+ FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST +

June 16, 2024



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St. West Allis, WI 53214

+ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church +

1665 South 57th 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

Pianist:Juanita BeckerChurch Choir:Lois BuskeChildren's Choir:Peter Hermanson

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.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Proper 6

June 16, 2024



Season after Pentecost A Top-Down Faith

We have entered the second half of the Church Year, the half that focuses on the teachings of the Christian faith. Christian teachings come "from the top down," but not in the sense that those teachings are oppressively imposed on us. When we call Christianity a "top-down faith," we mean that it tells us things about God that are so beautiful and good – teachings that couldn't possibly have originated from human thinking. The Christian faith contains teachings that are so wonderful that we would never even believe them unless God himself revealed their truthfulness to us. So, God sent his Spirit from heaven to earth – from the top down – to empower his children to believe that which would otherwise be totally unbelievable.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost From the Tiniest Seed Grows the Largest Kingdom

Usually, a kingdom advances and is secured through things like military might, political force, or worldly wealth. It can be tempting to believe the same holds true in the kingdom of God. Perhaps we think churches would flourish if we had the right rulers passing and enforcing the right laws. Or we believe that for a church to do good requires a robust budget. Political force. Worldly wealth. This way of thinking is breathtakingly wrong.

We need God to give us the top-down faith that grasps the fact that kingdom of God advances in ways that are imperceptible. Through something that seems insignificant to most – the gospel – the King of kings establishes his reign in human hearts. Even Jesus himself compared the gospel to a tiny seed. Yet within a seed is hidden life. As the seed of the gospel is planted, the largest of all kingdoms grows.

The Service Setting Four

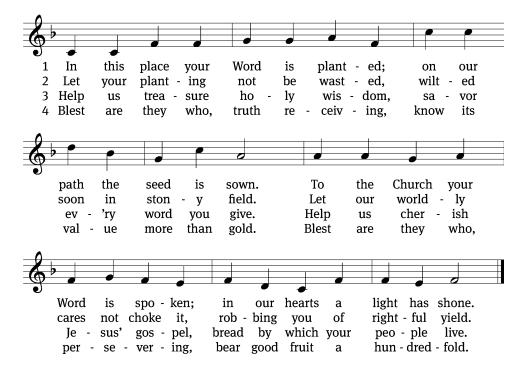
Welcome to God's house in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

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

981 "In This Place Your Word Is Planted"



Text: Delores Dufner, b. 1939 Tune: Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716 Text: © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 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.



Tune: © 2021 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758





Tune: © 2002 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

The Word

Salutation

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy and bring forth fruits in faith, hope, and love; 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 17:22-24

Through the prophet Ezekiel, the LORD promised that the kingdom of God would grow large and strong and provide safety and shelter for God's people.

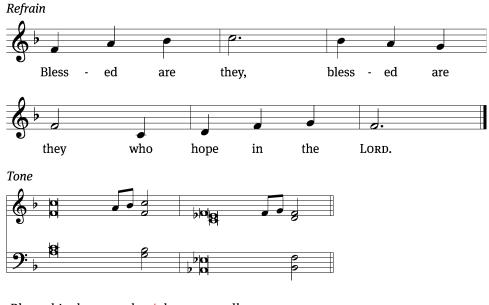
²² This is what the LORD God says. I myself will take part of the tip of the cedar and plant it. From the topmost of its shoots I will pluck off a tender sprig, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³ On the high mountain of Israel I will plant it. It will produce branches, bear fruit, and become a magnificent cedar. Flying birds of every kind will live under it. In the shelter of its branches they will nest. ²⁴ Then all the trees in the countryside will know that I, the LORD, bring down the high tree and raise up the low tree, that I make the green tree dry up, and I make the dried-up tree blossom. I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will carry it out.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God. (Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22)

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

Psalm of the Day

The Church sings Psalm 1 in services that emphasize the benefits of meditation on the law of the Lord. The Word of God causes us to flourish and bear good fruit, especially love for God that flows into love for human beings.



Blessed is the one who / does not walk

in step with the / wicked

or stand in the way that / sinners take

or sit in the company of / mockers,

but whose delight is in the law / of the LORD,

and who meditates on his law / day and night.

That person is like a tree planted by streams of / water,

which yields its fruit in / season

and whose leaf does not / wither-

whatever they do / prospers. Refrain

Not so the / wicked!

They are like chaff that the wind / blows away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the / judgment,

nor sinners in the assembly of the / righteous. Refrain

For the LORD watches over the way of the / righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to de- / struction.
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*

Text: Lectionary for Mass (refrain) Tune: Michel Guimont Setting: Michel Guimont Text: © 1969, 1981, 1997 ICEL (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Music: © 1998 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

Second Reading

Colossians 1:3-8

We thank God that the seed of the gospel is producing fruit throughout the whole world.

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you have for all the saints ⁵ because of the hope that is stored up for you in heaven. You have already heard about this in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶ that is present with you now. The gospel is bearing fruit and growing in the entire world, just as it also has been doing among you from the day you heard it and came to know the grace of God in truth. ⁷You learned this from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf. ⁸ He is the one who told us about your love in the Spirit.

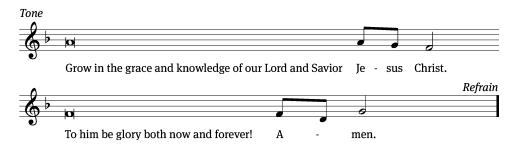
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced

Gospel Acclamation

2 Peter 3:18





Tune: © 2002, 2021 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

The minister processes to the nave floor for the Gospel, symbolizing Christ's presence among us in his Word

Gospel

Mark 4:26-34

The kingdom grows when the seed is sown. The Word works.

²⁶ He said, "The kingdom of God is like this: A man scatters seed on the ground, ²⁷ and while he sleeps and rises, night and day the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ The ground produces fruit on its own: first the blade, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹ When the crop is ready, he swings the sickle without delay, because the harvest has come."

³⁰ Then he said, "To what should we compare the kingdom of God? Or with what parable may we picture it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which when sown on the ground is one of the smallest of all the seeds planted in the ground. ³² Yet when it is planted, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches so that the birds of the sky can nest under its shade."

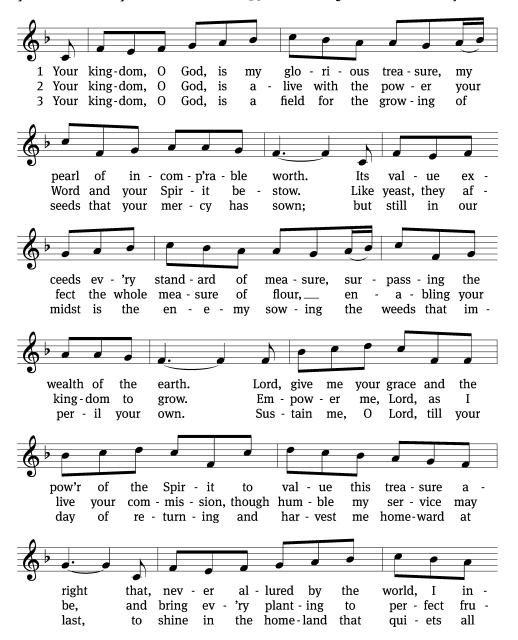
³³ With many similar parables he continued to speak the word to them, as much as they were able to hear. ³⁴ He did not speak to them without a parable. But when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them.

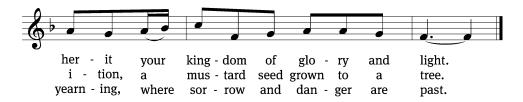
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

859 "Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure"





Text: David W. Rogner, b. 1960 Tune: Joseph Herl, b. 1959 Text: © 2002 David W. Rogner. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: © 2003 Joseph Herl. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

Sermon

Mark 4:26-34

"How Does God's Kingdom Grow?"

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

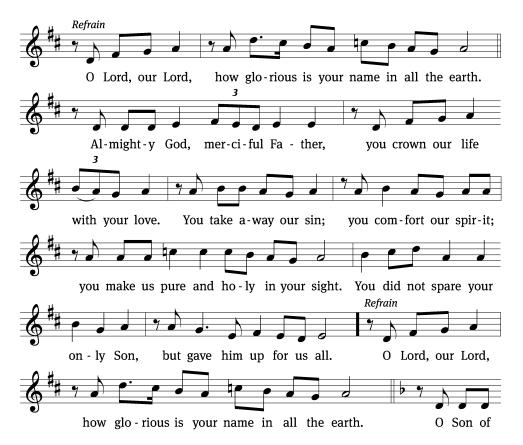
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

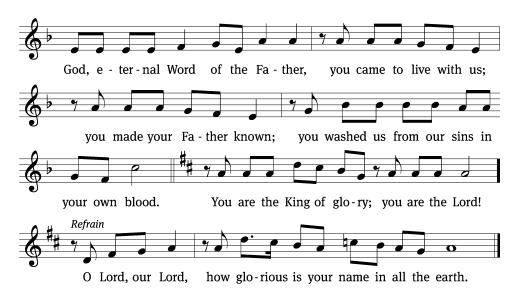
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. 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)





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

Mission of the Church

Let us pray.

Eternal God and Father, we thank you for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, and for fellowship with believers in our congregation and our synod.

Help us rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and use them faithfully.

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, Lord Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you. **Awaken us to opportunities to proclaim your message of love.**

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect. **Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Silent prayer

Keep in your care those who are enduring chronic pain and incessant unhappiness, those enduring rejection and struggling with poverty, those mourning the loss of someone they loved. Bring healing and help and comfort and calm to everyone in distress. **Move us to act alone or join with others to provide help and support**.

Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. 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.



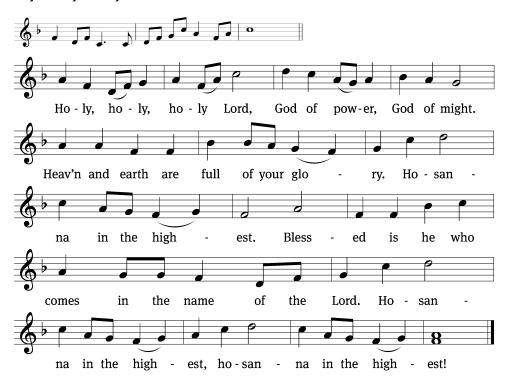
Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer Tune: © 2021 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

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)



Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer Tune: © 2002 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

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

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.**



Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer Tune: © 2002 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

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.

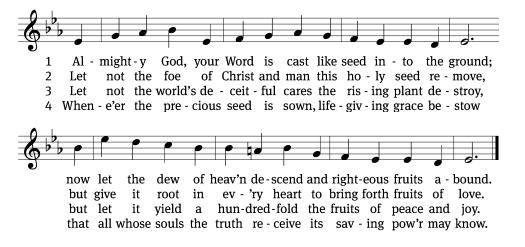
As he dismisses the communicants, the minister says:

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

Amen.

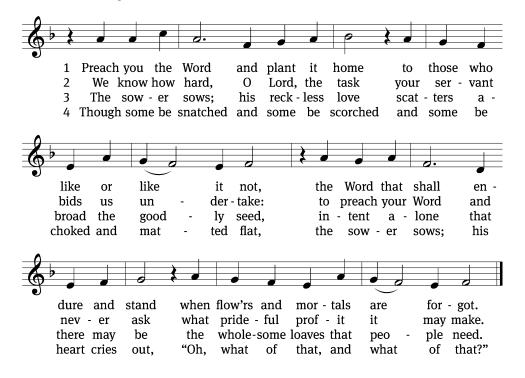
Distribution Hymn

644 "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast"



Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, abr., alt. Tune: The CL Psalmes of David, Edinburgh, 1615 Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

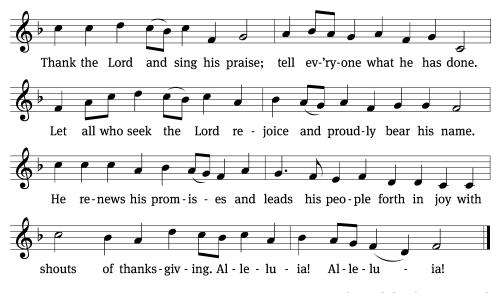


- Of all his scattered plenteousness one-fourth waves ripe on hill and flat, and bears a harvest, hundredfold: "Ah, what of that, Lord, what of that!"
- 6 Preach you the Word and plant it home and never faint; the Harvest Lord who gave the sower seed to sow will watch and tend his planted Word.

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976, alt. Tune: Geistliche Lieder D. Martini Lutheri, Leipzig, 1589 Text: © 1971 The Franzmann Family. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: Public domain

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)

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

925 "On What Has Now Been Sown"



Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, adapt., alt. Tune: John Darwall, 1731–1789 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.

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. If you wish to give your offering via <u>PayPal</u>, you can scan the QR code on the last page of this bulletin. Thank you for your financial support of our congregation!

Please contact Pastor Berg at any time if you are need of any pastoral care during the week.

Thank you for joining us as we together worshiped our Triune God. The Lord be with you this week!



Special thanks to: Juanita Becker for playing piano... Aaron Palmer for serving as distribution assistant... Michael Kraft for serving as usher... Joe Lopina for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream... and Lois Buske 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 [™] (EHV [™]) © 2016 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. www.wartburgproject.org

Setting Four from Christian Worship Software distributed in partnership with <u>Northwestern Publishing House</u>. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

> Psalm introduction from Christian Worship: Psalter © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Reprinted by permission.

Front and back cover artwork by Ian M. Welch https://paramentics.com. Used by permission.

Page 3 artwork courtesy of Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission.

Reprinted under OneLicense.net # 726758.