

✝ SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT ✝

December 8, 2024



**Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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

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1665 South 57<sup>th</sup> Street | West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

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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.

# Second Sunday in Advent

December 8, 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.

*Second Sunday in Advent*

## ***A Real Christmas Is Rooted in Repentance***

The Second Sunday in Advent is traditionally known as “*Populus Zion*” Sunday. *Populus Zion* means “People of Zion.” The Sunday derives its name from the Latin words of the Introit of the day: “Say to the *daughter of Zion (Populus Zion)*, ‘See, your Savior comes!’” (Isaiah 62:11a).

The closer we get to Christmas, the greater the pressure. There is so much work to be done! We want our houses to look good for out-of-town guests. We want to impress people with the thoughtfulness of our gifts. What a welcome relief, therefore, to hear what is required to *really* be ready for Christmas: only repentance. You see, repentance is the opposite of work. It is the candid and honest admission of our sin combined with the joyful trust that everything needed to bring us close to God has already been done by Christ.

At this frenetic time of year, the call to repent is not another demand to do something more. It is gracious invitation to set down our work to make way for Christ’s work. Rooted in that repentant rest, we can fully enjoy a real Christmas.

# The Service

## Setting Two

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**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.*

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## The Preparation

### Opening Hymn

308 "There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying"



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a  
2 O Chris - tians, you bring good ti - dings; get  
3 But the Word of our God is e - ter - nal; the



call from the ways un - trod; Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
arm of the Lord is strong. He stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!  
peo - ple the com - ing of their King.  
na - tions, and he shall right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
Like the flow'rs of the field they per - ish; like  
He shall feed his flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
grass their works de - cay. The pow'r and pomp of  
lambs shall gent - ly hold, to pas - tures of peace shall



plac - es where the Lord our God may go!  
na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.  
lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

*Text: James L. Milligan, 1876-1961, alt. Tune: Henry H. Bancroft, 1904-1988*  
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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.



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



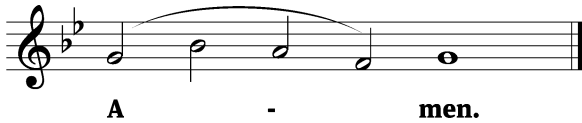
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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



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



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## The Advent Candle

(John 8:12; Luke 12:35)

We light two Advent candles today, remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

**We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.**

We hear his call to repent.

**We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.**

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 towards the back of this bulletin*

## Song of Praise

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

Musical notation for the song "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" in three staves. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "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." The melody is simple and suitable for a congregational song.

*Refrain*

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

*Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
Tune: French, 15th cent., alt Text and tune: Public domain*

*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 our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; 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

Malachi 3:1-7b

*Through God's Word and the messengers who proclaim it, the Lord encourages his people to return to him in humble repentance.*

**3** Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the LORD of Armies.

<sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like launderer's bleach! <sup>3</sup> He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the LORD and bring him an offering in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup> Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the LORD as they were in the days of old, in years long ago.

<sup>5</sup> I will approach you to judge you. I will be quick to give testimony against those who practice occult arts, those who commit adultery, those who swear false oaths, those who cheat workers out of their wages, those who wrong a widow and a fatherless child, those who turn away a resident alien—all those who do not fear me, says the LORD of Armies.

<sup>6</sup> Certainly I, the LORD, do not change. That is why you, sons of Jacob, have not come to an end. <sup>7</sup> Since the days of your fathers, you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of Armies.

The Word of the Lord.


**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day

## Psalm 66 C “Let All the Earth Sing Out”

*The Church sings Psalm 66 in services that include joyful praise of God for his amazing saving activity. Sometimes the psalm addresses God, and sometimes it addresses the people praising God.*

### Refrain



Let all the earth sing out our Sav-ior's praise,  
cry out to God with joy.

### Tone



**Shout for joy to God, / all the earth!**

**Sing the glory of his name; make his praise / glorious.**

**Praise our God, all / peoples,**

**let the sound of his / praise be heard;**

**he has pre- / served our lives**

**and kept our feet from / slipping.**

### Refrain

**Come and hear, all you who / fear God;**

**let me tell you what he has / done for me.**

**If I had cherished sin / in my heart,**

**the Lord would not have / listened;**

**but God has surely / listened**

**and has / heard my prayer.**

**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**

**Philippians 1:3-11**

*God began his good work in us at our baptism, empowering us to love, to demonstrate discernment, and to produce fruits of repentance.*

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> Every time I pray for all of you, I always pray with joy, <sup>5</sup> because of your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am convinced of this very thing: that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup> I am equally convinced that it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, for both in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all share in this grace with me. <sup>8</sup> Yes, God is my witness of how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> And I pray that your love may still increase more and more in knowledge and every insight. <sup>10</sup> This will result in your approval of the things that really matter, so that you will be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced*

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4,6

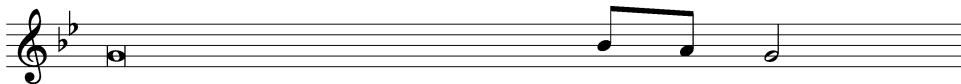


### Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Tone



Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.



And all people will see God's sal - va - tion.

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

## Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

*John the Baptist prepared people to meet their Savior by preaching a message of repentance and forgiveness.*

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene – <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup> Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low.

The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth.

<sup>6</sup> And everyone will see the salvation of God.”

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

*Please be seated*

**Hymn of the Day**

316 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin and fur - nished  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and lift us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; come, then, and lis - ten,  
for a Guest with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
up to fall no more; O make your face on  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings good news a - bout the King of kings.  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
us to shine, and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

*Text: tr. composite; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749 Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621 Text and tune: Public domain*

**Sermon**

Luke 3:1-6

*“Prepare Your Hearts to Receive Your King”*

## 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*

**Holy God, We Praise Your Name** (CW 953: 1, 5) *(Psalm 44:8; 86:9,10; Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8; 7:9-12)*

1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of  
5 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly

all, we bow be - fore you. All on  
Spir - it, three we name you, though in

earth your scep - ter claim; all in heav'n a -  
es - sence on - ly one, un - di - vid - ed

bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your vast do -  
God we claim you, and, a - dor - ing, bend the

main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.  
knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

*Text: tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820-1900, alt.; German version, Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, 1774, abr.; Latin, c. 4th cent.  
Tune: Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, 1774, alt. Text and tune: Public domain*

**Prayer of the Church**

Advent

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”**

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

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

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

*Special prayers and intercessions*

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

**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

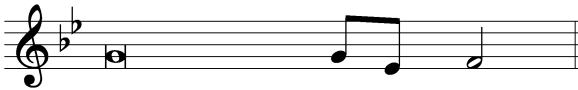
*(2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 107:1)*

The Lord be with you.



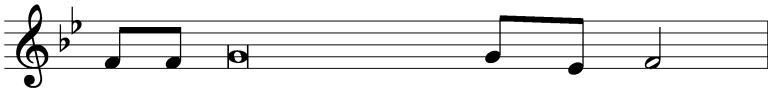
**And al - so with you.**

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.**

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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, 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 pow - er,  
God of might. Heav - en 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; Philippians 2:6-11)

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**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.**

# Jesus, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

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



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us your peace.

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*Please be seated*

# Distribution Hymn

310 "Arise, O Christian People"



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -  
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him, pre - pare for him the  
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on  
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; turn not from me a -



day; pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, who  
 best; cast out what would of - fend him, this  
 high; be - neath his feet in ter - ror the  
 side, and help me to re - ceive you this



takes your sins a - way. To us by grace a -  
 great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the  
 haugh - ty soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and  
 bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger



lone the truth and light were giv - en; the prom - ised  
 way: the low - ly val - leys rais - ing, the heights of  
 right, that heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion and makes true  
 low come now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing your



Lord from heav - en to all the world is shown.  
 pride a - bas - ing, his path all e - ven lay,  
 prep - a - ra - tion— it is the Lord's de - light.  
 prais - es glad - ly and forth your glo - ry show.

# Distribution Hymn

312 "Comfort, Comfort All My People"



1 "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; speak of peace," so  
 2 All their sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each  
 3 John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert  
 4 Then make straight the crook - ed high - way; make the rough - er



says our God. "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, groan - ing  
 dark mis - deed; all that well de - served his an - ger he no  
 far and near, call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance for the  
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, read - y



from their sor - rows' load. Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem  
 more will see or heed. They have suf - fered man - y a day;  
 king - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
 for his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



of the peace that waits for them; tell them that their  
 now their griefs have passed a - way. God will change their  
 Now pre - pare for God a way; let the val - leys  
 now o'er earth is spread a - broad, and all flesh shall



sins I cov - er, that their war - fare now is o - ver."  
 ach - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.  
 see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

*Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; Johann G. Olearius, 1611-1684*

*Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

## 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.**

## Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (CW 927 : 1)

(Numbers 6:24-26; Colossians 1:3-6)

Please stand as the canticle is introduced

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with  
joy and peace. Let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,  
tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,  
O re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt. Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879 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 you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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

318 "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is  
2 See, the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, comes with  
3 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the  
4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion to the



near," we hear it say, "Cast a - way the  
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with  
world is wrapped in fear, he will shield us  
Fa - ther and the Son with the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, all you chil - dren of the day."  
tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;  
with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.  
last - ing Spir - it while e - ter - nal a - ges run!

*Text: tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.; Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.  
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889 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!*



## 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:** Kathy Weigand for playing piano... Peter Hermanson for serving as distribution assistant... Luther Schmeling for serving as usher... and Brooke Smith 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](http://www.wels.net)

**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: Christ." The 7:00 pm service will be live streamed. Please visit our website, [www.nainlutheran.org](http://www.nainlutheran.org), to be directed to our YouTube channel.



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

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Psalm introduction from Christian Worship: Psalter

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