# + Transfiguration of Our Lord +

February 19, 2023



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57<sup>th</sup> St. West Allis, WI 53214

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Pastor: Joseph M. Berg

Organist: Rachel Cordes

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# **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.

# Last Sunday after Epiphany Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 19, 2023



# Epiphany **Jesus Appears**

We are in the season of the Church called Epiphany, a Greek word that means "to appear." Salvation has appeared in the person of Jesus Christ. In Epiphany, the Church explores everything that Christ makes apparent about God. You see, we need God to appear to us and make himself known to us. For not only is God beyond our understanding, his works and his ways are contrary to mankind's natural assumptions about him. In other words, the truth about God cannot possibly be *discovered* by us. Rather, it needs to be *uncovered* for us. That's what the Spirit is doing for us during this season of Epiphany. As Jesus appears, we see exactly who he is and what he came to do.

# Transfiguration of Our Lord

# The Glory of the Lord

Throughout his ministry Jesus said astounding things and did astounding things. Yet, he looked like a normal man. The prophet said, "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him" (Isaiah 53:2). This would all change one day atop a high mountain. There, Jesus gave his disciples a glimpse of the glory he set aside to be our Savior. And the voice of the Father thundered from the heavens, just as it did at Jesus' baptism, announcing Jesus' true identity to the world—the glorious Son of God. And so the Transfiguration of our Lord serves as a one-week bridge between the season of Epiphany, where Jesus is revealed as the true Son of God, and the season of Lent, where we witness what the Son of God came to do.

On the Mount of Glory, St. Peter declared, "It is good for us to be here." Indeed! For here we see the God of Majestic Glory, who became a man to suffer and die for us, just as Moses and the Prophets had foretold. Oh, how much this glorious God loves us!

# The Service

# **Setting Four**

#### 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**

389 "How Good, Lord, to Be Here"



- 1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo ry fills the night;
- 2 How good, Lord, to be here your beau-ty to be-hold,
- 3 Ful fil ler of the past, and hope of things to be,
- 4 Be fore we taste of death, we see your king-dom come;



your face and gar-ments, like the sun, shine with un-bor-rowed light. where Mo-ses and E-li-jah stand, your mes-sen-gers of old. we hail your bod-y glo-ri-fied and our re-demp-tion see. we long to hold the vi-sion bright and make this hill our home.

- 5 But you, Lord, do not stay.
  With mercy resolute
  you leave this glorious hill to die—
  our perfect substitute.
- 6 How good, Lord, to be here!
  Yet we may not remain;
  but since you bid us leave the mount,
  come with us to the plain.

Text (sts. 1-4, 6): Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.; (st. 5): Bryan Gerlach, b. 1954
Tune: Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750, adapt.
Text (st. 5): © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission:
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Text (sts. 1-4, 6) and tune: Public domain

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."

His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

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.



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.



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 to God in the Highest** Gloria in Excelsis

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







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# 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, in the glorious transfiguration of your only-begotten Son, you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice that came from the bright cloud, you foreshadowed our adoption as your sons. In your mercy, make us coheirs of glory with Jesus our King, and bring us at last to heaven; 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

#### Children's Choir Anthem

"Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices"

Oh, that I had a thousand voices to praise my God with thousand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord rejoices, would then proclaim in grateful songs to all, wherever I might be, what great things God has done for me.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734, abr. Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

First Reading Exodus 24:9-18

On Mount Sinai Moses saw the glory of the Lord as a terrifying fire. On the Mount of Transfiguration Moses saw the glory of the Lord as the Savior who takes our fear away.

<sup>9</sup> Then Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up. <sup>10</sup> They saw the God of Israel. Under his feet they saw what looked like a pavement of sapphire as clear as the sky. <sup>11</sup> The LORD did not lay his hand on the dignitaries of the people of Israel. They gazed at God, and they ate and drank.

<sup>12</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain. Wait there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the law and the commands that I have written, so that you can teach them."

<sup>13</sup> Moses set out with his assistant Joshua and went up onto the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup> He said to the elders, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, here are Aaron and Hur. They will be with you. Whoever is involved in a dispute can go to them."

<sup>15</sup> Moses went up onto the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup> The Glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered the mountain for six days. On the seventh day the LORD called to Moses out of the middle of the cloud. <sup>17</sup> The appearance of the Glory of the LORD looked like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. <sup>18</sup> Moses entered into the middle of the cloud and climbed up the mountain. Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

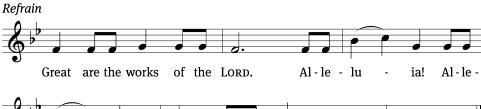
The Word of the Lord.

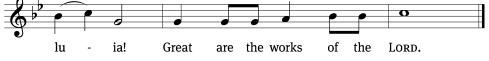
Thanks be to God.

# Psalm of the Day

Psalm 2 D "Great Are the Works of the LORD"

The entire congregation will sing together the whole Psalm







Why do the nations / conspire and the peoples / plot in vain?

The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together a- / gainst the LORD and against his A- / nointed. *Refrain* 

The One enthroned in / heaven laughs; the Lord / scoffs at them.

He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, / saying, "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy / mountain." *Refrain* 

I will proclaim the / LORD's decree:

He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your / Father."

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

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer Music: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 **Second Reading** 2 Peter 1:16-21

St. Peter testifies to the reliability of the Christian faith. Peter was an eyewitness to the majesty and glory of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>16</sup> To be sure, we were not following cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the powerful appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received honor and glory from God the Father, when the voice came to him from within the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." 18 We heard this voice, which came out of heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

19 We also have the completely reliable prophetic word. You do well to pay attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the Morning Star rises in your hearts, <sup>20</sup> since we know this above all else: No prophecy of Scripture comes about from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> In fact, no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were being carried along by the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

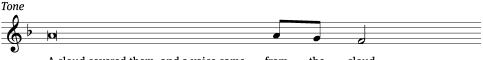
#### Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced

# **Gospel Acclamation**

Mark 9:7





A cloud covered them, and a voice came from the cloud:



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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 17:1-9

The glory of God, hidden in Christ, shines through on the Mount of Transfiguration.

17 Six days later Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John the brother of James; and he led them up onto a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup>There he was transfigured in front of them. His face was shining like the sun. His clothing became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup>Just then, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Jesus.

<sup>4</sup> Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you want, I will make three shelters here: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

<sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them. Just then, a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him."

<sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell face down and were terrified. <sup>7</sup> Jesus approached and as he touched them, he said, "Get up, and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup> When they opened their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus alone. <sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Do not tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated



- 1 Down from the mount of glo ry came Je sus Christ, our Lord.
- 2 Trans fig ured, Christ, the low ly, stood ra-diant in the light,
- 3 Yet mark this glo ry hid den! See him the mount de-scend
- 4 Strange how his jour ney end ed! In love that is his fame
- 5 Then hail the dou ble glo ry of Je sus Christ, our Lord,



Re - call the won-drous sto - ry, rich gem in sa - cred Word. light found in God-head sole - ly, for hu - man eyes too bright. and, by the Fa - ther bid - den, his will - ing foot-steps bend our Lord a - gain as - cend - ed a mount—the hill of shame. and let the won-drous sto - ry full peace and joy af - ford!



A - gain your faith will view him in dou - ble glo - ry here; Then came a voice from heav - en, con-firmed what here we see; to seek hu - mil - i - a - tion in deep - est depths of woe, Up - on the cross he prof - fered him - self to ag - o - ny; The ho - ly mount ac-claims him the mai - es - ty di - vine;



the great - er hom - age due him will in your life ap - pear. the words "my Son" were giv - en to seal his de - i - ty. to suf - fer deg - ra - da - tion no mind can probe or know. his ho - ly soul he of - fered to set the guilt - v free. Mount Cal - va - ry pro - claims him Re - deem - er— yours and mine.

> Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905–1996 Tune: Bartholomäus Helder, 1585–1635

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Sermon

Matthew 17:1-9

"Listen to Him!"

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.

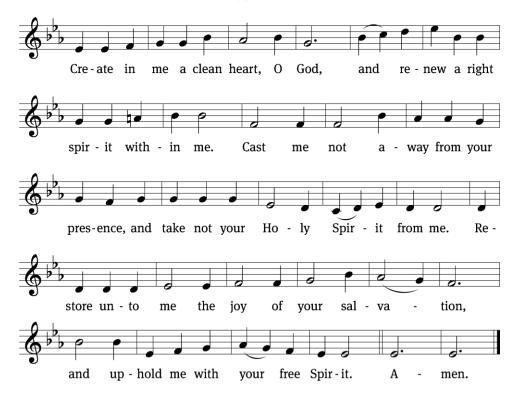
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

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)



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**

Transfiguration

Let us pray.

Eternal God and Father, we pray for the Church around the world. Always keep your people faithful to you. Lift the veil from our eyes and guide us to see Christ in the Word and sacraments. During all the distractions of life, help us set our sights on Jesus. Keep us safe and protect us from the tricks and treachery of the devil. Lord, in your mercy:

# Hear our prayer.

We pray that you move us to have compassion on those stumbling in the darkness and empower us to proclaim Christ to all who have no faith. Give us courage to be unashamed

of the light you have given us and to carry it willingly with joy wherever we go and whatever we do. Lord, in your mercy:

#### Hear our prayer.

Hear our prayers for Christians everywhere who are being persecuted because of the light they bear. Give them the strength to endure the hardships they are undergoing and give them the peace and hope of Christ as they battle on. Lord, in your mercy:

# Hear our prayer.

We pray that Christ reveals his gracious presence to all who suffer. We pray especially for our families and those in our circle of friends who are sick or in need and for everyone whose needs we hold in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy:

## Hear our prayer.

Be with us, Lord, as we think about the coming days of Lent. Let your law convince us that we indeed deserve your punishment and would be lost forever without Christ. As our hearts fill with sorrow and regret, lift us up to see the Savior's sacrifice on the cross and give us hearts full of faith in him. Lord, in your mercy:

#### Hear our prayer.

Special prayers and intercessions

The Christian Church has traditionally marked February 24 as a day to give thanks to the Lord for his work through St. Mattias, Apostle. We will recognize this minor church year festival in our prayers today.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Lord God, hear the prayers we offer and let your grace and mercy flow to us and all for whom we pray. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Light of the world. **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)

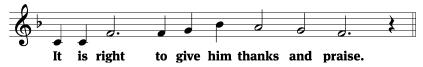
The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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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



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# **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

(John 1:3; Romans 8:32)

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

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.



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# **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.

*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.

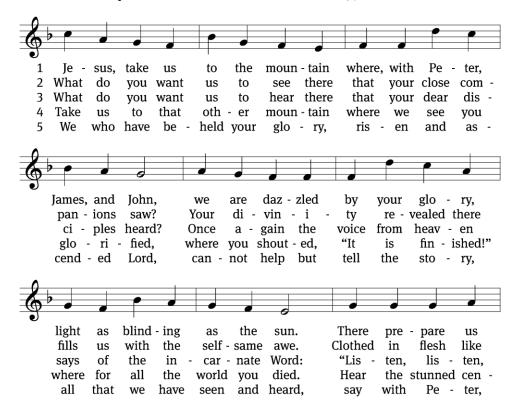
As he dismisses the communicants, the ministers says:

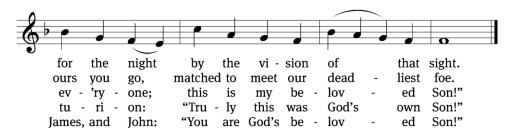
The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go + in peace.

Amen.

# **Distribution Hymn**

390 "Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain"

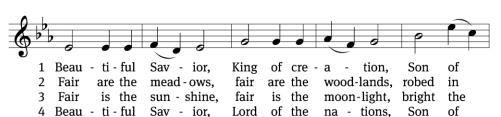


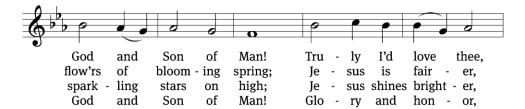


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# **Distribution Hymn**

# 522 "Beautiful Savior"



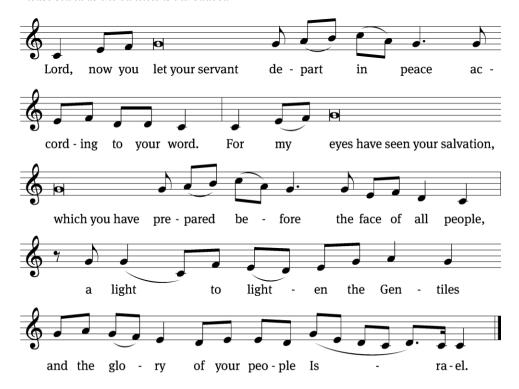




tru - ly ľd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown. Ie - sus is pur - er, he makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing. Je - sus shines pur - er than all the an - gels sky. praise, ad - o - ra - tion now and for - ev - er - more be

> Text: tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904; Münsterisch Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677, abr. Tune: Silesian, 19th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

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 remain standing

#### Farewell to Alleluia

Brothers and sisters in Christ, when we next gather for worship, it will be Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. On that day we will begin our solemn journey to the Savior's cross. While the joy of faith remains undiminished throughout the year, our rejoicing during Lent is muted and quiet. For centuries, therefore, Christian churches have omitted their most jubilant songs during this season, including the word *alleluia*, which means, "praise the Lord."

Now for a time we say farewell to *alleluia*. We do this to prepare ourselves for the quieter days of Lent. The *alleluias* will return on Easter dawn as we gather to shout our praise to the risen Lord.

Please remain standing and direct your attention to the Alleluia banner as it is brought out of the nave

# **Closing Hymn**



Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Latin, c. 11th cent. Tune: John Goss, 1800–1880 Text and tune: Public domain



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:** Rachel Cordes for playing organ... Peter Hermanson for serving as distribution assistant... Michael Kraft for serving as usher... and Brooke Smith 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

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

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