# + EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

# October 1, 2023



## Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

# + Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church +

1665 South 57<sup>th</sup> Street | West Allis, Wisconsin 53214 414-545-6925 | www.nainlutheran.org | www.facebook.com/nainlutheran



Pastor:Joseph M. BergPhone:414-810-3392Email:revjberg@gmail.com

Organist: Linda Loeffel Choir Director: Lois Buske

## **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.

# **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

## Proper 21

October 1, 2023



Sundays after Pentecost **Tell Us a Story** 

Much of what Jesus has to say to you and me is contained within his parables. Parables are simple little stories that contain profound truths about life and eternity. For the believer, a parable takes a challenging spiritual fact and makes it clear. However, since the parable conveys spiritual truth, for someone without faith, the story remains only that—a story. Therefore, our prayer for this worship series is that Christ would send us his Holy Spirit, so that we might receive the peace and power Jesus offers us in his parables. Tell us a story, Jesus!

## Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost A Story of Spiritual Insincerity

You have maybe heard the accusation or perhaps even made it yourself: "He's so fake!" That charge claims someone's friendliness or kindness is a sham. Such insincerity bothers us. We would generally rather someone be honest about how they feel about us than be fake.

Through a story Jesus teaches us that God feels the same. God doesn't want us to simply go through religious motions like some sort of show. He sees right through that. God's desire is that our repentance would demonstrate sincere sorrow over sin. God wants us to see the grace and forgiveness he has shown us in Christ, and in response, to love him back deeply and sincerely.

# The Service Setting Four

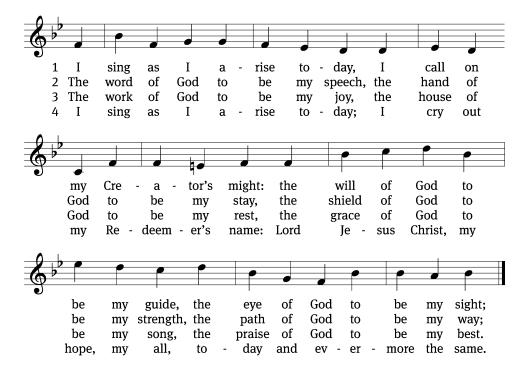
Welcome to God's house in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

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**

779 "I Sing as I Arise Today"



Text (sts. 1-2): anonymous; (sts. 3-4): Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963 Tune: Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien, Hamburg, 1690, alt. Text (sts. 3-4): © 2006 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Text (sts. 1-2) and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

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.

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.

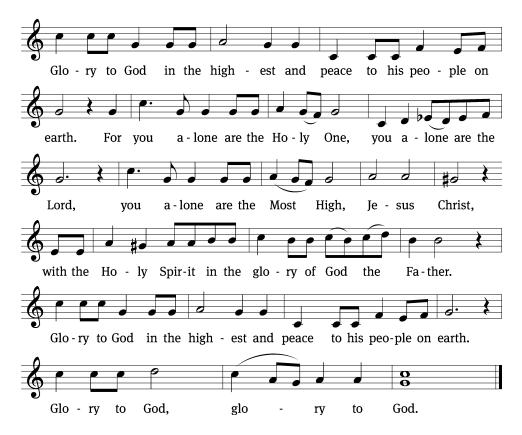


Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



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# The Word

## Salutation

(Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 

## Prayer of the Day

Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; 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**

### Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The prophet Ezekiel gives a strong warning to Christians who have grown dismissive of their sin. God wants sincere repentance that leads to true obedience.

**18** The word of the LORD came to me.

<sup>2</sup> What do you mean, you who keep repeating this proverb concerning the soil of Israel, "Fathers eat sour grapes, and their sons' teeth are set on edge"? <sup>3</sup>As surely as I live, declares the LORD God, you will never again use this proverb in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Indeed, all souls are mine. The soul of the father is mine just like the soul of the son. The soul who sins is the one who will die.

<sup>25</sup> But you say, "The LORD's way is not fair." Listen now, house of Israel. Is it my way that is not fair? Is it not your ways that are not fair? <sup>26</sup> If a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and practices unrighteousness, he will die because of it. Because of the unrighteousness that he has practiced, he will die.

<sup>27</sup> But if a wicked man turns from his wickedness that he has done and practices justice and righteousness, he will preserve his life. <sup>28</sup> Because he has seen and turned away from all the rebellious acts that he had committed, he will surely live, and he will not die. <sup>29</sup> But the house of Israel says, "The LORD's way is not fair." Is it really my ways that are not fair, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not fair?

<sup>30</sup> Therefore, I will judge each one of you according to his ways, O house of Israel, declares the LORD God. Repent and turn away from all your rebellious acts, so that you will not set out a stumbling block that makes you guilty. <sup>31</sup> Throw off from yourselves all your rebellious actions by which you have rebelled, and obtain a new heart and a new spirit for yourselves. Why should you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup> For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, declares the LORD God. So repent and live!

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

## Psalm of the Day

Psalm 25 B "I Lift My Soul to You"

The entire congregation will sing together the whole Psalm



Text: para. William Miller; Jaroslav Vajda, alt. Tune: Swedish Text: © 1991 MorningStar Music Publishers. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: Public domain

## Second Reading

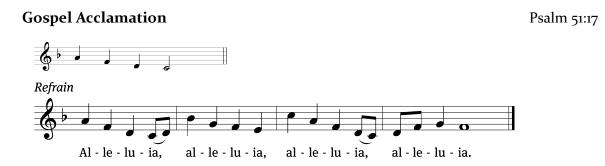
Moved by Christ's love and empowered by the Spirit, we sincerely attempt to imitate the selflessness and humility of Jesus.

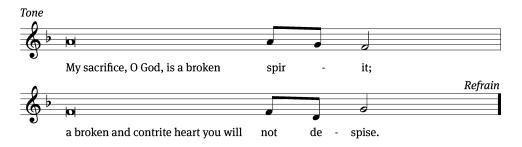
2 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility consider one another better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look carefully not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup> Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, <sup>7</sup> but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced





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## Gospel

### Matthew 21:23-32

Through a story Jesus teaches that sincere love for God involves not just saying what God wants to hear but doing what God wants done.

<sup>23</sup> When Jesus went into the temple courts, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him while he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things?" and "Who gave you this authority?"

<sup>24</sup> Jesus answered them, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer it, I will tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup> The baptism of John, where was it from? From heaven or from men?"

They discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Then why did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'From men,' we are afraid of the crowd, since they all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, "We do not know."

He said to them, "Then I will not tell you by what authority I do these things."

<sup>28</sup> "What do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in my vineyard.' <sup>29</sup> He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> He came to the second and said the same thing. The second son answered, 'I will go, sir,' but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?"

They said to him, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Amen I tell you: The tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness, but

you did not believe him. However, the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him. Even when you saw this, you did not change your mind and believe him."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!** 

Please be seated

## Hymn of the Day

547 "At the Name of Jesus"



In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue all that is not holy, all that is not true. Crown him as your captain in temptation's hour; let his will enfold you in its light and pow'r.

Text: Caroline M. Noel, 1817-1877, abr., alt.

Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again in his Father's glory, with his angel train; for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow, and our hearts confess him King of glory now.

Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Text and

6

Text and tune: Public domain

Matthew 21:23-32 "Knowing Our Place"

(Romans 10:9-10; Philippians 2:10-11)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,

begotten, not made,

of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,

and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

#### Sermon

5

Please stand

## Nicene Creed Credo

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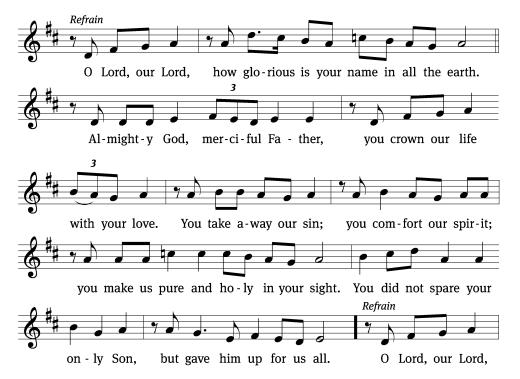
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

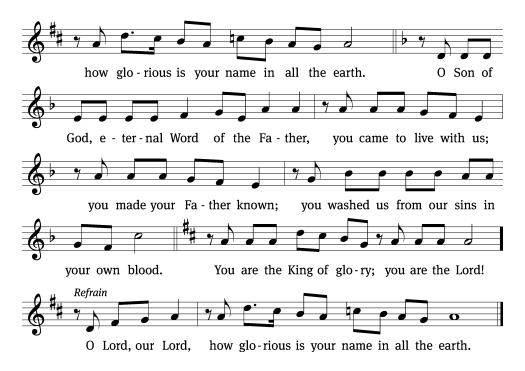
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated

## O Lord, Our Lord (CW 939)

(Psalm 8:1; 103:2-4; John 1:1,14,18; Romans 8:32)





Text: Christian Worship, 1993 Tune: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993 Text: © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: © 1993 Kurt J. Eggert, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

## **Prayer of the Church**

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

Spoken by the minister

Let us pray...

## 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 <u>PayPal</u>, you can scan the QR code printed on the bottom of this page or visit <u>https://www.nainlutheran.org/resources/online-giving</u>.

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!



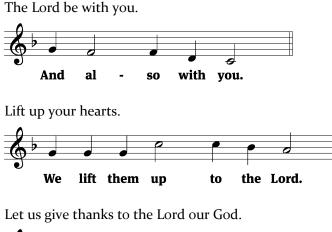
## The Sacrament

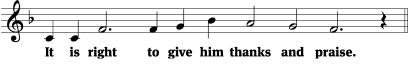
Visitors, before approaching the altar, please read the notes printed later in this bulletin under the section titled "Our Holy Communion Practices"

Please stand

## Prefaces

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





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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

(Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9)



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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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Please be seated

## **Our Holy Communion Practices**

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

#### Visitors

Before approaching the altar to receive Holy Communion, please read the following notes:

The Holy Bible teaches the celebration of the Lord's Supper is an expression of unity in faith and teaching. To be "in communion" means to share and hold in common. By receiving Holy Communion, we are not only sharing Christ's true body and blood, but we are also confessing that we publicly hold in common the same teachings of God's Holy Word.

We therefore invite to Holy Communion only those Christians who share the same teachings to which we hold, all the while recognizing the true spiritual unity and fellowship of all believers in God's Holy Christian Church (i.e. the Communion of Saints). Confirmed members of Nain and confirmed visiting members of sister congregations in the WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) and the ELS (Evangelical Lutheran Synod) are welcome to commune with us.

If you are a member of another Lutheran synod, another Christian denomination, or of another belief, we ask that you refrain from communing with us at this time. We do this out of love and in accordance with God's words through St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:27-29. The pastor would be happy to speak with you if you have interest in communing in the future or have any other questions or concerns about our practices. Thank you for your patience and understanding, and for respecting our beliefs.

#### **Communicants**

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

The usher will direct you to the front of the nave, where you will commune. When the pastor distributes the bread and body of Christ, he will say, "The body of Christ, given for you." When he distributes the wine and blood of Christ, he will say, "The blood of Christ, poured out for you." Before consuming the sacramental elements, you may respond to the pastor's words by saying, "Amen" (which is Hebrew for, "Truly," or "Yes, it is so") as a way to confess your belief that the body and blood of Jesus are truly present in the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of your sins.

#### Children and Non-Communicants

Children and other non-communicants are welcome to approach the altar to receive a blessing from the pastor. He will make the sign of the cross on the head of each and say, "The Lord bless you." Non-Communicant adults are asked to cross their arms over their chest to indicate that they do not intend to commune.

## **Distribution of Holy Communion**

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.

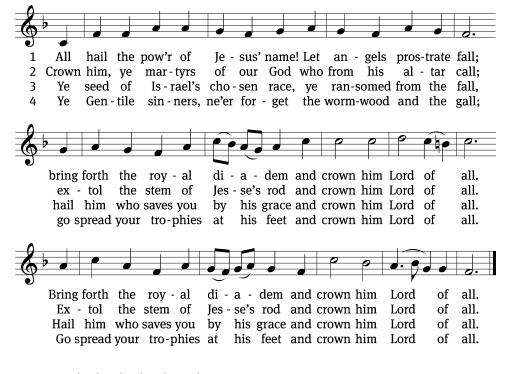
Amen.

**Distribution Hymn** 

578 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"



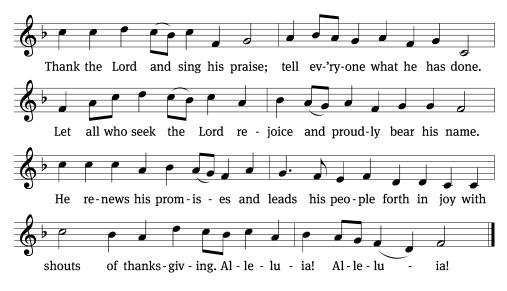
Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901 Text and tune: Public domain **Distribution Hymn** 



- 5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe on this terrestrial ball
   to him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.
   To him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.
- 6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
  We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.
  We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.

## Thank the Lord and Sing His Praise (CW 948)

Please stand as the canticle is introduced



Text: Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978 Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010 Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

## Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

## Proclamation

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

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.

(Psalm 118:1)

(1 Corinthians 11:26)

(Romans 15:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 3:12, 5:11)

#### (Numbers 6:24-26)

#### Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

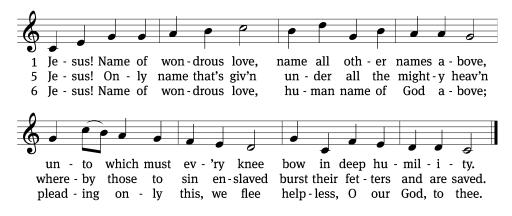
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

#### Amen.

Please be seated

## **Closing Hymn**

496 verses 1, 5, 6 "Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love"



Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt. Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, Halle, 1704, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

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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.

**Special thanks to:** Linda Loeffel for playing organ... Peter Hermanson for serving as distribution assistant... Jerry Loeffel for serving as usher... Mark Buske for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream... and Jessica Reichardt 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 "<u>Worship Resources</u>" 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: <u>www.wels.net</u>

> > Scripture taken from: The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version <sup>™</sup> (EHV <sup>™</sup>) © 2016 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. www.wartburgproject.org

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