

✝ HOLY THURSDAY ✝

March 28, 2024



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

✚ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church ✚

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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.

Holy Thursday

March 28, 2024



Holy Week

This marks the most pivotal week in human history. Nearly a third of the words written in the four Gospels are devoted to the events that took place during this single week. The Holy Spirit considered them that important! Believers slow down during Holy Week to ponder all that Jesus Christ did for them – from his humble entrance into Jerusalem, to his sacrificial death on the cross, to his victory over sin, death, and hell on Easter morning won by his resurrection.

Holy Thursday

On the night Jesus was betrayed, our Lord gathered with his disciples to prepare them for his imminent suffering, death, and resurrection. It was at this upper room gathering, that Jesus washed his apostles' feet, giving them and all believers the command of love that replaces self with neighbor.

On this same night Jesus also changed the Passover meal forever with his words, "This is my body... this is my blood." Jesus now gives Christians the Sacrament of Holy Communion, in which he comes to meet us with his heavenly forgiveness. The institution of the Lord's Supper sets forth the depth of Jesus' love and gives power to the Church to live out his command to love one another as he has loved us.

After gathering with his disciples to celebrate the Last Supper, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane where he prayed and would later be arrested. During his midnight trials, Christ's Passover predictions of Peter's denial came true, and he was ultimately sentenced to death. Holy Thursday is therefore a mixed bag of emotions for Christians. Christ's passion was becoming unbearable on this night. Yet, it is on this night when he gave us the greatest gift: himself!

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.

***Serving as presiding minister and preacher today is Rev. John Bortulin,
who serves as one of the pastors of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church in Mukwonago, WI.***

The Preparation

There will be no pre-service music or announcements.

Please remain silent as you prepare for worship.

Tolling of the Bells

Please remain seated and silent

Opening Hymn

398 "Not All the Blood of Beasts"



- 1 Not all the blood of beasts on Is - rael's al - tars slain
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, takes all our sins a - way,
3 In faith I place my hand on that dear head di - vine,
4 My soul looks back to see the bur - den you did bear
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - joice to see the curse re - move;



could give the guilt - y con - science peace or wash a - way the stain.
a sac - ri - fice of no - bler name and rich - er blood than they.
as pen - i - tent - ly here I stand and lay on him my sin.
when hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there!
we bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice and sing his bleed - ing love.

Invocation

(Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

Please stand

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Instruction for the End of Lent

Brothers and sisters in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation. We have also heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and one another. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus our Savior.

Within the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt but firmly believe that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other, as Jesus became our servant.

In Holy Communion, first instituted on this night, the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's Last Supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of his body and blood for forgiveness and participate in that new covenant that makes us one with him and one another. The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

Confession

(1 John 1:8-9; Luke 18:13)

As we begin the solemn celebration of our Lord's passion, let us confess our sins to him, receive his absolution, and be reconciled to God and each other in Christian love.

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.

Exhortation

Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us, has reconciled us to God, and has promised us the power to forgive and love one another. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.

Prayer of the Day

(Matthew 7:7-11; Philippians 4:6)

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on a cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

The Word

First Reading

Exodus 12:21-30

²¹ Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and take lambs for yourselves according to your family size, and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²² You shall take a bundle of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and paint the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you are to go out of the door of your house until morning. ²³ When the LORD passes through to strike Egypt and sees the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over that door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.

²⁴ “You shall observe these instructions as a perpetual regulation for you and your descendants. ²⁵ When you enter the land that the LORD will give you just as he said he would, you shall observe this ceremony. ²⁶ So when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ ²⁷ you will say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the Passover to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt. When he struck the Egyptians, he spared our houses.’ ”

The people bowed down and worshipped. ²⁸ The Israelites went and did all this. They did just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.

²⁹ At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on his throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner who was in the dungeon, even all the firstborn of the livestock. ³⁰ During the night Pharaoh got up—he, all

his servants, and all the Egyptians—and there was a loud outcry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not someone dead.

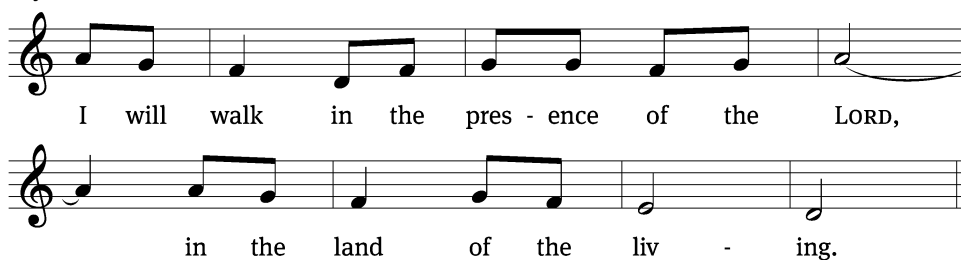
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 116 B “I Will Walk in the Presence of the LORD”

Refrain



Tone



I love the LORD, for he / heard my voice;
he heard my cry for / mercy.
Because he turned his / ear to me,
I will call on him as long / as I live.
The LORD is gracious and / righteous;
when I was brought low, he / saved me. *Refrain*

What shall I return / to the LORD
for all his good- / ness to me?
I will lift up the cup of sal- / vation
and call on the name / of the LORD.
Precious in the sight / of the LORD
is the death of his faithful / servants.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

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Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:16,17

¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one bread, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

1 Corinthians 11:26

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced



Refrain



Glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, Son of the liv - ing God.

Tone



Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup,



you proclaim the Lord's death un - til he comes.

Refrain

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Gospel

Mark 14:12-26

¹² On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” ¹³ He sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and there a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴ Wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house that the Teacher says, ‘Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹⁵ He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

¹⁶ His disciples left and went into the city and found things just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷ When it was evening, he arrived with the Twelve.

¹⁸ While they were reclining and eating, Jesus said, “Amen I tell you: One of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.”

¹⁹ They began to be sorrowful and said to him one by one, “Surely not I?”

²⁰ He said to them, “It is one of the Twelve, one who is dipping bread with me in the dish. ²¹ Indeed, the Son of Man is going to go just as it has been written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

²² While they were eating, Jesus took bread. When he had blessed it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “Take it. This is my body.”

²³ Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them. They all drank from it. ²⁴ He said to them, “This is my blood of the new testament, which is poured out for many. ²⁵ Amen I tell you: I will certainly not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” ²⁶ After they sang a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

659 "Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior"



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, turned a - way God's
 2 As his pledge of love un - dy - ing, he, this pre - cious
 3 Je - sus here him - self is shar - ing; take heed how you
 4 Use - less would be Je - sus' pas - sion if sal - va - tion
 5 Christ says, "Come, all you that la - bor, and re - ceive my
 6 Then hold fast with faith un - shak - en that this food is
 7 Praise the Fa - ther, who from heav - en un - to us such
 8 If your heart this truth pro - fess - es and your mouth your



wrath for - ev - er; by his bit - ter grief and woe
 food sup - ply - ing, gives his bod - y with the bread
 are pre - par - ing, for if you do not be - lieve,
 you could fash - ion. Do not come if you sup - pose
 grace and fa - vor; those who feel no pain or ill
 to be tak - en by the souls who are dis - tressed,
 food has giv - en and, to mend what we have done,
 sin con - fess - es, sure - ly you will be his guest



he saved us from the e - vil foe.
 and with the wine the blood he shed.
 judg - ment in - stead you shall re - ceive.
 you need not him who died and rose.
 need no phy - si - cian's help or skill."
 by hearts that long for peace and rest.
 gave in - to death his on - ly Son.
 and at his ban - quet ev - er blest.

*Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; German version, Martin Luther, 1483-1546, abr.; John Hus, c. 1369-1415
 Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1533, ed. Joseph Klug, alt. Text and tune: Public domain*

Sermon

Exodus 12:21-30; Mark 14:12-26

Nicene Creed *Credo*

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

Please stand

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

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

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

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

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

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Please be seated

O Lord, Our Lord (CW 939)

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

Refrain

O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Fa - ther, you crown our life

with your love. You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it;

you make us pure and ho-ly in your sight. You did not spare your

Refrain

on - ly Son, but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,

how glo-rious is your name in all the earth. O Son of

God, e - ter-nal Word of the Fa - ther, you came to live with us;

you made your Fa - ther known; you washed us from our sins in

your own blood. You are the King of glo-ry; you are the Lord!

Refrain

O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.

Prayer of the Church

Holy Thursday

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you are the Lamb of God, pictured in the ancient Passover feast, now giving your own body and pouring out your own blood in Holy Communion. Just as the Passover lambs assured the Israelites of God's promise to deliver them from death,
strengthen our belief that the bread is your real body and the wine is your real blood, given to us for our forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Prepare us to receive this sacrament remembering your death and repenting of our sins.
Unite us by our oneness of faith throughout this congregation and our synod, and love us to the end that we may love others as you have loved us.

We rejoice in our fellow believers who have been instructed in your Word and confirmed in the Lutheran faith, who are now ready to receive Holy Communion.
Equip them with every spiritual blessing for doing your will.

We pray for those absent from the sacrament because of their own neglect.
Call them in your mercy to return and renew their faith.

Keep in your care those unable to receive the sacrament often because they are homebound, hospitalized, imprisoned, serving in the military, or otherwise separated from the fellowship of believers. Encourage them so that they do not lose hope.
Be gracious to us all and nourish us with this feast, that we remain faithful unto death, and become partakers of the wedding feast of the Lamb.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Please stand

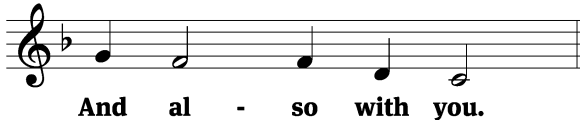
The Sacrament

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

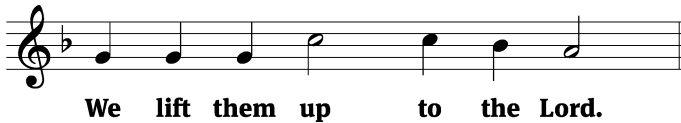
Prefaces

(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 brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome.

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)

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

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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.

O Christ, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

(John 1:29; Isaiah 53:4-7; 1 Peter 1:18-19)

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

A - men. A - men.

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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

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 2:42)

As he distributes the elements, the minister says to the communicants:

The body of Christ, given for you.

Amen.

The blood of Christ, poured out for you.

Amen.

As he dismisses the communicants, the 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

417 “It Was a Dark and Dismal Night”



1 It was a dark and dis - mal night when pow'rs of
2 Be - fore the mourn - ful scene be - gan, he took the
3 “This is my bod - y, slain for sin; re - ceive and
4 “Do this,” he said, “till time shall end, in mem - 'ry
5 Je - sus, your feast we cel - e - brate; we show your



earth and hell a - rose a - gainst the Son, our
bread and blessed and broke. What love through all his
eat the liv - ing food.” Then took the cup and
of your dy - ing friend; meet at my ta - ble
death; we sing your name till you re - turn and



God's de - light, and friends be - trayed him to his foes.
ac - tions ran! What won - drous words of grace he spoke!
blessed the wine: “This is my all - a - ton - ing blood.”
and re - cord the love of your de - part - ed Lord.”
we shall eat the mar - riage sup - per of the Lamb.

Distribution Hymn

418 "The Blood of the Lamb"



1 The Fa - ther sees his chil - dren's chains. From Phar - aoh's
 2 The lamb is slain as sun is set— a per - fect
 3 As mid - night looms, the hour of death, God seeks the
 4 Chil - dren of God, we too were slaves: our mas - ter—
 5 This per - fect Lamb is Je - sus Christ. He gave him -
 6 The blood he spilled, the life he spent, he gives us



land they cry in pain. To res - cue
 lamb, with - out de - fect. They stain their
 first - born, steals their breath, but pass - es
 sin! Our end— the grave! But free - dom
 self as sac - ri - fice. His life poured
 now in sac - ra - ment. E - ter - nal



them, he makes a way: the blood of the lamb.
 doors with in - no - cence: the blood of the lamb.
 o'er doors drenched in red: the blood of the lamb.
 came in crim - son shades: the blood of the Lamb.
 out, the fi - nal price: the blood of the Lamb.
 life on Christ de - pends: the blood of the Lamb.

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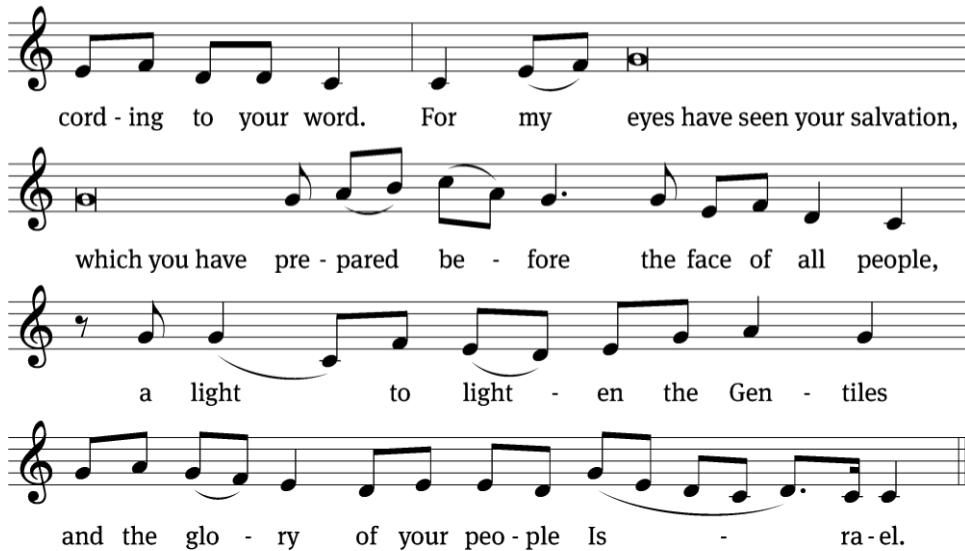
Lord, Now You Let Your Servant (CW 951) *Nunc Dimittis*

(Luke 2:29-32)

Please stand as the canticle is introduced



Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac -



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.

Please be seated

Stripping of the Altar

While the music is being played, the candles, bookstand, linens, paraments, and altar cross will be solemnly removed from the altar.

The stripping of the altar is done in token of the Lord's abandonment by his disciples in Gethsemane and in preparation for Good Friday. Since the Christian altar symbolizes Christ, we also recall how Christ's body was stripped of its pure seamless undergarment on Good Friday. These garments were divided among the Roman soldiers just as prophesied in Psalm 22. As we begin to meditate upon our Lord's Passion, the church is emptied of its ornamental beauty and darkened. It will remain so until Easter Sunday when it will be decorated again for our celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

After the stripping of the altar, the lights will be dimmed and the minister will recite Psalm 88.

Psalm 88

Spoken by the minister

- ¹ O LORD, the God who saves me, by day I cry out.
At night I cry before you.
- ² May my prayer come before you.
Turn your ear to my cry.
- ³ Indeed, my soul has had its fill of troubles,
and my life has arrived at the grave.
- ⁴ I am treated like those who go down to the pit.
I am like someone without strength.
- ⁵ I am turned loose with the dead.
I am like the slain who lie in the grave,
like the ones you do not remember anymore,
like those who are cut off from your hand.
- ⁶ You have put me in the lowest pit,
in dark places, in the depths.
- ⁷ Your wrath presses against me.
You have battered me with all your breakers.

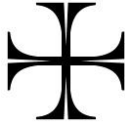
- ⁸ You have distanced my acquaintances from me.
You have made me repulsive to them.
I am shut in and I cannot get out.
- ⁹ My eyesight grows dim from affliction.
I call to you, O LORD, every day.
I spread out my hands to you.
- ¹⁰ Is it for the dead that you do a miracle?
Do the spirits of the dead rise up and praise you?
- ¹¹ Is your mercy declared in the tomb,
your faithfulness in decay?
- ¹² Is your wonderful work known in the darkness?
Is your righteousness known in the land of forgetfulness?
- ¹³ But I cry to you, O LORD,
and in the morning my prayer comes before you.
- ¹⁴ Why, O LORD, do you reject my soul?
Why do you hide your face from me?
- ¹⁵ I have been afflicted
and I have been close to death since my youth.
I have endured your terrors.
I am in despair.
- ¹⁶ Your rage has swept over me.
Your terrors have destroyed me.
- ¹⁷ All day long they surround me like water.
They have battered me completely.
- ¹⁸ You have distanced my loved one and friend from me.
My only friend is darkness.

The minister exits in silence

The lights are turned off

The service is concluded





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

There won't be any post-service music or announcements.

You will not be ushered out. You may depart any time after the conclusion of the service.

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

*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: Rev. John Bortulin for serving as guest liturgist and preacher... Linda Loeffel for playing piano... Aaron Palmer for serving as distribution assistant... Jerry Loeffel for serving as usher... Joe Lopina for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream... and Jessica Reichardt for serving on Altar Duty.

"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 [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com), 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: www.wels.net



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

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You are invited to join us at 7:00 pm as we commemorate Jesus' death on the cross to pay the price for our sins in a special service called, "A Service of the Seven Words from the Cross."

We will be setting up the church between 9:00-11:00 am in preparation for Sunday's breakfast and Divine Service. Thank you in advance to those who are willing to help!

Easter Sunday March 31

All are welcome to enjoy breakfast in the downstairs fellowship hall anytime between 8:00-9:30 am.

You are invited to join us at 10:00 am as we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ in our Easter Sunday Divine Service.