

✚ FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT ✚

December 1, 2024



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

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1665 South 57th Street | West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

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Pastor: Joseph M. Berg

Organist: Rachel Cordes

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Church Choir: Lois Buske

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Children'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.

First Sunday in Advent

December 1, 2024



Advent

A Real Christmas

Christmas is a beloved holiday for so many, yet so few know what Christmas is really about. If you want a real Christmas, then you need to observe Advent. Advent is Latin for “coming.” In the season of Advent, Christians observe the connection between the first time the Son of God came into our world as the Savior and the second time he will come as the Judge. Advent prepares our minds and hearts, so that we might soon celebrate a real Christmas.

First Sunday in Advent

A Real Christmas Requires Remembering Why Christ Came

The First Sunday in Advent traditionally has been called “*Ad Te Levavi*” Sunday. It derives its name from the Latin words of the Introit of the day: “To (Ad) You (Te), O Lord, I lift (Levavi) my soul” (Psalm 25:1). On the First Sunday in Advent, the Church turns her attention (lifts her soul) to the coming Messiah, long foretold by the prophets.

It is easy to get so caught up in the imagery – a tiny newborn baby, lying in the straw filled manger under a star-filled sky – that we forget the why. Why did the Son of God come into our world and take on human flesh? So that he might die as the sacrifice for our sins. One Christmas carol puts it this way. “Neither crib nor cross refuses, all he suffers for your good to redeem you by his blood.”

Advent marks the start of a new Church Year. We begin at the end, watching Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey colt, knowing full well that he would be killed before the end of the week. The events of Palm Sunday serve as a microcosm for all Jesus’ work, proving the Son of God was willing to humble himself and endure anything for our salvation. That is precisely why Christ came. And a real Christmas requires remembering why Christ came.

The Service

Setting One

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

302 "Prepare the Royal Highway"



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a -



near! Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a
King! Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread
King! Your King, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its
bove. His rule is peace and free - dom and



lev - el road ap - pear! Then greet the King of
gar - ments! Shout and sing! God's prom - ise will not
trib - ute too should bring. All lands, bow down be -
jus - tice, truth, and love. So let your praise be



glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
fore him! All na - tions, now a - dore him!
sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



*Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847 Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.
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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.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



A - men.

The Advent Candle

(John 8:12; Luke 12:35)

We light one Advent candle today, remembering Jesus, who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

We remember Jesus, who will come at the end of time. None of us know what day that will be.

We hear his call to watch.

We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

For more information about the history and significance of the Advent wreath and candles, please read the notes on the back page of this bulletin

Song of Praise

327 *verse 1* "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first three staves contain the main verse, and the last two staves contain the refrain. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Traditionally, the “Glory be to God” is not sung during the penitential season of Advent. During this time of preparation, the Church looks forward to the return of the glorious song of the angels on Christmas Day in celebration of God fulfilling his promises in Jesus Christ.

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.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The LORD promised that a descendant of King David would be our righteous Savior.

¹⁴ Listen, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the good promises that I have spoken to the house of Israel and concerning the house of Judah.

¹⁵ In those days and at that time,
I will cause a righteous Branch to grow up from David's line.
He will establish justice and righteousness on earth.

¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved,
and Jerusalem will dwell securely.
This is what she will be called:
The LORD Our Righteousness.

The Word of the Lord.

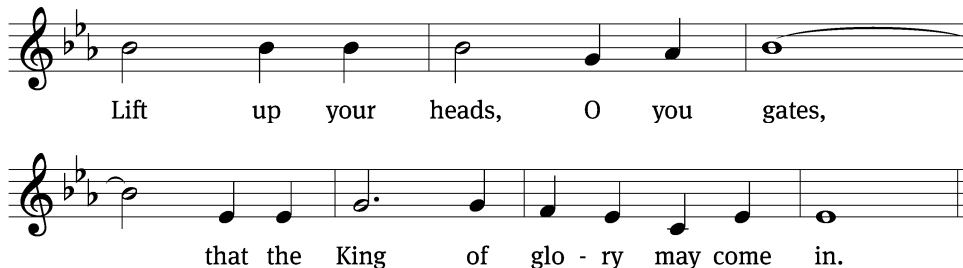
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 24 C “Lift Up Your Heads”

The Church sings Psalm 24 in services on the First Sunday in Advent and Palm Sunday, both anticipating the arrival of Christ the Lord. The psalm is a processional liturgy for the entrance of the King of glory into Zion.

Refrain



Lift up your heads, O you gates,
that the King of glo - ry may come in.

Tone



The earth is the LORD's, and every- / thing in it,
the world, and all who / live in it;
for he founded it / on the seas
and established it on the / waters.
Who may ascend the mountain / of the LORD?
Who may stand in his / holy place?
The one who has clean hands and a / pure heart,
they will receive blessing from God their / Savior.

Refrain

Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you / ancient doors,
that the King of glory / may come in.
Who is this King of / glory?
The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in / battle.
Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you / ancient doors,
that the King of glory / may come in.
Who is he, this King of / glory?
The LORD Almighty—he is the King of / glory.

**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

Tune: Bryan Gerlach Tune: © 2003 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Christ came the first time so that by his saving work we might be found blameless and holy when he comes again.

⁹ Indeed, how can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have before God on account of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we are praying earnestly to see you in person and to supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ May God our Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord increase your love and make it overflow for each other and for all people, just as ours does for you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts as blameless in holiness before our God and Father, when our Lord Jesus comes with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced

Gospel Acclamation

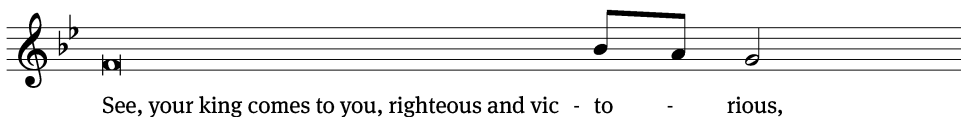
Zechariah 9:9



Refrain



Tone



Hymn of the Day

301 "Savior of the Nations, Come"



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, by the
3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child of the
4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came and as -
5 Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, praise to



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
Spir - it of our God was the Word of
vir - gin un - de - filed, though by all the
cend - ed to the same, cap - tive lead - ing
God the Son, our King, praise to God the



heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
God made flesh, wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
world dis - owned, yet to be in heav'n en - throned!
death and hell. High the song of tri - umph swell!
Spir - it be ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

*Text: tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812-1876, alt.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483-1546, abr.; Ambrose of Milan, 340-397, abr.
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter Text and tune: Public domain*

Sermon

Luke 19:28-40

"See Your King Comes to You"

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

Create in Me a Clean Heart (CW 942)

(Psalm 51:10-12)



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
 pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
 store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
 and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. James E. Engel, 1925–1989 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Church

Advent

Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.

Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.

Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.

As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.

Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Please stand

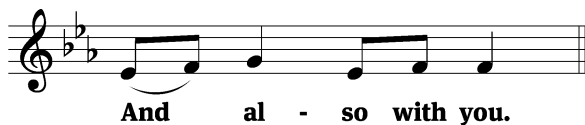
The Sacrament

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.



We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

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)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -



san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,



bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

(John 1:3; Romans 8:32)

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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)

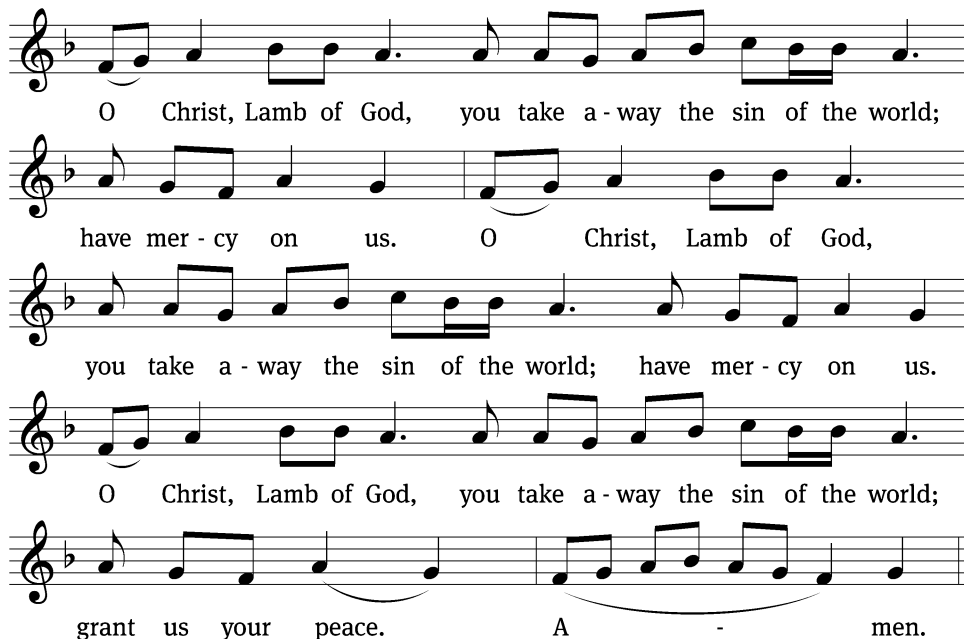
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

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.

Please be seated

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

303 "O Bride of Christ, Rejoice"



1 O bride of Christ, re-joice! Ex-ult-ant raise your voice
2 Let shouts of glad-ness rise tri-um-phant to the skies.
3 A hum-ble beast he rides, yet as a king pre-sides;
4 The weak and tim-id find how meek he is and kind;
5 Then go your Lord to meet, strew palm leaves at his feet,



to hail the day of glo-ry fore-told in sa-cred sto-ry.
Now comes the King most glo-rious to reign o'er all vic-to-rious.
tho' not ar-rayed in splen-dor, he makes the grave sur-ren-der.
to them he gives a trea-sure of bliss be-yond all mea-sure.
your gar-ments spread be-fore him, and hon-or and a-dore him.



Ho-san-na! Now a-dore him; with prais-es bow be-fore him!
Ho-san-na! Now a-dore him; with prais-es bow be-fore him!
Ho-san-na! Now a-dore him; with prais-es bow be-fore him!
Ho-san-na! Now a-dore him; with prais-es bow be-fore him!
Ho-san-na! Sing the sto-ry of Christ, the King of glo-ry!

Distribution Hymn

305 "Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates"



1 Lift up your heads, you might - y gates! Be - hold, the King of
 2 The King is born in pov - er - ty, his char - iot is hu -
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the rul - er
 4 Fling wide the gates; pre - pare your heart to be a tem - ple
 5 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to you; here,



glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing near; the
 mil - i - ty, his king - ly crown is ho - li - ness, his
 is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py homes to
 set a - part from earth - ly use for heav'n's em - ploy, a -
 Lord, a - bid! O en - ter with your sav - ing grace; show



Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal - va - tion
 scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of all our
 whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less sun of
 dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your Sov - 'reign
 me your kind and friend - ly face. Your Ho - ly Spir - it



he will bring; there - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To
 woe he brings; there - fore the earth is glad and sings. To
 joy is he who comes to set his peo - ple free. To
 en - ter in and new and no - bler life be - gin. To
 guide us on un - til our glo - rious goal is won. E -



God the Fa - ther raise your joy - ful songs of praise.
 Christ the Sav - ior raise your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 God the Spir - it raise your hap - py shouts of praise.
 God a - lone be praise for word and deed and grace!
 ter - nal praise and fame we of - fer to your name.

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.

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 -
cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

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.

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

Closing Hymn

313 “Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751, abr., alt. Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820, alt. 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 [PayPal](#), you can scan the QR code on the last page of this bulletin.

Thank you for your financial support of our congregation!

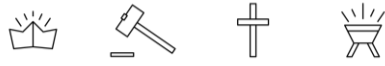
***Thank you for joining us** as we together worshiped our Triune God. The Lord be with you this week!*

Please join us this Wednesday at either 4:00 or 7:00 pm for our midweek Advent service.

We will follow the order of Evening Prayer and consider the theme: "The Name That Is Above Every

Name: Jesus." The 7:00 pm service will be live streamed. Please visit our website,

www.nainlutheran.org, to be directed to our YouTube channel.



Come, Lord Jesus!

Advent & Christmas Service Schedule

First Sunday in Advent

Sunday | December 1 | 10:00 am

A Real Christmas Requires Remembering Why Christ Came

Midweek of Advent 1

Wednesday | December 4 | 4:00 & 7:00 pm

The Name That Is Above Every Name: "Jesus"

Second Sunday in Advent

Sunday | December 8 | 10:00 am

A Real Christmas Is Rooted in Repentance

Midweek of Advent 2

Wednesday | December 11 | 4:00 & 7:00 pm

The Name That Is Above Every Name: "Christ"

Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday | December 15 | 10:00 am

A Real Christmas Results in Great Joy

Midweek of Advent 3

Wednesday | December 18 | 4:00 & 7:00 pm

The Name That Is Above Every Name: "Lord"

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday | December 22 | 10:00 am

A Real Christmas Will Lift Up the Lowly

Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve

Tuesday | December 24 | 5:00 pm

God Gives Heaven's Best Gift in Earth's Unlikeliest Place

Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day

Wednesday | December 25 | 10:00 am

God Gives Himself as One of Us

First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday | December 29 | 10:00 am

God Gives Both Substitute and Sacrifice

Second Sunday after Christmas

Sunday | January 5 | 10:00 am

God Gives Satisfaction to Those Who Patiently Wait

Epiphany of Our Lord

Monday | January 6 | 7:00 pm

The Gift of God Is for All People



The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is believed to have originated in Germany, as a folk custom. The evergreen branches symbolize God's unending love for us, and eternal life found in Christ. The four candles set in the wreath represent the four Sundays in the season of Advent. The lighting of the candles each week in Advent marks the growing anticipation for the birth of Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the World.

The color of the candles is significant. Some churches use three purple or violet candles on the first, second, and fourth Sundays to remind us that Advent is a season of repentance. Other churches use three blue candles on these Sundays to symbolize our hope and expectation at the coming of Jesus, especially his second coming in glory on the Last Day. A rose or pink candle is often used on the third Sunday, historically observed as Gaudete (Rejoice!) Sunday as a reminder that Advent is also a time of joy. The fifth candle, if used, is white. It is lit on Christmas Day and symbolizes the perfection and purity of God's gift to sinners: his righteous Son, Jesus Christ.

Some traditions associate a theme with each candle. One tradition is as follows...

The **Prophecy Candle** – Also called the Hope Candle, this purple/violet or blue candle symbolizes the Old Testament prophecies of Christ's coming.

The **Bethlehem Candle** – Also called the Peace Candle, this purple/violet or blue candle symbolizes the birth of Jesus to the Virgin Mary in the town of Bethlehem.

The **Shepherds' Candle** – Also called the Joy Candle, this pink or rose-colored candle symbolizes the coming of the Savior into the hearts and lives of believers, like he did with the shepherds at his birth.

The **Angels' Candle** – Also called the Good News Candle, this purple/violet or blue candle symbolizes the final glorious coming of the Savior with all his angels on the Last Day.

The **Christ Candle** – This white candle symbolizes the day of Jesus' birth, the coming we've been waiting for, the advent of Jesus, the Light of the World.



Special thanks to: Rachel Cordes for playing organ... Aaron Palmer for serving as distribution assistant... Kyle Peterson for serving as usher... and Ben Leyrer for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream.

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 "[Worship Resources](#)" 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.

Nain is a member congregation of the **Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod**.

For more information about our synod, please visit its website: www.wels.net



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