+ FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY +

January 29, 2023



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St. West Allis, WI 53214

+ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church +

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Pianist: 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 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.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 29, 2023



Epiphany The Savior's Sermon

The Greek word epiphany means "appearance." In the first half of this church season called Epiphany, we saw Jesus appear on the scene, beginning his ministry. He calls his disciples. It is not long before large crowds start following Jesus around Galilee. So, in the second half of this season Jesus is going to teach us what it means to be one of his followers.

Jesus does this through the most famous sermon of all time. It is not delivered while standing in a pulpit but while sitting on a hill. Elevated above the crowd, Jesus' voice would carry through the air. His followers hung on his every word as the Christ talked about living an authentic Christian life. It is called the Sermon on the Mount.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Trust in God's Strength

Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount with a series of blessings. "Blessed are..." Jesus says, again and again. In the Latin Vulgate, these all begin with the word "beati" which translates as "blessed" or "happy." Thus, this portion of the sermon is often called "The Beatitudes." It had to give Jesus' listeners pause. For what Jesus calls blessed, the world never would. The world praises the strong and the self-sufficient. Jesus calls blessed what others would see as weak or stupid. But, like any good preacher, Jesus is trying to drive home one crucial point. The weaker you are, the more ready you are to rely on God's strength. The more difficult your present circumstances, the likelier you are to yearn for future reward.

All the readings for today teach this truth. We have no real strength or wisdom of our own. But we don't need it. Because God's strength is enough to give the kingdom of heaven to the humble and poor in spirit.

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

Opening Hymn

563 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"





On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt. Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

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.

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.



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



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.



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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have mercy on

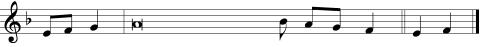
us.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father;



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.

Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; 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

The LORD promises that those who are humble, who trust in his strength rather than their own, will not be put to shame.

³ Seek the LORD, all you humble people of the earth who have carried out his commands. Seek righteousness. Seek humility. Maybe then you will be sheltered in the day of the LORD's anger.

^{3:11} In that day you will no longer bear the shame of your rebellions against me. Then I will remove the proud boasters from among you, and you will never again be arrogant on my holy hill. ¹² But I will leave among you the people who are humble and weak. They will seek refuge in the name of the LORD. ¹³ The Israelites who remain will no longer act unjustly. They will not lie, and a deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouth. Instead, they will graze peacefully like sheep and lie down. No one will terrify them.

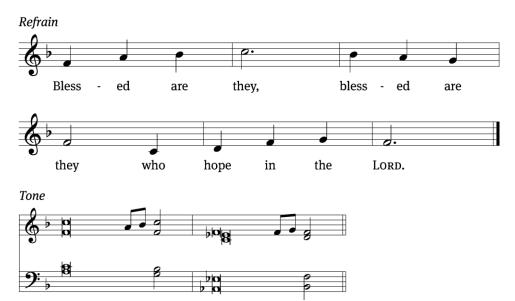
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 1 "Blessed Are They"

The entire congregation will sing together the whole Psalm



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Blessed is the one who / does not walk
  in step with the / wicked
or stand in the way that / sinners take
  or sit in the company of / mockers,
but whose delight is in the law / of the LORD,
  and who meditates on his law / day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of / water,
  which yields its fruit in / season
and whose leaf does not / wither—
  whatever they do / prospers.
                                 Refrain
Not so the / wicked!
  They are like chaff that the wind / blows away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the / judgment,
  nor sinners in the assembly of the / righteous.
                                                   Refrain
For the LORD watches over the way of the / righteous,
  but the way of the wicked leads to de-/struction.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
  and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be-/ginning,
  is now, and will be forever. / Amen.
                                           Refrain
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Text: Lectionary for Mass (refrain)
Tune: Michel Guimont
Setting: Michel Guimont
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Music: © 1998 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Paul points the Corinthians to themselves as an example of how God's strength is made perfect in weakness.

²⁶ For example, consider your call, brothers. Not many of you were wise from a human point of view, not many were powerful, and not many were born with high status. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to put to shame those who are wise. God chose the weak things of the world to put to shame the things that are strong, ²⁸ and God chose the

lowly things of the world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to do away with the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before God. ³⁰ But because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us the wisdom from God, namely, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹ God did this so that, just as it is written, "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

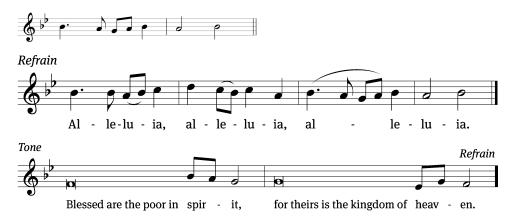
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 5:3



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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 5:1-12

In the Beatitudes Jesus shows us the outcome of a life that is lived trusting in God's strength.

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up onto a mountain. When he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² He opened his mouth and began to teach them. He said these things:

- ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, because they will be comforted.
- ⁵ Blessed are the gentle,because they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, because they will be filled.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful, because they will receive mercy.
- ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, because they will see God.
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, because they will be called sons of God.
- ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven. In fact, that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

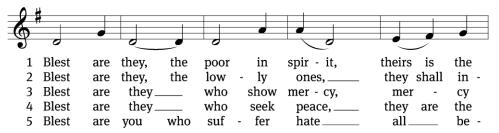
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

690 "Blest Are They"





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Sermon

Matthew 5:1-12

"Great Is Your Reward in Heaven"

Please stand

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.

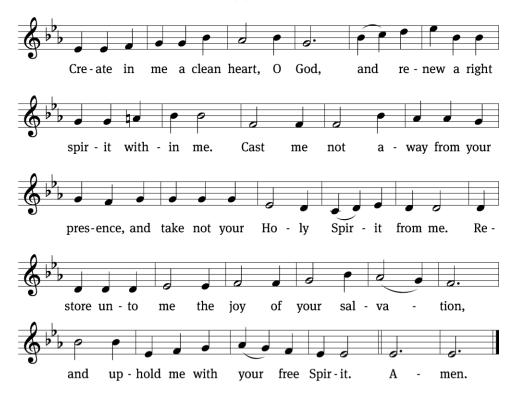
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Create in Me a Clean Heart (CW 942)

(Psalm 51:10-12)



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Prayer of the Church

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Special prayers and intercessions

The Christian Church has traditionally marked February 2 as a day to remember the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus in the temple on his fortieth day in accordance with the Law. We will recognize this minor church year festival in our prayers today.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. 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 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.

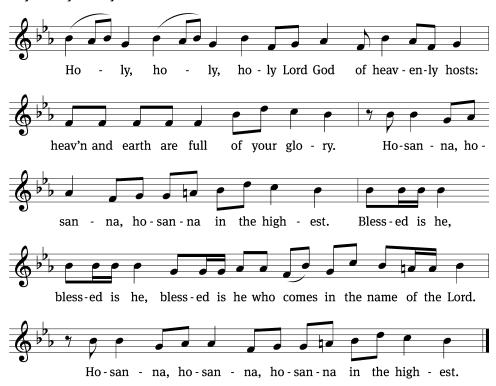


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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:



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."

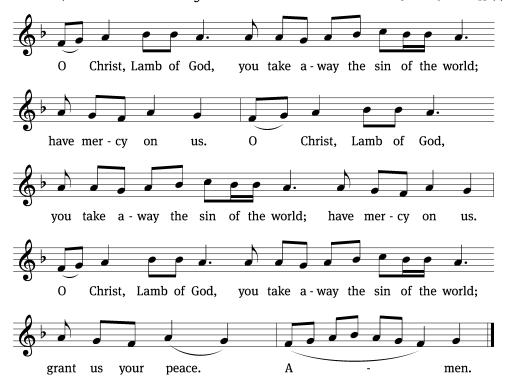
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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.



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.



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Tune: Johann Stobäus, 1580–1646

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Tune: Public domain



- 1 Be hold a host, ar rayed in white, like thou sand
- 2 De spised and scorned, they so journed here; but now, how
- 3 O bless ed saints in bright ar ray, now safe ly



snow - clad moun-tains bright! With palms they stand; who is glo - rious they ap - pear! Those mar - tyrs stand, a priest - home in end - less day, ex - tol the Lord, who with



this band be - fore the throne of light? These are the God's throne for - ev ly band, er near. So oft in The steep and his Word sus - tained you on the way.



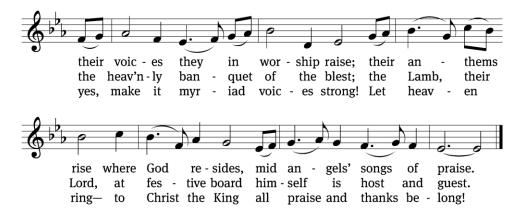
saints of glo - rious fame, who from the great af - flic - tion trou - bled days gone by, in an - guish they would weep and nar - row path you trod; you toiled and sowed the Word a -



came and in the flood of Je - sus' blood are cleansed from sigh; at home a - bove the God of love for - e'er their broad; re - joice and bring your fruits and sing be - fore the



guilt and blame. tears shall dry. throne of God. Now gath-ered in the ho - ly place, They now en - joy the Sab - bath rest, Swing high your palms, lift up your song,

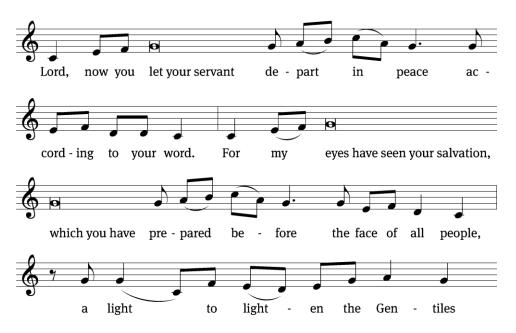


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Tune: Norwegian, 17th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

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

(Luke 2:29-32)

Please stand as the canticle is introduced





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 be seated

Closing Hymn



Text: William Williams, 1717-1791, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt.; (sts. 2-3): tr. William Williams, 1717-1791

Tune: John Hughes, 1873-1932

Text and tune: Public domain



REJOICE and be GLAD * because GREAT is your * REWARD in HEAVEN

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: Jess Brewster for playing organ... Aaron Palmer for serving as distribution assistant... *Kyle Peterson for serving as usher... and Peter Hermanson 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.

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

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

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