

✝ CHRISTMAS DAY ✝

December 25, 2024



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

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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.

Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day

December 25, 2024



Christmas

The Gift of God

In the season of Christmas, we receive the gift of God. That does not simply mean we receive the gifts God gives. When we look into the manger, we see that God *is* the gift. In the person of Jesus, God gave us himself. And because our God became true man and did everything necessary for our salvation, he is able to give us so many other Christmas gifts: forgiveness, hope, peace, a place in his family, and eternal life in heaven!

Christmas Day

God Gives Himself as One of Us

Have you ever opened a Christmas present and had to ask, “What is it?” Perhaps it was some new type of technology or perhaps a unique toy. You were grateful for the gift, but also not 100% certain what you were looking at.

“What is it?” Today, as we look into the manger, we ask that question. In this case, the question is not quickly or easily answered. It requires both deep thought and humble awe. We are looking at the same God who once told the prophet Moses, “No one may see me and live.” Yet, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds all saw their holy God and survived. How? God became human, hiding his glory within our flesh, so that he might come to us without instilling fear or dread.

“What is it?” This gift is God and man in one person, exactly what humanity needed to deliver us from our greatest enemies: sin, death, and Satan. On the Festival of Christmas, we thank God for this greatest of gifts.

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.

There will be no pre-service announcements.

Our worship begins with the tolling of the bells, followed by the opening hymn.

The Preparation

Tolling of the Bells

Opening Hymn

353 "Joy to the World"



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -



ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.

Please stand for the last stanza and direct your attention to the processional cross as it is brought to the chancel

4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

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.

Opening Verses

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.
(Luke 1:68, NIV)

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David. *(Luke 1:69, NIV)*

When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. *(Galatians 4:4,5, NIV)*

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John 1:14, NIV)

I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. *(Luke 2:10,11, NIV)*

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.

(Luke 2:14, NIV)

Glory be to God *Gloria in Excelsis*

(Luke 2:14; John 1:29; Acts 7:56)



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



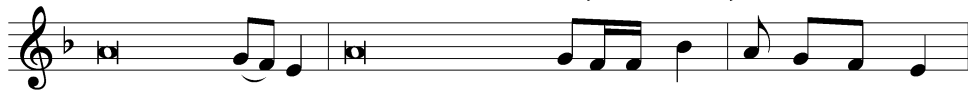
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



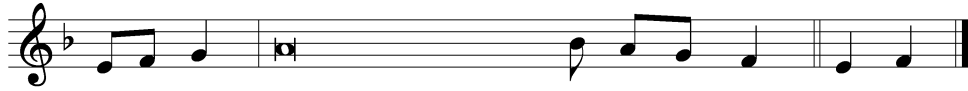
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

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.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; 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

Church Choir

“See in Yonder Manger Low”

First Reading

Exodus 33:18-23; 34:5-7

To reveal himself to us, God hid himself in human flesh. To reveal himself to Moses, God hid Moses within the cleft of a mountain.

¹⁸ Then Moses said, “Please show me your glory.”

¹⁹ The LORD said, “I will make all my goodness pass in front of you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD in your presence. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy.” ²⁰ He said, “You cannot see my face, for no human may see me and live.”

²¹ The LORD also said, “Look, there is a place next to me, where you shall stand on the rock. ²² It will happen that, while my glory passes by, I will put you in a crevice in the rock. I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you will see my back. But my face will not be seen.”

^{34:5} The LORD came down in the cloud. He took his stand there with Moses and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶ The LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed: “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and overflowing

with mercy and truth, ⁷ maintaining mercy for thousands, forgiving guilt and rebellion and sin. He will by no means clear the guilty. He calls their children and their children's children to account for the guilt of the fathers, even to the third and the fourth generation.”

The Word of the Lord.

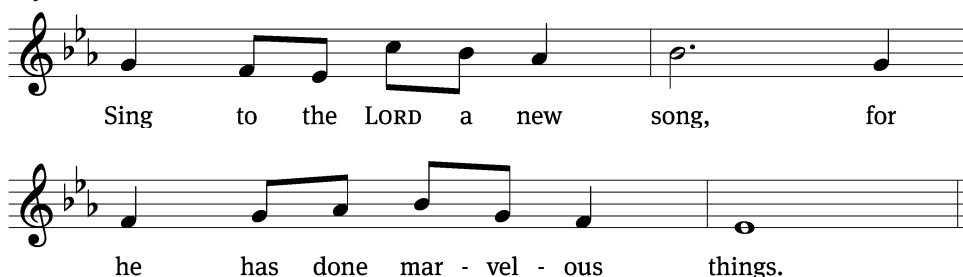
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 98 G “Sing to the LORD a New Song”

The Church sings Psalm 98 in services that praise God for bringing righteousness and salvation to people across the world. It is traditionally sung on Christmas Day.

Refrain



Sing to the LORD a new song, for
he has done mar - vel - ous things.

Tone



Sing to the LORD a / new song,
for he has done / marv'ulous things.
The LORD has made his sal- / vation known
and revealed his righteousness to the / nations.
He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to / Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation / of our God.

Refrain

**Shout for joy to the LORD, / all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with / music;
make music to the LORD / with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of / singing.
Shout for joy before the / LORD, the King.
He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with / equity.**

**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: J. Robert Carroll Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer
Tune: © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758
Setting: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758*

Second Reading

Romans 8:31-32

If the Father was willing to give us the gift of his only Son, clearly there is no good thing he would withhold from us.

³¹ What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

³² Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Account of Christ's Nativity

Luke 2:1-20

& Responsive Hymn

339 *“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”*

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ And everyone went to register, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

⁶And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle
stall; ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the
child is Lord of all. Swift - ly wing - ing an - gels
sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, ti - dings bring - ing: Christ the
child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

⁸There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: ¹¹Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing
new saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings
of a gos - pel true. Thus re - joic - ing, free from
sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row: Christ the
child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Hymn 339 – Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Text: Polish; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt. Tune: Polish Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand at the direction of the pastor

In Jesus the God whose glory is impossible to see is seen. The God who cannot be known is known.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 He was with God in the beginning. **3** Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. **5** The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. **8** He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

9 The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. **11** He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. **13** They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

14 The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

15 John testified about him. He cried out, "This was the one I spoke about when I said, "The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me." **16** For out of his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. **17** For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son, who is close to the Father's side, has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

358 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers and sa - ges sang of old with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing, pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he,
 bore the Sav - ior of our race,
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word.
 and ex - tol our God and King,
 and un - end - ing prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been,
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
 Now he shines, the long - ex - spect - ed;
 Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion



and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-c. 413, abr.; (sts. 1-4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877, alt. Tune: plainsong, 13th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

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

Christmas

Let us pray.

Gracious Father, when the time had fully come, you sent your Son to carry out your plan to save the world from the tyranny of sin, the threat of death, and the power of Satan. On this holy day, strengthen our faith as we ponder the depth of your divine love.

Lead us to quiet awe as we remember your gracious compassion.

Impress on us the poverty and pain your Son endured in our place, how he willingly set aside his power and place in heaven and assumed the weakness of an infant and the starkness of a stable. Lead us to acknowledge the sins which compelled his humiliation and the love which accepted his lowliness.

Forgive us and move us to trust in his mission to save us.

Take away our fears and fright and fill us with joy as we hear the message that Jesus was born for us and that he came to restore peace with you and mend the bond broken by sin. Move us to sing our carols and hymns not with passing pleasure but with the depth of praise for his extraordinary love.

Let our songs and hymns reflect our faith in the redemption gained by Christ.

Lead us to kneel at his manger with hearts of faith and to see there the God-man who takes away the sins of the world. Guide and guard us so that the happiness shared with family and friends does not delay or discourage our journey to his holy crib.

Make the birth of Christ our highest priority and deepest pleasure.

Fill us with an eager joy that moves us to share the good news with others, especially those who may have forgotten or dismissed the love of God in Christ. Give us faith-filled maturity to recognize that the best gift we can give to children is the story of Jesus who was born as a baby and died on a cross to save them for heaven.

Move us to tell the good news we have seen and heard.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

During this hectic holiday, provide us with quiet times to remember what the birth of Jesus really means for us and all people, that he came to free us from the evil forces that separated us from your love, that he lived and died to forgive our sins, and that he rose in triumph to prepare a place where we will live with you forever.

Move us to sing with hearts of faith, “Glory to God in the highest!” Amen.

Please stand

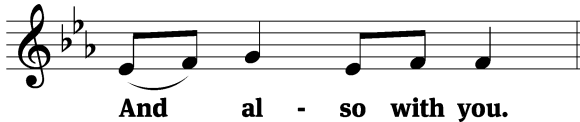
The Sacrament

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, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love.

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)



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;

The image shows a single line of musical notation on a five-line staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The lyrics are placed below the staff, with the first line of text aligned under the first four notes and the second line under the remaining notes.

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

331 stanzas 1-7 "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come to bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,
3 "This is the Christ, our God most high, who hears your
4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow pre - pared by



news to ev - 'ry home; glad ti - dings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; this lit - tle child of
sad and bit - ter cry; he will him - self your
God for all be - low, that in his king - dom,



joy I bring, where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
Sav - ior be from all your sins to set you free.
bright and fair, you may with us his glo - ry share.

- 5 "These are the signs which you shall mark:
the swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
by whom the heav'n's and earth were made."
- 6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
to see what God for us has done
in sending us his own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
and see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

341 "Away in a Manger"



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and take us to heav - en to live with you there.

*Text (sts. 1-2): The Myrtle, Boston, 1884; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, Louisville, 1892, alt.
 Tune: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921 Text and tune: Public domain*

Distribution Hymn

345 "Where Shepherds Lately Knelt"



1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,
 2 In that un - like - ly place I find him as they said:
 3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,
 4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred;
 sweet new - born babe, how frail! And in a man - ger bed:
 his proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:
 its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



but there is room and wel - come there for me,
a still, small voice to cry one day for me,
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
to die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



but there is room and wel - come there for me.
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
to die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929–2021
Text: © 1986 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758
Tune: © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

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 remain standing for the first stanza of the closing hymn and direct your attention to the processional cross as it is brought out of the nave

Closing Hymn

363 "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, now raise to heav'n our voice;
he from whom joy stream - eth forth in a man - ger lies;

not so bright - ly beam - eth the sun in yon - der skies.
 Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!

Please be seated

2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to thee.
 3 Now through his Son doth shine the Fa - ther's grace di - vine.
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground,
 Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;
 Death was reign - ing o'er us through sin and van - i - ty
 where the an - gels sing - ing with all his saints u - nite,
 thro' thy grace and mer - it, blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
 till he o - pened for us a bright e - ter - ni - ty.
 sweet - est prais - es bring - ing in heav'n - ly joy and light.
 draw me un - to thee! Draw me un - to thee!
 May we praise him there! May we praise him there!
 Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text: tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-1874, alt.; Latin and German, 14th cent. Tune: German, 14th cent., alt. Text and tune: Public domain



Please join us over the next two weeks as we continue to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord!

First Sunday after Christmas – Sunday, December 29, 10:00 am

Second Sunday after Christmas – Sunday, January 5, 10:00 am

Epiphany of Our Lord – Monday, January 6, 7:00 pm



There will be no post-service announcements and you will not be ushered out. You may depart at any time.

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

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: Juanita Becker for playing piano... the Church Choir for singing... Lois Buske for directing the Choir... Abigail Peterson for playing violin... Joe Lopina for serving as crucifer and distribution assistant... Michael Kraft 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 today's "***About the Proper's***" a document that explains the changeable parts of the service.

"***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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Psalms introduction from Christian Worship: Psalter

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