+ SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

July 9, 2023



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St. West Allis, WI 53214

+ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church +

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Linda Loeffel

Phone:

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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.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Proper 9

July 9, 2023



Sundays after Pentecost

Define Christian

Christ himself defines the term Christian and describes what Christians do. We will be struck by how often we do not do all those things. There likely are times when people could look at our behavior and assume we were unbelievers. Yet Jesus demonstrates that ultimately a Christian is one who runs to Christ for forgiveness precisely because he has failed to live like what he is—a Christian. As we receive the mercy of Christ, it moves us to strive with all our being to better fit Christ's beautiful definition, doing all the things Jesus says that Christians do.

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

The Christian Finds Rest in Jesus

Without rest, we suffer. Studies show that after 36 hours without sleep, most people will experience extreme fatigue and hormonal imbalances, resulting in decreased attention, poor decisions, and even speech impairment. Other studies show if someone takes no breaks during their workday, their productivity is lower than those who do take periodic breaks. We need rest.

Christians know they need more than sleep or breaks. We need more than physical rest. We need spiritual rest. The Christian knows that the only place to find that type of rest is Jesus. Jesus provides more than a pause in work, more than enjoyable recreation. Jesus provides the removal of our sins, the cleansing of our guilty conscience, and a gentle new yoke of discipleship. In Jesus, the Christian finds rest from his burdens, rest from his battles, and rest forever in heaven.

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.

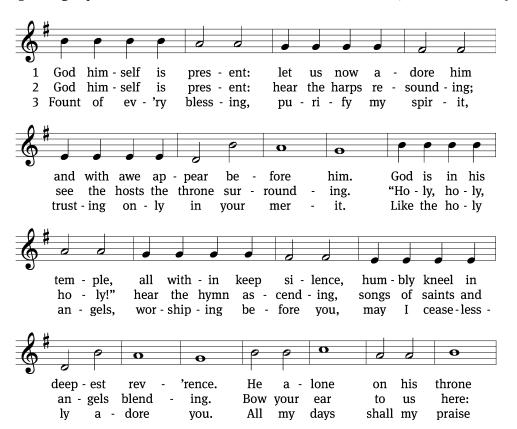
A personal prayer for before worship is printed on the first page of the blue hymnal.

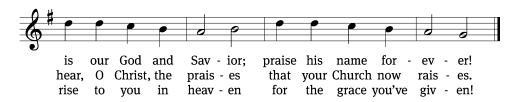
The hymns are located in the middle to back portion of the blue hymnal.

The Preparation

Opening Hymn

917 "God Himself Is Present"





Text: tr. John Miller, 1756–1790, alt.; tr. Frederick W. Foster, 1760–1835; Gerhard Tersteegen, 1697–1769, abr.

Tune: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680

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.

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.



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.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end, grant us your promised rest and the full joys of your salvation; 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 Exodus 33:12-23

The Lord gives Moses spiritual rest by promising that his Presence will go with Israel and allowing Moses to see a glimpse of his glory.

¹² Moses said to the LORD, "Look, you yourself have been telling me, 'Lead this people up,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' ¹³ So now if I have found favor in your sight, please show me your ways, so that I may know you, so that I may find favor in your sight. Consider that this nation is your people."

- ¹⁴ The LORD said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."
- ¹⁵ Moses said to him, "If your Presence is not going to go with me, do not send us up from here. ¹⁶ After all, how would people know that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Isn't it in this way: that you go with us, so that we are distinguished, I and your people, from all the people who are on the face of the earth?"
- ¹⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have said, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name."

¹⁸ Then Moses said, "Please show me your glory."

¹⁹ The LORD said, "I will make all my goodness pass in front of you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD in your presence. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy." ²⁰ He said, "You cannot see my face, for no human may see me and live."

²¹ The LORD also said, "Look, there is a place next to me, where you shall stand on the rock. ²² It will happen that, while my glory passes by, I will put you in a crevice in the rock. I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you will see my back. But my face will not be seen."

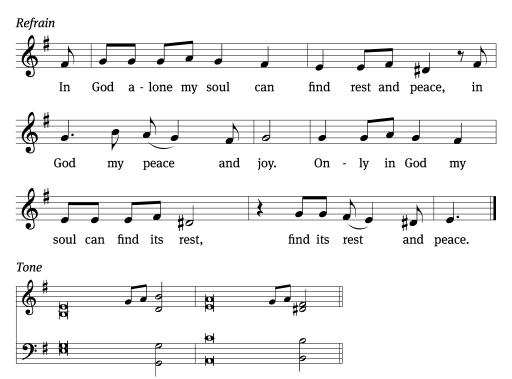
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 62 "In God Alone My Soul Can Find Rest and Peace"

The entire congregation will sing together the whole Psalm



```
my salvation / comes from him.

Truly he is my rock and my sal- / vation;
he is my fortress, I will never be / shaken.

Yes, my soul, find / rest in God;
my hope / comes from him. Refrain

Though your rich- / es increase,
do not set your / heart on them.

My salvation and my honor de- / pend on God;
he is my mighty rock, my / refuge.

Trust in him at all times, you / people;
pour out your hearts to him, for God is our / refuge.

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
```

Truly my soul finds / rest in God;

Tune: Iacaues Berthiei

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Setting: © 2011 Faith Alive Christian Resources. Used by permission: License no. 130002495

Second Reading Romans 7:15-25a

Jesus Christ gives spiritual rest to the one who wants to do what is good yet cannot carry it out.

¹⁵ For I do not understand what I am doing, because I do not keep doing what I want. Instead, I do what I hate. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But now it is no longer I who am doing it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ Indeed, I know that good does not live in me, that is, in my sinful flesh. The desire to do good is present with me, but I am not able to carry it out. ¹⁹ So I fail to do the good I want to do. Instead, the evil I do not want to do, that is what I keep doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who am doing it, but it is sin living in me.

²¹ So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is present with me. ²² I certainly delight in God's law according to my inner self, ²³ but I see a different law at work in my members, waging war against the law of my mind and taking me captive to the law of

sin, which is present in my members. ²⁴ What a miserable wretch I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

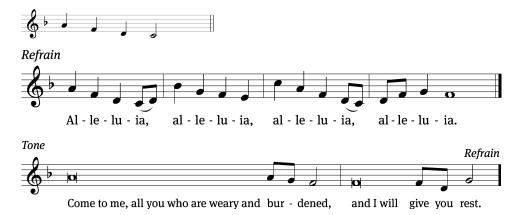
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11:28



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Gospel Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus invites those who are weary and burdened to come to him for rest.

²⁵ At that time, Jesus continued, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from clever and learned people and have revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, because this was pleasing to you. ²⁷ Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him.

²⁸ "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

706 "Come unto Me, Ye Weary"



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt. Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857

Sermon

Matthew 11:25-30 "Rest for the Weary"

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.





Text: Christian Worship, 1993 Tune: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993

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Prayer of the Church

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

Let us pray.

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Offertory

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

Offerings to Our Lord

God, who blesses us with all we have, gives us the privilege of showing him our thanks in many ways. One way is by giving back a portion of what he has given us to support the work of the Church.

If you are a guest, please don't feel that you must give an offering. We are happy to share with you the free, good news of Jesus' eternal love for you.

How to Submit Your Offering

If you have an offering, you can place it in the collection box located in the narthex, mail it to the church, or if you wish to give electronically via PayPal, you can scan the QR code printed at the back of the bulletin, or visit https://www.nainlutheran.org/resources/online-giving.

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)

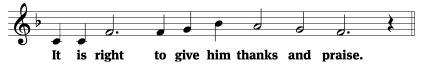
The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory.

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

Holy, Holy, Holy Sanctus



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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.

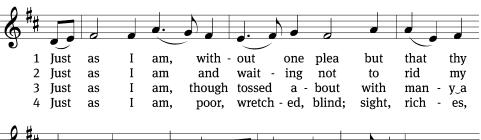
As he dismisses the communicants, the minister says:

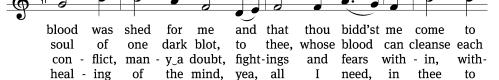
The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go + in peace.

Amen.

Distribution Hymn

814 "Just as I Am, without One Plea"







- Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 6 Just as I am; thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down; now to be thine, yea thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868 Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

819 "If God Himself Be for Me"



- 1 If God him self be for me, I may a host de fy;
- 2 This I be-lieve, yea rath er, of this I make my boast,
- 3 I build on this foun-da tion, that Je sus and his blood
- 4 He can-celed my of fens es, de liv-ered me from death;



for when I pray, be - fore me my foes, con-found - ed, fly. that God is my dear Fa - ther, the friend who loves me most, a - lone are my sal - va - tion, my true, e - ter - nal good. he is the Lord who cleans - es my soul from sin through faith.



If Christ, my head and mas - ter, be - friend me from a - bove. that, what - e'er be - tide Sav - ior and me, mv at hand With - out him that pleas - es val - ue - less all is on earth; In him Ι be cheer - ful, cou - ra-geous on can my way;



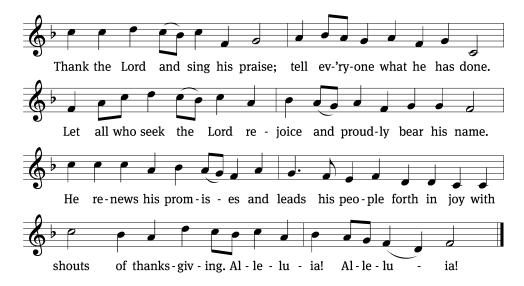
what foe or what dis - as - ter can drive me from his love? thro' storm - y seas to guide me and bring me safe to land. the gifts I have from Je - sus a - lone have price - less worth. in him I am not fear - ful of God's great Judg-ment Day.

- Now no one can condemn me
 or set my hope aside;
 now hell no more can claim me,
 its fury I deride.
 No sentence now reproves me,
 no guilt destroys my peace,
 for Christ, my Savior, loves me
 and shields me with his grace.
- 6 No danger, thirst, or hunger, no pain or poverty, no earthly tyrant's anger shall ever vanquish me. Though earth should break asunder, you are my Savior true; no fire or sword or thunder shall sever me from you.
- My heart for joy is springing and can no more be sad; my soul is filled with singing, sees only sunshine glad.
 The sun that cheers my spirit is Jesus Christ, my King; the heav'n I shall inherit makes me rejoice and sing.

Thank the Lord and Sing His Praise (CW 948)

(Psalm 105:1-5; Isaiah 55:12)

Please stand as the canticle is introduced



Text: Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978 Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010
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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.

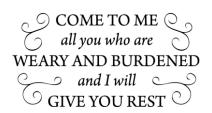
Amen.

Please be seated



Text: Psalm 4:8; 5:8 Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876 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 collection box located in the narthex.

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.

After Pastor's post-service announcements, councilmen Peter Hermanson and Mark Buske will address the congregation to talk about a special mission project effort approved by the voters at our Annual Meeting, and to introduce you to this year's recipient of our offerings: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Midland, Texas.

All are invited to gather downstairs in the fellowship hall after the service for **Fellowship Time** and **Bible Study**.

We are currently studying the Apostle St. Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians.

We hope you will join us!

Special thanks to: Linda Loeffel for playing organ... Aaron Palmer for serving as distribution assistant... Jerry Loeffel for serving as usher... Peter Hermanson for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream... and Joan Vitense for serving on Altar Duty.

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 "<u>Worship Resources</u>" page of our website to read this Sunday's "**About the Propers**," a weekly document that explains the changeable parts of the service.

All worshipers are encouraged to take home a copy of our **weekly newsletter**, **the** "Nain Messenger" to stay informed about all congregational news. Printed copies are available on the countertop in the narthex.

"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.

Electronic Giving: If you wish to give your offering via <u>PayPal</u>, you can scan the QR code below or visit https://www.nainlutheran.org/resources/online-giving. Thank you for your financial support of our congregation!

Nain is a member congregation of the **Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.**For more information about our synod, please visit its website: <u>www.wels.net</u>



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

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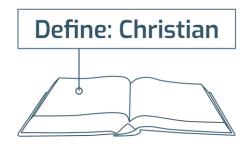
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Sundays after Pentecost

Define Christian

Ask ten different people to define Christian and you may get ten different answers. One might say, "A Christian is someone who believes in Jesus." Okay. But the demons believe that Jesus exists and is the Son of God. So is that definition adequate? Another person might have a more negative view. He says, "A Christian is someone who believes he is better than others." Is that completely false? And if you aren't humble, does that mean you aren't Christian?

In our next worship series Christ himself defines the term Christian and describes what Christians do. We will be struck by how often we do not do all those things. There likely are times when people could look at our behavior and assume we were unbelievers. Yet throughout this series Jesus will demonstrate that ultimately a Christian is one who runs to Christ for forgiveness precisely because he has failed to live like what he is—a Christian. As we receive the mercy of Christ, it moves us to strive with all our being to better fit Christ's beautiful definition, doing all the things Jesus says that Christians do. Our worship follows this path:

7/2	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	The Christian Loves God above All
7/9	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	The Christian Finds Rest in Jesus
7/16	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	The Christian Is Planted by the Word
7/23	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	The Christian Lives as Wheat among Weeds
7/30	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	The Christian Seeks Spiritual Wealth
8/6	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	The Christian Trusts God to Provide
8/13	Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost	The Christian Answers Doubt with Faith