

✝ THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT ✝

December 15, 2024



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 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.

Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 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.

Third Sunday in Advent

A Real Christmas Results in Great Joy

The Third Sunday in Advent is traditionally known as “*Gaudete*” Sunday. The Sunday derives its name from the Latin words of the Introit of the day: “Rejoice (*Gaudete*) in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4). The focus of this morning's readings, as well as the pink/rose Advent candle fit with the mood of the day: joy in Christ.

Multiple studies have proven that the holiday season exacerbates mental health issues. For some, the pressure to have “a perfect Christmas” can be overwhelming. For others, their loneliness is amplified. Such people need a real Christmas, one that results in great joy. But joy is not the same thing as happiness. It is infinitely better. Happiness is an emotion. Joyfulness is a condition. Happiness comes from your circumstances. Joyfulness comes from Christ assuring you of his abiding love and your glorious future. Therefore, happiness—“holiday cheer”—is fleeting. Joyfulness is enduring. As we reach the midway point of Advent, we ask Christ to empower us to “rejoice in the Lord always” (Philippians 4:4).

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

317 "When All the World Was Cursed"



1 When all the world was cursed by Mo - ses' con - dem - na - tion,
2 Be - fore Saint John was born, he leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,
3 Be - hold the Lamb of God, who bears the world's trans - gres - sion,
4 O grant, dear Lord of love, that we re - ceive, re - joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came with words of con - so - la - tion.
con - fess - ing him as Lord whose moth - er he was greet - ing.
whose sac - ri - fice re - moves the dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.
the word pro - claimed by John, our true re - pent - ance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal the great - er one he named,
By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, a new E - li - jah bold,
Be - hold the Lamb of God, who takes a - way our sin,
that glad - ly we may walk up - on our Sav - ior's way



and him, as yet un - known, as Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
he tes - ti - fied of him whom proph - ets had fore - told.
who for our peace and joy will full a - tone - ment win.
un - til we live with him in his e - ter - nal day.

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.

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The Advent Candle

(John 8:12; Luke 12:35)

We light three Advent candles today, remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

We hear his call to see the light.

We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.

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”

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 - jice! Re - jice! 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 two systems of two staves each. The first system contains the main verse, and the second system contains the refrain. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

*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.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-17

We can rejoice, because the Lord has saved us and delights in us.

¹⁴ Sing out, daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, you daughter of Jerusalem. ¹⁵ The LORD has removed the judgment against you. He has turned back your enemy. Israel's king, the LORD, is in your midst! You no longer need to fear disaster. ¹⁶ In that day Jerusalem will be told, "Do not be afraid, O Zion. Do not give up. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is with you as a hero who will save you. He takes great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 130 B "Remember Your Mercy, O LORD"

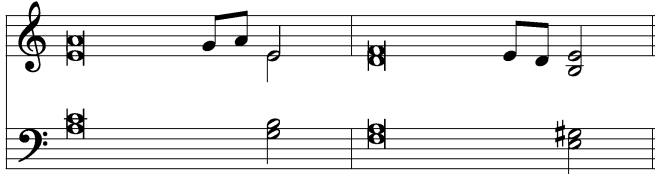
The Church sings Psalm 130 in services that emphasize repentance and forgiveness through faith in Jesus.

Refrain

Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O LORD;



Tone



Out of the depths I cry to / you, LORD;

Lord, / hear my voice.

Let your ears be at- / tentive

to my cry for / mercy.

If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, / who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, / serve you.

Refrain

I wait for the LORD, my whole / being waits,

and in his word I / put my hope.

I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the / morning,

more than watchmen wait for the / morning.

Israel, put your hope / in the LORD,

for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full re- / demption.

He himself will redeem / Israel

from / all their sins.

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: Michael Joncas Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Setting: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

What is the reason for our enduring joy? The Lord is near to us.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11:10



Refrain



Tone



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

Those who rejoice in the good news of salvation joyfully produce fruits of repentance.

⁷ So John kept saying to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore produce fruits in keeping with repentance! Do not even think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ because I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ⁹ Even now the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ The crowds began to ask him, “What should we do then?”

¹¹ He answered them, “Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who has none, and whoever has food should do the same.”

¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized. They said, “Teacher, what should we do?”

¹³ To them he said, “Collect no more than what you were authorized to.”

¹⁴ Soldiers were also asking him, “And what should we do?”

He told them, “Do not extort money from anyone by force or false accusation. Be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John could be the Christ. ¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ Then with many other words, he appealed to them and was preaching good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
 3 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,
 4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, let not your souls dis - tress;
 5 He comes to judge the na - tions, a ter - ror to his foes,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light.
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.
 your guilt the Lord will par - don and cov - er by his grace.
 a light of con - so - la - tion and bless - ed hope to those



O Je - sus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way,
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing that led you to em - brace
 De - spair not; he is near you, he's stand - ing at the door
 He comes, for you pro - cur - ing the peace of sin for - giv'n,
 who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to show me how to please you, to guide me ev - 'ry day.
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race!
 who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.
 his chil - dren thus se - cur - ing e - ter - nal life in heav'n.
 send forth your beams most cheer - ing, and guide us safe - ly home.

*Text: tr. composite; Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676, D. M. Luther's ... Geistliche Lieder, Berlin, 1653, abr.
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662, alt.*

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)

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
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.

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

The Christian Church has traditionally marked December 21 as a day to remember God's work through St. Thomas, Apostle. We will recognize this minor church year festival in our prayers today.

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

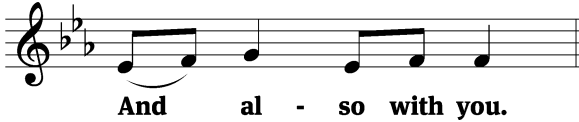
The Sacrament

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.



Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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.

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 Hymn

307 "When the King Shall Come Again"



1 When the King shall come a - gain, all his pow'r re - veal - ing,
2 In the des - ert trees take root, fresh from his cre - a - tion;
3 Strength-en fee - ble hands and knees, faint - ing hearts be cheer - ful!
4 There God's high - way shall be seen where no roar - ing li - on,



splen - dor shall an - nounce his reign, life and joy and heal - ing,
plants and flow'rs and sweet - est fruit join the cel - e - bra - tion.
God, who comes for such as these, seeks and saves the fear - ful.
noth - ing e - vil or un - clean walks the road to Zi - on.



earth no long - er in de - cay, hope no more frus - trat - ed.
Riv - ers spring up from the earth, bar - ren lands a - dorn - ing.
Deaf ears, hear the si - lent tongues sing a - way their weep - ing;
Ran - somed peo - ple, home - ward bound, all your prais - es voic - ing,



This is God's re - demp - tion day long - ing - ly a - wait - ed.
Val - leys, this is your new birth; moun - tains, greet the morn - ing!
blind eyes, see the life - less ones walk - ing, run - ning, leap - ing.
see your Lord with glo - ry crowned; share in his re - joic - ing!

Distribution Hymn

524 "Rejoice, the Lord Is King"



1 Re - joi - ce, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!
2 The Lord, our Sav - ior, reigns, the God of truth and love;
3 His king - dom can - not fail, he rules o'er earth and heav'n;
4 Re - joi - ce in glo - rious hope! Our Lord and judge shall come



Re - joi - ce, give thanks and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove:
the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n:
and take his ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home:



Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re-joice, a - gain I say, re - joi - ce!
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re-joice, a - gain I say, re - joi - ce!
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re-joice, a - gain I say, re - joi - ce!
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Re-joice, a - gain I say, re - joi - ce!

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

309 vv 1, 4-6

“The Advent of Our King”



1 The ad - vent of our King our prayers must now em - ploy,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come a - gain
5 Be - fore the dawn - ing day let sin's dark deeds be gone,
6 All glo - ry to the Son, who comes to set us free,



and we must hymns of wel-come sing in strains of ho - ly joy.
and his true mem-bers all u - nite with him in heav'n to reign.
the old self all be put a - way, the new self now put on.
with Fa - ther, Spir - it, ev - er one thro' all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, alt.; Charles Coffin, 1676-1749 Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731-1776 Text and tune: Public domain



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: Lord.” The 7:00 pm service will be live streamed. Please visit our website, www.nainlutheran.org, to be directed to our YouTube channel.

After pastor's post-service announcements, Joe Lopina, who serves on the Church Council as our Treasurer, will address the congregation to talk about our church's finances and next year's budget.

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!

Special thanks to: Darik Mischke for playing organ... Ben Leyrer for serving as distribution assistant... Michael Kraft for serving as usher... and Peter Hermanson 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



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

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Setting One from Christian Worship

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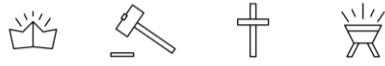
Psalms introduction from Christian Worship: Psalter

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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.