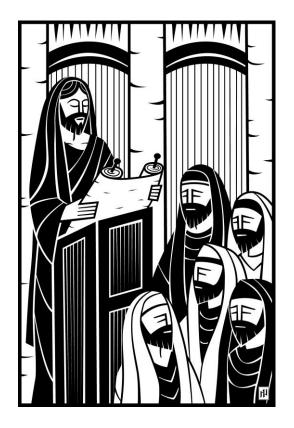
+ THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY +

January 26, 2025



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St. West Allis, WI 53214

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Pastor:	Joseph M. Berg
Phone:	414-810-3392
Email:	revjberg@gmail.com

Organist: Darik Mischke Church Choir: Lois Buske m 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.

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 26, 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.

Third Sunday after Epiphany **Rejection Is Not Proof of Failure**

When you are trying to share some important information with someone, but they refuse to listen or perhaps totally reject what you are saying, it feels like you have failed. This is especially true when someone rejects the gospel! We proclaim the good news because want others to know the love of Christ. When people are disinterested in God's Word, we feel like we've failed.

So, here is this week's epiphany. Rejection is not proof of failure. Precisely because the gospel is divine revelation, it is guaranteed to be rejected by many. God's Word offends like an unwelcome diagnosis from the doctor. When someone rejects God's Word (including us), that rejection is proof that God's Word powerfully cuts straight to the heart of mankind's biggest problem—sin. Yet, what causes Jesus' words to hurt is what gives them power to heal. That reality encourages us to receive God's Word with joy and to proclaim it boldly to others.

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

1 Praise the who breaks the dark - ness with lib one er а 2 Praise the one who blessed the chil - dren with а strong, vet 3 Let us praise the Word in - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered at - ing light; praise the one who frees the pris - 'ners, turn-ing gen-tle, word; praise the one who drove out de - mons with the in our place: Ie - sus died and rose vic - to - rious that we blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the who preached the one pierc - ing, two-edged sword. Praise the one who brings cool mav know God bv grace. Let us sing for joy and heal-ing dread dis - ease. calm-ing gos - pel, ev -'ry wa ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand; from this what God has done: glad - ness, see - ing let us our storms and feed-ing thou-sands with the Fa - ther's word of peace. well comes liv-ing wa - ter, quench-ing thirst in ev - 'rv land. praise the true Re - deem - er, praise the one who makes us one.

Opening Hymn

517 "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

Invocation

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.

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.



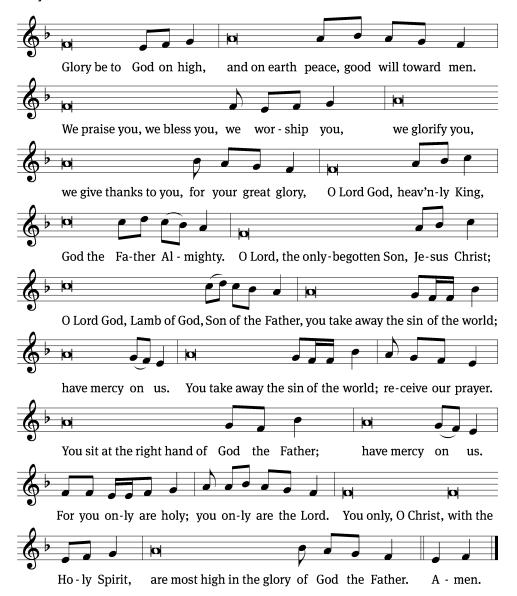
For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



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



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The Word

Salutation

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; 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

Israel had rejected the Lord. So God allowed them to be conquered and carried off as captives. Yet, he also promised to forgive their rejection and grant them freedom.

- 61 The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the afflicted. He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for those who are bound,
 - ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance for our God, to comfort all who mourn,
 - to provide for those who mourn in Zion,
 to give them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
 the oil of joy instead of mourning,
 a cloak of praise instead of a faint spirit,
 so that they will be called oaks of righteousness,
 a planting of the LORD to display his beauty.

(Ruth 2:4; 2 Timothy 4:22)

(Matthew 7:7-11; Philippians 4:6)

Isaiah 61:1-6

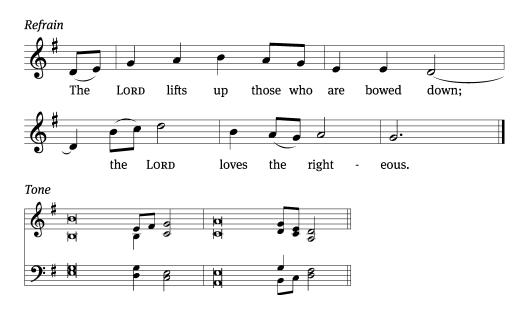
- ⁴ Then they will rebuild ancient ruins. They will raise up what was formerly devastated, and they will renew ruined cities, which have been devastated for generations.
- ⁵ Strangers will stand and shepherd your flock, and foreigners will be your farmers and vinedressers.
- ⁶ You will be called the LORD's priests.
 You will be named ministers of our God.
 You will eat the wealth of nations,
 and you will boast about their riches.

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

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 146 A "I Will Praise the LORD All My Life"

The Church sings Psalm 146 in services that encourage trust in the Scriptures because they testify about Jesus. It gives particular attention to God's love for the lowly.



I will praise the LORD / all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long / as I live. Do not put your trust in / princes, in human beings, who / cannot save. Blessed are those whose help is the God of / Jacob, whose hope is in the / LORD their God.

Refrain

He upholds the cause of / the oppressed and gives food to the / hungry. The LORD sets / pris'ners free, the LORD gives sight / to the blind. The LORD reigns for- / ever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. / Praise the LORD.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son and to the Holy / Spirit, as it was in the be- / ginning, is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

Refrain

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Second Reading

Acts 4:23-31

Just as the Jewish religious leaders had rejected Jesus, they rejected the work and words of the apostles. So the apostles prayed for boldness to proclaim the gospel in the face of that opposition.

²³ After Peter and John were released, they went to their own friends and reported everything the high priests and the elders had said. ²⁴ When they heard this, with one mind they raised their voices to God and said, "Master, you are the God who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. ²⁵ By the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David, your servant, you said:

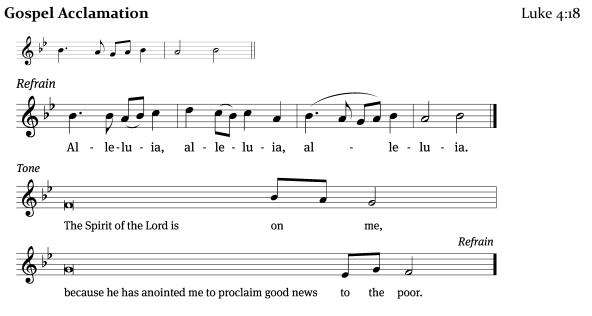
Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth take their stand, and the rulers are gathered together against the Lord and against his Anointed One. ²⁷ "For certainly, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and people of Israel, were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. ²⁸ They did whatever your hand and your plan had decided beforehand should happen.

²⁹ "Now Lord, look at their threats and give to your servants the ability to keep on speaking your word with all boldness ³⁰ as you stretch out your hand to heal and as signs and wonders take place through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

³¹After they prayed, the place where they were gathered was shaken. Also, everyone was filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

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

In one of Jesus' first sermons, delivered in his hometown, people took offense at his words and ultimately rejected him.

¹⁶ (Jesus) went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. As was his custom, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. ¹⁷ The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed,

¹⁹ and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

²⁰ He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began to tell them, "Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

²² They all spoke well of him and were impressed by the words of grace that came from his mouth. And they kept saying, "Isn't this Joseph's son?"

²³ He told them, "Certainly you will quote this proverb to me, 'Physician, heal yourself!' Do here in your hometown everything we heard you did in Capernaum." ²⁴ And he said, "Amen I tell you: No prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ But truly I tell you: There were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut for three years and six months, while a great famine came over all the land. ²⁶ Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow of Zarephath, in Sidon. ²⁷ And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was healed except Naaman the Syrian."

²⁸ All those who were in the synagogue were filled with rage when they heard these things. ²⁹ They got up and drove him out of the town. They led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the middle of them and went on his way.

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

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day



Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, abr., alt. Tune: Leonhart Schröter, c. 1532–c. 1601 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Luke 4:16-30

"You Have Heard the Fulfillment of Scripture"

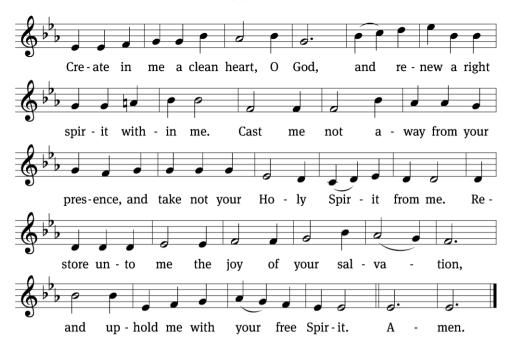
Nicene Creed Credo

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)



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

(Matthew 18:19,20; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Let us pray.

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love and take them into your tender care.

Special prayers and intercessions

The Christian Church has traditionally marked January 26 as a day to remember God's work through St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor. We will recognize this minor church year festival in our prayers today.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness. **Keep us in the true faith and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again. 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, 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 ly, ho ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en-ly hosts: Ho heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho na, ho - san - na in the high Bless-ed is he, san -est. 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 Aqnus Dei

Please be seated

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



5 Let me praise God's boundless favor, whose own feast of love I savor, bidden by his gracious call.
Wedding garments he provides me, with a robe of white he hides me,

fits me for the royal hall.

 Now have I found consolation, comfort in my tribulation, balm to heal the troubled soul.
 God, my shield from ev'ry terror, cleanses me from sin and error, makes my wounded spirit whole.

Text: tr. David W. Rogner, b. 1960; Heinrich Puchta, 1808–1858 Tune: adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758; Johann Löhner, 1645–1705 Text: © 2003 David W. Rogner. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: Public domain **Distribution Hymn**



Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer, b. 1949

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Distribution of Holy Communion

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 2:42)

As he distributes the elements, the minister says to the communicants:

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, poured out for you. **Amen.**

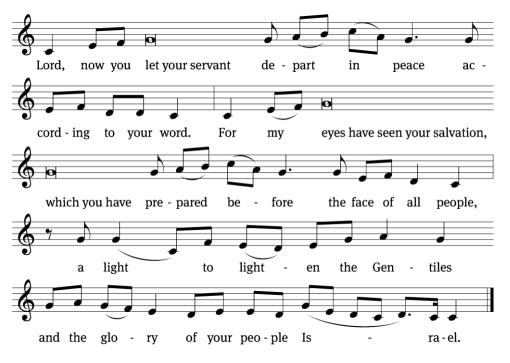
As he dismisses the communicants, the minister says:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go + in peace. **Amen.**

Lord, Now You Let Your Servant (CW 951) Nunc Dimittis

(Luke 2:29-32)

Please stand as the canticle is introduced



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Thanksgiving

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.

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

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.**

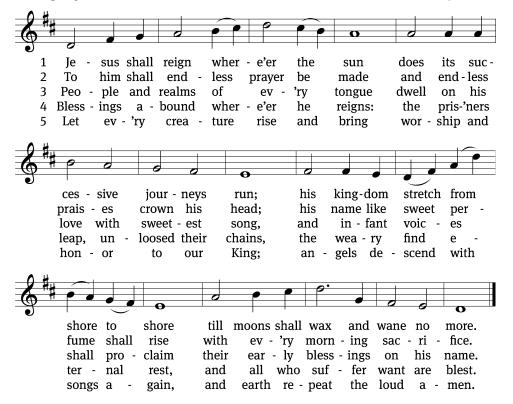
Please be seated

(1 Corinthians 11:26)

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

(Numbers 6:24-26)

Closing Hymn



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt. Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, 1710–1793 Text and tune: Public domain

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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: Darik Mischke for playing organ... Ben Leyrer for serving as distribution assistant... Luther Schmeling for serving as usher... Mark Buske 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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