

# ✝ FIFTH WEDNESDAY OF LENT ✝

March 22, 2023



**Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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

# ✝ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church ✝

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414-545-6925 | [www.nainlutheran.org](http://www.nainlutheran.org) | [www.facebook.com/nainlutheran](https://www.facebook.com/nainlutheran)

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**Pianist:** Juanita Becker  
**Choir Director:** Lois Buske

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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.

# Fifth Wednesday of Lent

March 22, 2023



*Lent*

## ***Our Greatest Needs***

Mankind's greatest problems are universal. We all live under the curse of sin. That sin makes us utterly helpless in our natural state. Natural man is confused, unable to make sense of life. Left in sin, man is doomed to death, and not just physical death. After one's heart stops comes another type of death that is infinitely worse, an eternal nightmare.

Lent is the season of the Church Year when we wrestle with our greatest needs. Lent also shows us that in Christ, all our greatest needs are met. Here is what the Spirit makes clear this season. If you lack Christ, you have nothing. If you have Christ, you have everything you truly need.

*Midweek Lent*

## ***Trial before Pilate***

This evening we continue to hear from the Passion History of our Lord according to the Gospel of St. Matthew. After Jesus identified himself as the Son of God to the elders, chief priests, and teachers of the law, he was sent to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea. The Jewish mob accused Jesus of blasphemy, but Pilate was only concerned with their political charges. Pilate and Herod wound up finding no basis for a charge against Jesus, but still did not believe in him.

Jesus makes great claims to us – to be our Servant, our Shepherd, our Savior, etc. Do we believe these claims, or fight against and reject him like his enemies did? Jesus bore our sins, including those of doubt, rejection, and unbelief – just as he bore the false accusations levied against him during his trial – and nailed them to the cross. It is only through faith in him as our Savior from sin that we are saved.

# Evening Prayer

## Vespers

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***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.*

***There will be no pre-service music or announcements.***

***Our worship begins with the tolling of the bells, followed by the opening hymn.***

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## Service of Light

### Tolling of the Bells

### Opening Hymn

404 "Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing"



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing in your ho - ly  
2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion fas - ci - nate my  
3 If the world my heart en - tic - es with the broad and  
4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me by your wounds, Lord,  
5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, grant that in your



wounds I find, ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing pains of  
sin - ful mind, let me think a - bout your pas - sion, and new  
eas - y road, with se - duc - tive, sin - ful vic - es, let me  
is made whole; when I'm weak, your cross re - vives me, grant - ing  
death I trust, know - ing death has lost its pow - er since you



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in  
cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,  
weigh the aw - ful load you were will - ing to en - dure.  
new life to my soul. Yes, your com - fort ren - ders sweet  
crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let your ag - o - ny



tempt my treach-'rous heart to sin, show the per - il,  
let me then be on my guard, say - ing, "Christ for  
Help me flee all thoughts im - pure, mas - ter - ing each  
ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; for your all - a -  
ev - er help and com - fort me; when I die be



and from sin - ning keep me ere its first be - gin - ning.  
me was wound - ed," that the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.  
wild temp - ta - tion, calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.  
ton - ing pas - sion has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.  
my pro - tec - tion, light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

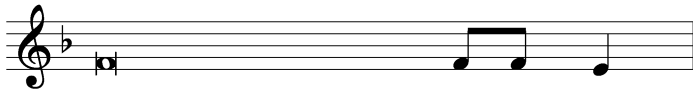
*Text: tr. composite; Johann Heermann, 1585–1647, abr.  
Tune: Johann B. König, 1691–1758  
Text and tune: Public domain*

*Please stand*

## Opening Sentences

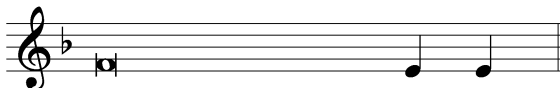
*(John 8:12; Luke 24:29; 1 John 1:5)*

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



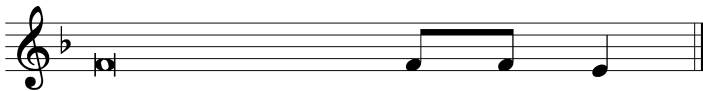
**the light no darkness can o - ver - come.**

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,



**and the day is almost o - ver.**

Be our light and scatter the darkness,

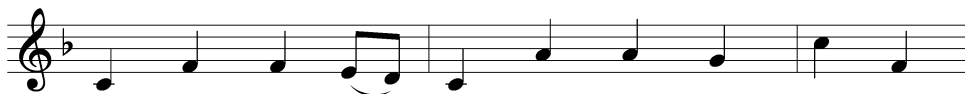


and hear our evening prayer and praise.

*Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758*

## Hymn of Light *Phos hilaron*

*(Psalm 18:28; Isaiah 9:2; John 1:5-9)*



1 Glad - d'ning light of pur - est glo - ry, shin - ing  
2 In the fad - ing light of eve - ning, as the  
3 For your gift of life un - end - ing, joy - ful



down from heav'n on high, from the ev - er -  
set - ting sun de - parts, Fa - ther, Son, and  
voic - es ev - er sing hymns of praise that



liv - ing Fa - ther— hail, most bless - ed Je - sus Christ!  
Ho - ly Spir - it— we a - dore you, Lord our God.  
right - ly hon - or, Son of God, your sav - ing name.

*Text: Michael D. Schultz*

*Text and tune: © 2021 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, for you are merciful and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## Psalm 141

(Psalm 141:1-4,8)

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing up  
of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I  
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I  
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,  
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

*Tune: David Schack*

*Tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758*

Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord, and let your mercy descend on us,  
that we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and forever in heaven; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# Service of the Word

## The Penitential Psalms

Psalm 102

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD, hear my prayer,  
and let my cry for help come to you.
- <sup>2</sup> **Do not hide your face from me on the day when I am distressed.**  
**Turn your ear to me on the day I call.**  
**Hurry! Answer me!**
- <sup>3</sup> For my days go up in smoke,  
and my bones are burned like hot coals.
- <sup>4</sup> **My heart is cut down and withered like grass,**  
**so I forget to eat my food.**
- <sup>5</sup> Because of the sound of my groaning, my bones stick out of my flesh.
- <sup>6</sup> **I am like an owl in the wilderness,**  
**like a screech owl among the ruins.**
- <sup>7</sup> I lie awake.  
I have become like a lonely bird on a roof.
- <sup>8</sup> **All day long my enemies taunt me.**  
**Those who ridicule me use my name as a curse,**
- <sup>9</sup> because I eat ashes like bread,  
and I mix tears with my drinks.
- <sup>10</sup> **Because of your rage and your wrath,**  
**you have picked me up and thrown me away.**
- <sup>11</sup> My days are being stretched out like a shadow,  
and I am dried up like grass.
- <sup>12</sup> **But you, LORD, sit on your throne forever,**  
**and you will be remembered through all generations.**
- <sup>13</sup> You will rise and have compassion on Zion.  
Yes, it is time to be gracious to her,  
because the appointed time has come.
- <sup>14</sup> **Yes, your servants will show favor to her stones,**  
**and they will have compassion on her dust.**



<sup>15</sup> Then the nations will fear the name of the LORD,  
and all the kings of the earth will fear your glory.

<sup>16</sup> **For the LORD will rebuild Zion.**

**He will appear in his glory.**

<sup>17</sup> He will respond to the prayer of the naked.

He will not despise their prayer.

<sup>18</sup> **Let this be written till the last generation,  
so that a people not yet created may praise the LORD.**

<sup>19</sup> For the LORD looked down from his high, holy place.

From heaven he viewed the earth

<sup>20</sup> **to hear the groans of the prisoner,  
to release those condemned to death.**

<sup>21</sup> So the name of the LORD will be recorded in Zion  
and his praise in Jerusalem,

<sup>22</sup> **when the peoples and the kingdoms are gathered together  
to serve the LORD.**

<sup>23</sup> He took away my strength during my lifetime.

He cut short my days.

<sup>24</sup> **I said, “My God, do not take me away in the middle of my days.”**

Your years go on through all generations.

<sup>25</sup> Long ago you laid a foundation for the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

<sup>26</sup> **They will perish, but you remain.**

**All of them wear out like a garment.**

**Like clothing you will change them,  
and they will be changed.**

<sup>27</sup> But you are the same,  
and your years will never end.

<sup>28</sup> **The children of your servants will dwell with you,  
and their descendants will be established before you.**

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**27** Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people reached the decision to put Jesus to death. <sup>2</sup> They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor.

<sup>3</sup> Then when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt remorse. He brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders <sup>4</sup> and said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? That’s your problem.”

<sup>5</sup> He threw the pieces of silver into the temple and left. Then he went out and hanged himself. <sup>6</sup> The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, “It is not lawful to put these into the treasury, since it is blood money.” <sup>7</sup> They reached a decision to buy the potter’s field with the money, as a burial place for foreigners. <sup>8</sup> So that field has been called The Field of Blood to this day. <sup>9</sup> Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price the sons of Israel had set for him, <sup>10</sup> and they gave them for the potter’s field, just as the Lord commanded me.

<sup>11</sup> When Jesus stood in the presence of the governor, the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Jesus said to him, “It is as you say.”

<sup>12</sup> When he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, “Don’t you hear how many things they are testifying against you?”

<sup>14</sup> But he did not answer him—not even one word, so that the governor was very surprised.

<sup>15</sup> At the time of the Festival the governor had a custom to release to the crowd any one prisoner they wanted. <sup>16</sup> At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner named Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So when they were assembled, Pilate said to them, “Which one do you want me to release to you? Barabbas—or Jesus, who is called Christ?” <sup>18</sup> For Pilate knew that they had handed Jesus over to him because of envy.

<sup>19</sup> While he was sitting on the judgment seat, Pilate’s wife sent him a message. “Have nothing to do with that righteous man,” she said, “since I have suffered many things today in a dream because of him.” <sup>20</sup> But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask

for Barabbas and to have Jesus put to death. <sup>21</sup> The governor asked them, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”

“Barabbas!” they said.

<sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?”

They all said to him, “Crucify him!”

<sup>23</sup> But the governor said, “Why? What has he done wrong?”

But they kept shouting even louder: “Crucify him!”

<sup>24</sup> When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing and that instead it was turning into a riot, he took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, “I am innocent of this righteous man’s blood. It is your responsibility.”

<sup>25</sup> And all the people answered, “Let his blood be on us and on our children!”

<sup>26</sup> Then he released Barabbas to them, but he had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified.

Thus far the Passion History of Our Lord.

**All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.  
By his wounds we are healed.** (Isaiah 53:6, NIV)

*Please remain silent for meditation*

# Sermon Hymn

432 vv 1, 5, 6, 7 "O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken"



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law have you bro - ken  
 5 The sin - less Son of God must die in sad - ness,  
 6 I'll think up - on your mer - cy with - out ceas - ing,  
 7 And when, dear Lord, be - fore your throne in heav - en



that such sharp sen - tence should on you be spo - ken?  
 the sin - ful child of man may live in glad - ness;  
 that earth's vain joys to me no more be pleas - ing;  
 to me the crown of joy at last is giv - en,



Of what great crime have you to make con -  
 we for - feit - ed our lives, yet are ac -  
 to do your will shall be my sole en -  
 where sweet - est hymns your saints for - ev - er



fes - sion, what dark trans - gres - sion?  
 quit - ted; God is com - mit - ted.  
 deav - or hence - forth for - ev - er.  
 raise you, I too shall praise you.

*Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; (sts. 1, 6–7): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 5): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662  
 Text and tune: Public domain*

Sermon

Matthew 27:1-26

## Song of Mary    *Magnificat*

(Luke 1:46-55)

*Please remain seated*

My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-  
joic-es in God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa-vor  
on his low-ly ser-vant. From this day all gen-er-a-tions  
will call me bless-ed. The Al-might-y has done great  
things for me, and ho-ly is his name. He has mer-cy on  
those who fear him in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.  
He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the  
proud in their con-ceit. He has cast down the might-y

The musical score is written on ten staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The second staff through the seventh staff continue in the same key signature. The eighth staff begins with a key signature change to one sharp (F#), which is maintained through the tenth staff. The music is written in a single melodic line. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score concludes with a double bar line and a sharp sign on the final staff.

from their thrones and has lift - ed up the low - ly.

He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich

he has sent a - way emp - ty. He has come to the

help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el, for he has re - mem - bered his

prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise made to our fa - thers,

to A - bra - ham, and to his chil - dren for - ev - er. A - men.

Tune: Kurt J. Eggert  
 Tune: © 1993 Kurt J. Eggert, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

## Lord, Have Mercy Kyrie

(Psalm 51:1; Mark 10:47; Luke 17:13)

*Please stand*

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 mercy.**

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 mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the leaders of our synod and district, for all pastors in Christ, for all who are servants of the Church, and for all the people of God, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who govern our nation and for all public servants, that they may be upheld and strengthened for every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

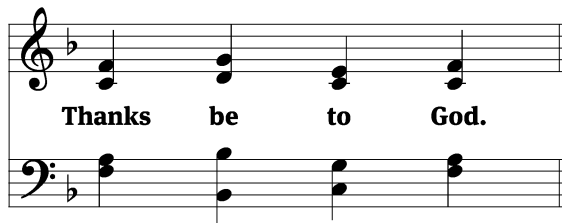
For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For... *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]*... let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

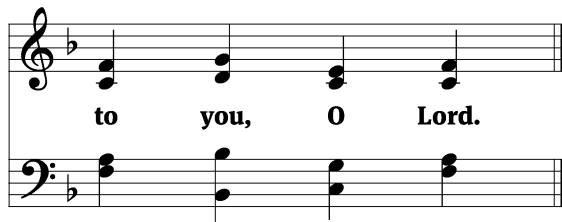
For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.



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

*Silence for individual prayer*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our Lord:



*Tune: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: License no. 130002495*

## Prayer

Abide with us, Lord, for it is evening and the day is almost over. Abide with us and with your whole Church. Abide with us in the evening of the day, in the evening of life, in the evening of the world. Abide with us in your grace and goodness, in your holy Word and sacrament, in your comfort and blessing. Abide with us when we are overcome by the night of sorrow and fear, by the night of doubt and affliction, by the night of bitter death. Abide with us and with all your people in time and in eternity.

**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.

## Benedicamus

(Psalm 103:1)

Let us praise the Lord.



## Blessing

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



*Please be seated*

## Closing Hymn

431 vv 1, 4 “O Perfect Life of Love”



1 O per - fect life of love! All, all is fin - ished now,  
4 And on his thorn-crowned head and on his sin - less soul



all that he left his throne a - bove to do for us be - low.  
our sins in all their guilt were laid that he might make us whole.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, abr., alt.  
Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941  
Text and tune: Public domain

*The Pastor departs in silence*

*Please remain silent for meditation*



## 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!



***There will be no post-service music or announcements.***

***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.

***Please refrain from conversation until after you have departed the church*** to allow any who wish to remain the opportunity to pray and meditate in silence.

***Pastor Berg will be available in the narthex*** shortly after the service if you would like to speak with him.

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***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.

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

***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.

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***Special thanks to: Juanita Becker for playing piano...***  
***and Ben Leyrer for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream.***

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

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