brightest and Best"



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
 3 Shall we not yield him in cost - ly de - vo - tion
 4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
 5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall.
 rar - est of fra - granc - es, trib - ute di - vine,
 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure.
 dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
 An - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
 gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
 Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
 Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
 mak - er and mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.
 myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
 guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

*Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.
 Tune: Antiphoner, Paris, 1681
 Text and tune: Public domain*

Lord, Now You Let Your Servant (CW 951) *Nunc Dimittis*

(Luke 2:29-32)

Please stand as the canticle is introduced

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 score is written on five staves in treble clef. The first staff begins with a G-clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are aligned under the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span multiple notes or bars. The piece concludes with a double bar line on the fifth staff.

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev.

Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. James E. Engel, 1925-1989

Text and tune: Public domain

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 remain standing and direct your attention to the processional cross as it is brought out of the nave.

You may be seated after the first stanza and refrain.

Closing Hymn

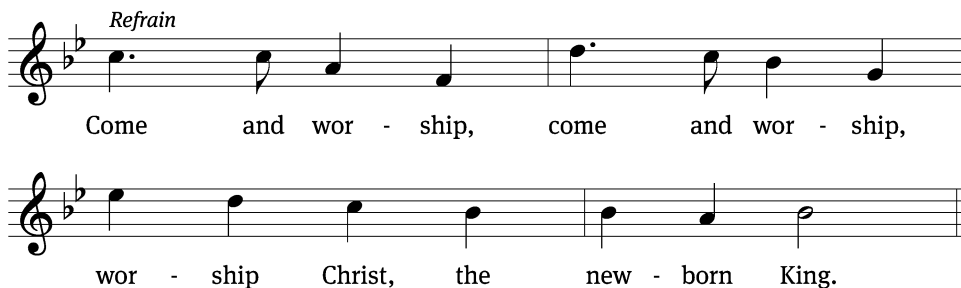
347 vv 1,3,4 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing

flight o'er all the earth; once you sang cre -
vi - sions beam a - far; seek the great de -
long in hope and fear, sud - den - ly the

a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
sire of na - tions, you have seen the Sav - ior's star.
Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear.



*Text (sts. 1, 3): James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.; (st. 4): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, alt.
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879
Text and tune: Public domain*

Postlude



*A **personal prayer for after worship** is printed on the first page of the hymnal.*

You will not be ushered out. You may depart any time after the closing hymn and post-service announcements.

*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: David Porth for playing organ... Mark Buske for serving as crucifer and distribution assistant... Aaron Palmer for serving as usher... and Brooke Smith for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream.

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 today's **"About the Propers,"** a document that explains the changeable parts of the service.

"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

Scripture taken from: The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version™ (EHV™)

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