+ BAPTISM OF OUR LORD +

January 12, 2025



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St. West Allis, WI 53214

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Organist:Linda LoeffelChurch Choir:Lois BuskeomChildren's Choir:Peter Hermanson

About Our Worship Service

Welcome in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Our message is as old as God's Word to mankind: Jesus Christ, crucified and risen to take away our sins. We gather for the Divine Service not merely for the sake of ritual or tradition. Nor do we come to worship primarily to give something back to God. Rather, we meet together to hear and receive what God has done for us. In Word and Sacrament, our gracious Lord gives those who believe in him forgiveness of sins, unity with him in new life, and the promise of eternal salvation in heaven! Through this same gospel he motivates and equips us to follow his holy will for our lives. We hope that you are comforted with the message of Jesus Christ's love for you as you worship today. Please join us again soon!

Visitors

Thank you for joining us for worship! Please read the following notes about our congregation. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please speak with the pastor.

Our Practice of Closed Communion

If you have not communed with us before, please read the notes printed later in this bulletin under the section titled "Our Holy Communion Practices."

Restrooms

Restrooms are located in the downstairs fellowship hall. A wheelchair accessible restroom is located at the front of the church, through the doors to the left of the chancel.

Guest Book

If you feel comfortable doing so, please sign our guest book located in the narthex so we can have a record of your visit.

Parent's Room

Parents with crying children are welcome to use the parent's room, located off the narthex.

Chair Lifts

Chair lifts are located off the northwest entrance for those who need to go to the fellowship hall on the lower level but have difficulty with stairs.

First Sunday after Epiphany Baptism of Our Lord

January 12, 2025



Epiphany **Epiphany Moments**

Epiphany comes from a Greek word that means "reveal." When someone has an epiphany, it's not that reality changed. The way they see that reality is what changed, for a deeper truth has been revealed. An epiphany is an "a-ha!" moment causing us to look at things very differently.

In the Church Year, Epiphany is the season where we see Jesus begin his ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. In this season we will hear that when we have Jesus in our lives, it does not always mean our reality drastically changes. It simply means that we see reality differently and better. Jesus always provides an abundance of epiphany moments.

Baptism of Our Lord Baptism Is the Cure for An Identity Crisis

"Who is Jesus?" For the longest time, people thought the answer to that question was, "Mary and Joseph's son" or "a carpenter from Nazareth." While true enough, those answers do not adequately describe Jesus. But when Jesus was baptized, God the Father spoke, declaring Jesus true identity. Jesus was the dearly loved Son of God, chosen to be the Savior of the world.

"Who are you?" someone asks. Perhaps you would answer by providing your name. Maybe you would add additional information – where you are from or what you do for a living. Perhaps, in some dark corner of your mind, you would answer negatively. "I'm no one."

We need to understand that none of those things *really* describes who we are. To answer that question – "who are you?" – we must look to our baptism. Baptism is the cure for an identity crisis. There, just like he did with Jesus, our Father declares us to be his dearly loved child.

The Service

Setting One

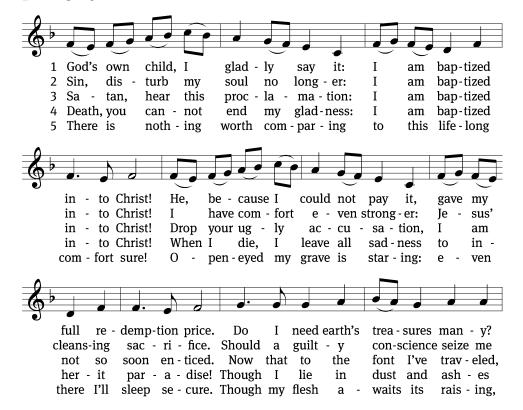
Welcome to God's house in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

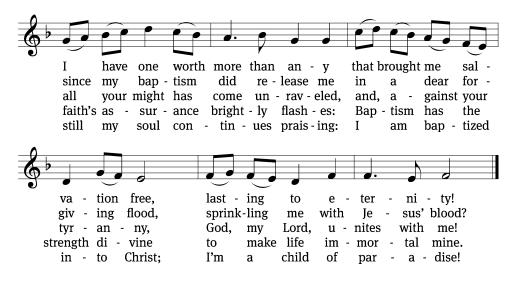
Please enter the sanctuary quietly so you and others can prepare your hearts for God's worship service. A personal prayer for before worship is printed on the first page of the blue hymnal. The hymns are located in the middle to back portion of the blue hymnal.

The Preparation

Opening Hymn

679 "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"





Text: tr. Robert E. Voelker, b. 1957; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756 Tune: Johann Caspar Bachofen, 1695-1755, alt. Text: © 1991 Robert E. Voelker. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: Public domain

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 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.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; 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

David was the youngest of eight brothers and a shepherd. Yet, at his anointing, the Lord declared his true identity – future king of Israel.

16 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I see a king for myself among his sons."

² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me."

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will let you know what you are to do. You are to anoint for me the person that I point out to you."

⁴ So Samuel did what the LORD had told him to do and went to Bethlehem. Trembling with fear, the elders of the city came to meet him. They said, "Do you come in peace?"

⁵He said, "Yes, in peace. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." He consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they had come, he looked at Eliab and said, "Certainly this is the LORD's anointed."

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at how tall he is, because I have rejected him. For the LORD does not look at things the way man does. For man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either."

⁹ Then Jesse had Shammah pass by. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either."

¹⁰ Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel. Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, "Is that all of the young men?"

Jesse said, "There still is the youngest, but he is tending the sheep."

Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him, for we cannot sit down to eat until he comes."

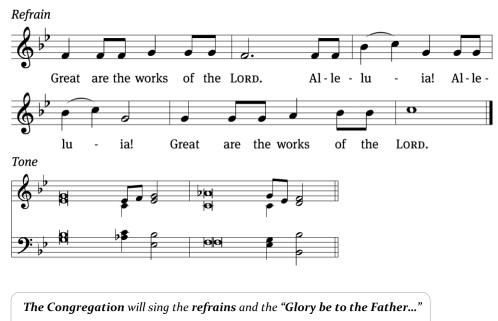
¹² He sent for him and brought him in. David had red hair and striking eyes, and was good-looking. The LORD said, "Get up! Anoint him, because this is the one."

¹³ So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers. The Spirit of the LORD rushed on David with power from that day forward. After that Samuel set out and returned to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm of the Day

The Church sings Psalm 2 in services that emphasize the relationship of the Father and the Son. The Son rules with the same authority as the Father even when government officials try to thwart God's rule. The New Testament frequently quotes this psalm as applying to Christ, the Son of David.



The Cantora will sing the verses

Congregation:	(Refrain)
Cantora:	Why do the nations / conspire and the peoples / plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together a- / gainst the LORD
	and against his A- / nointed.
Congregation:	(Refrain)
Congregation: Cantora:	(<i>Refrain</i>) One enthroned in / heaven laughs; the Lord / scoffs at them.

Congregation:	(Refrain)
Cantora:	I will proclaim the / LORD's decree: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your / Father."
Congregation:	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.
Congregation:	(Refrain)
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Second Reading

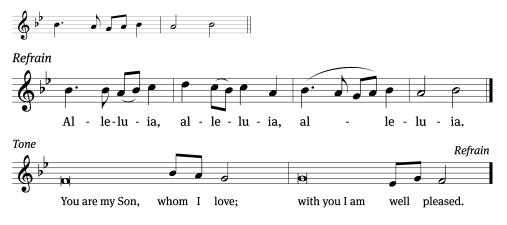
Titus 3:4-7

In the eyes of the world, baptism appears to be just a religious ceremony. St. Paul explains baptism is so much more—a second birth that gives you the identity of God's child and heir.

⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared, ⁵ he saved us—not by righteous works that we did ourselves, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs in keeping with the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced



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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 3:15-17, 21-22

People wondered if John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was a powerful preacher who lived a unique life. But at his baptism, Jesus was identified by his Father as the Anointed One.

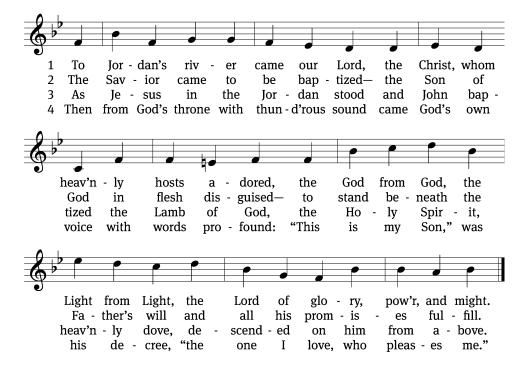
¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John could be the Christ. ¹⁶ John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 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."

²¹ When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. While he was praying, heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you."

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

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day



- 5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight anointed Christ in glorious sight as God's own choice, from Adam's fall to save the world and free us all.
- Now rise, faint hearts: be resolute!
 This man is Christ, our substitute!
 He was baptized in Jordan's stream,
 proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

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Sermon

Remembrance of Baptism & Apostles' Creed

Holy Baptism is the priceless means of grace by which our Father in heaven connects us with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection. The apostle Paul wrote: "All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Again Paul wrote: "All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

In Holy Baptism, God takes away our sins and gives us new life. We reject the devil and confess that we believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

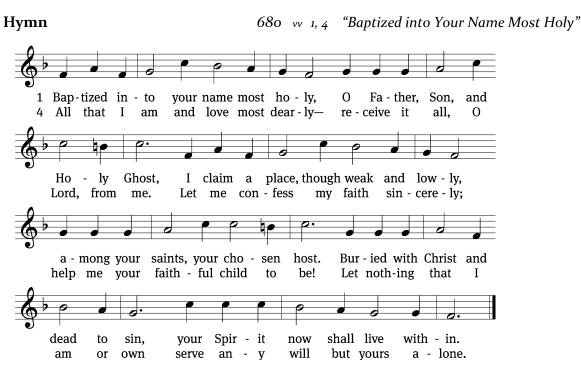
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Is it your sincere prayer and desire to remain faithful to your Lord Jesus, to value the Word and sacraments, and to live a life that pleases God?

Yes, and I ask God to help me.

May the eternal God, who saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you to everlasting life.

Amen.



Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Johann J. Rambach, 1693–1735, abr. Tune: Cornelius H. Dretzel, 1697–1775 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray.

Special prayers and intercessions

The Christian Church has traditionally marked January 18 as a day to remember the Confession of St. Peter. We will remember this minor church year festival in our prayers today.

After the prayer, please stand at the direction of the minister

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.

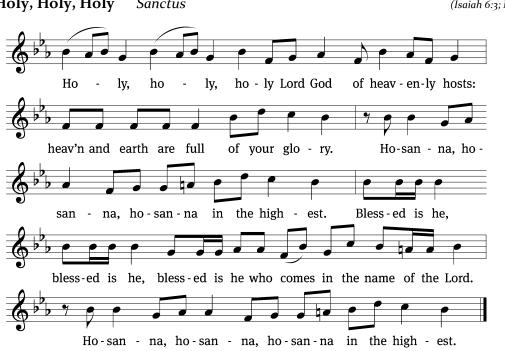


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth.

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)

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

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)

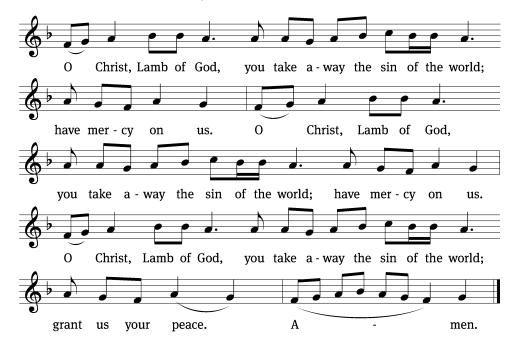
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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.**



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.

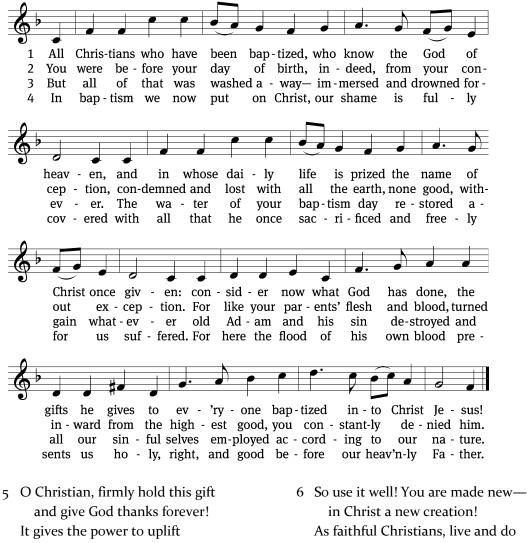
Children and Non-Communicants

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

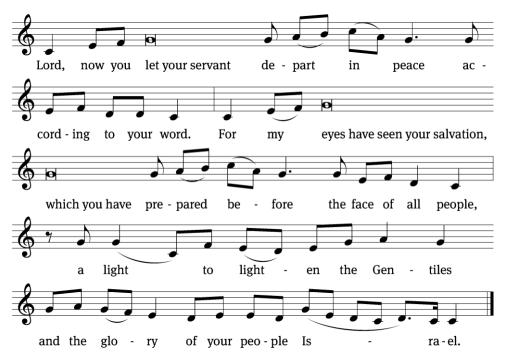


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- in all that you endeavor.
- When nothing else revives your soul,
- your baptism stands and makes you whole
 - and then in death completes you.
- 6 So use it well! You are made new in Christ a new creation!
 As faithful Christians, live and do within your own vocation, until that day when you possess his glorious robe of righteousness bestowed on you forever!

Text: tr. Jon D. Vieker, b. 1961; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676 Tune: Kevin Hildebrand, b. 1973 Text: © 2004 Jon D. Vieker. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: © 2016 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: License no. 130002495 Please stand as the canticle is introduced



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

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

(1 Corinthians 11:26)

Post-Communion Prayer

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

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Amen.

Please be seated

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374 vv 3, 5 "The Star Proclaims the King Is Here" With the Ior - dan Riv - er stood the pure 3 in and 5 All glo - ry Ie - sus be and praise for un - to ho - lv Lamb of God: the Fa - ther's voice, the Spir - it his e - piph - a whom with the Fa - ther we ny, аdove. con-firmed the Sav ior from bove. а -

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent., abr. Tune: Geistliche Lieder auffs new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1535, ed. Joseph Klug Text and tune: Public domain

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Spir - it

(Romans 15:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 3:12, 5:11)

Closing Hymn

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

You will not be ushered out. You may depart any time after the closing hymn.

If you haven't done so already, please write your name in the Friendship Register before you leave.

If you have an offering, you can place it in the collection box located in the narthex. If you wish to give your offering via <u>PayPal</u>, you can scan the QR code on the last page of this bulletin. Thank you for your financial support of our congregation!

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

Special thanks to: Linda Loeffel for playing organ... Lois Buske for serving as cantora... Joe Lopina for serving as distribution assistant... Jerry Loeffel for serving as usher... Peter Hermanson for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream... and Donna and Joe Burtch for serving on Altar Duty.

For more information about today's Scripture readings, the current season of the Church Year, and the words and symbols featured on the paraments, please visit the "<u>Worship Resources</u>" page of our website to read this Sunday's "**About the Propers**," a weekly document that explains the changeable parts of the service.

All worshipers are encouraged to take home a copy of our **weekly newsletter**, the "Nain Messenger" to stay informed about all congregational news. Printed copies are available on the countertop in the narthex.

"The Congregation at Prayer," a document offering suggestions for daily devotions and Scripture readings, is also posted on the "<u>Worship Resources</u>" page of our church website.

"**Understanding Lutheran Worship**" provides excellent information about the Lutheran Liturgy, the Christian Church Year, and the Books of the Bible. A copy of the booklet is located in the hymnal rack of each pew.

> Nain is a member congregation of the **Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod**. For more information about our synod, please visit its website: <u>www.wels.net</u>



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