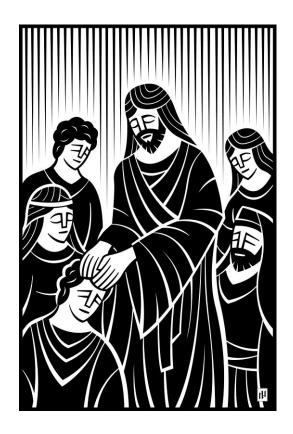
+ FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY +

February 2, 2025



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St. West Allis, WI 53214

+ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church +

1665 South 57th Street | West Allis, Wisconsin 53214 414-545-6925 | www.nainlutheran.org | www.facebook.com/nainlutheran



Pastor: Joseph M. Berg

Phone:

Email:

414-810-3392

revjberg@gmail.com

Pianist: Juanita Becker

Church Choir: Lois Buske

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.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 2, 2025



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.

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Popularity Is Not Proof of Success

In 2009, Facebook added the "like" button. That same year, Twitter added the "retweet" feature. Interestingly, reported cases of depression began to rise sharply in 2010. It is easy to think that the more people like us, the more successful our lives must be. Likewise, it is easy to believe the more people like a church, the more successful that church is. So here is an important epiphany for both individuals and churches. Popularity is not proof of success.

Though there will be times when Christ's gospel and those who proclaim it are popular, that popularity is never the goal. Nor does that popularity define success. If a church makes its central focus things like personal improvement, healing for the sick, or social justice, that church may draw a crowd. It just fails to carry out the true agenda Christ has given his Church. The gospel of forgiveness is to be the center of all our preaching and teaching. The agenda for Christ's Church is set. It's the same agenda that was followed by the Church's Christ.

The Service

Setting Four

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.

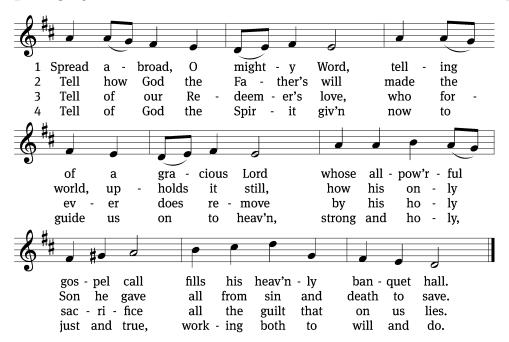
A personal prayer for before worship is printed on the first page of the blue hymnal.

The hymns are located in the middle to back portion of the blue hymnal.

The Preparation

Opening Hymn

902 "Spread Abroad, O Mighty Word"



5 Spread abroad! Ripe fields of grain all throughout the world remain, but the reapers still are few; great the work they have to do.

6 Lord of harvest, great and kind, rouse to action heart and mind; let the gath'ring nations all see your light and heed your call.

Please stand

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.

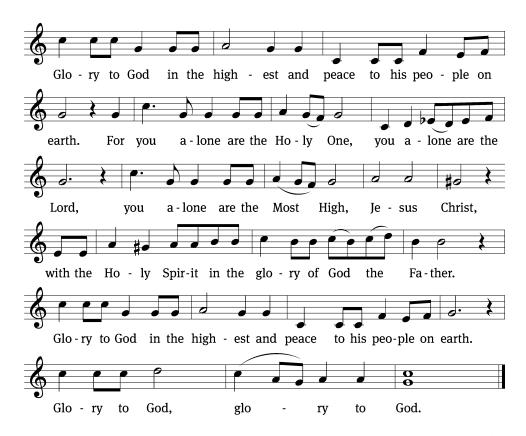


Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Tune: © 2021 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758





Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

 $Tune: @\ 2002\ Kermit\ G.\ Moldenhauer,\ admin.\ Northwestern\ Publishing\ House.\ Used\ by\ permission:\ One License\ no.\ 726758$

The Word

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; 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 Jeremiah 1:4-10

The LORD called Jeremiah to fearlessly share God's Word, even if what he said made him unpopular.

- ⁴ The word of the LORD came to me.
 - Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I set you apart.I appointed you to be a prophet to the nations.
- ⁶ But I said, "Ah, LORD God! I really do not know how to speak! I am only a child!"
- ⁷The LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone to whom I send you and say whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, because I am with you, and I will rescue you, declares the LORD."
 - ⁹ Then the LORD stretched out his hand and touched my mouth. The LORD said to me:

There! I have now placed my words in your mouth.

Look, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and to tear down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Church sings Psalm 71 in services that mention the saving work of the Lord in all stages of life, from infancy to old age.







In you, LORD, I have taken / refuge; let me never be / put to shame. In your righteousness, rescue me and de- / liver me; turn your ear to me and / save me. Be my rock of / refuge, to which I can / always go.

Refrain

Since my youth, God, you have / taught me, and to this day I declare your / marv'lous deeds. Even when I am / old and gray, do not forsake / me, my God, till I declare your power to the next gener- / ation, your mighty acts to all who / are to come.

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. **Second Reading** 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5

A temptation is for spiritual teachers to say only what people want to hear, equating personal popularity with success. St. Paul gives young Pastor Timothy a different agenda.

¹⁴ As for you, continue in the things you have learned and about which you have become convinced. You know from whom you learned them ¹⁵ and that from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be complete, well equipped for every good work.

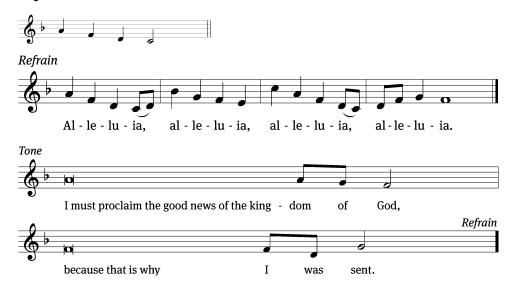
4 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom: ² Preach the word. Be ready whether it is convenient or not. Correct, rebuke, and encourage, with all patience and teaching. ³ For there will come a time when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, because they have itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in line with their own desires. ⁴ They will also turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

⁵ As for you, keep a clear head in every situation. Bear hardship. Do the work of an evangelist. Fulfill your ministry.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced



Tune: © 2002, 2021 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

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

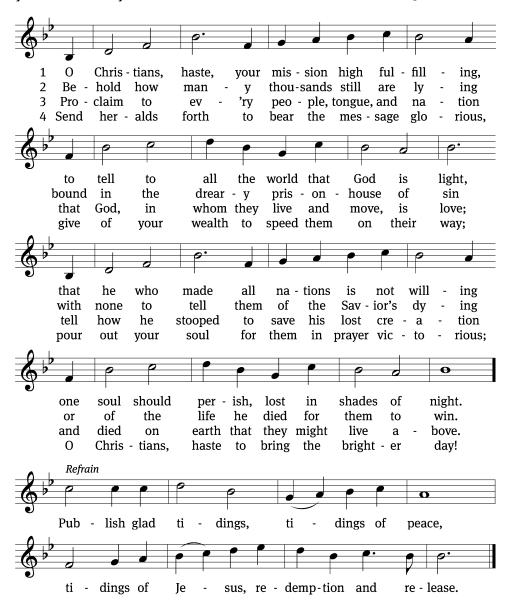
Gospel Luke 4:38-44

Jesus was popular in Capernaum. The people wanted him to stay there permanently. Jesus knew for his mission to be successful, he needed to proclaim the good news in other towns.

³⁸ Jesus got up, left the synagogue, and went into Simon's house. Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever. They asked him to help her. ³⁹ He stood over her, rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and began to serve them. ⁴⁰ As the sun was setting, they brought to him all who were sick with various diseases. He laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹ Demons also came out of many people, crying out, "You are the Son of God!" He rebuked them and did not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

⁴² When it was day, he went out to a deserted place. The crowds were looking for him. They went up to him and were trying to prevent him from leaving them. ⁴³ But he told them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns too, because that is why I was sent." ⁴⁴ And he continued to preach in the synagogues in the land of the Jews.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Text: Mary A. Thomson, 1834-1923, abr., alt. Tune: Bruce R. Backer, b. 1929 Text: Public domain Tune: © 1993 Bruce R. Backer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

Sermon

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.



Let us pray...

Special prayers and intercessions

The Christian Church has traditionally marked February 2 as a day to remember the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus in the temple on his fortieth day in accordance with the Law. We will recognize this minor church year festival in our prayers today.

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

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)

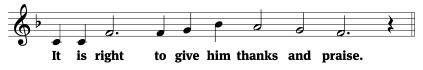
The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



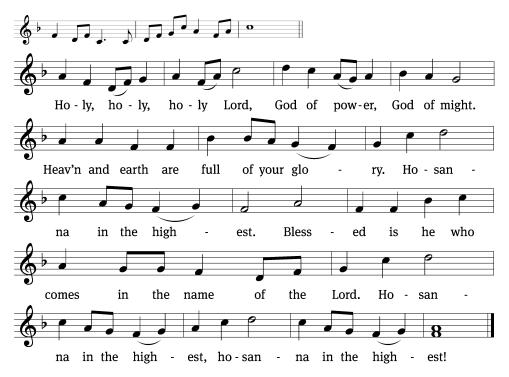
Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer Tune: © 2021 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

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:



(Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9)



Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer Tune: © 2002 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

Prayer of Thanksgiving

(John 1:3; Romans 8:32)

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

- By his incarnation, he became one with us.
- By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
- By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
- By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

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.



Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer Tune: © 2002 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

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.

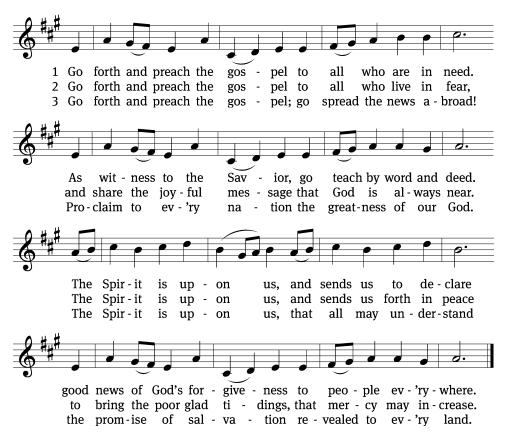
The usher will direct you to the front of the nave, where you will commune. When the pastor distributes the bread and body of Christ, he will say, "The body of Christ, given for you." When he distributes the wine and blood of Christ, he will say, "The blood of Christ, poured out for you." Before consuming 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.



Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt. Tune: Dale Wood, 1934–2003
Text: © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758
Tune: © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758



Text: James J. Chepponis, b. 1956 Tune: Gesang-Buch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle, Württemberg, 1784
Text: © 2009 Birnamwood Publications, a div. of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: Public domain

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:

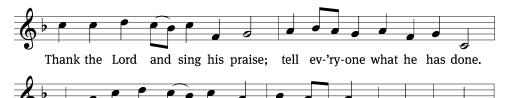
The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go + in peace.

Amen.

Thank the Lord and Sing His Praise (CW 948)

(Psalm 105:1-5; Isaiah 55:12)

Please stand as the canticle is introduced



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



Text: Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978 Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923-2010
Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

Thanksgiving (Psalm 118:1)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

Proclamation (1 Corinthians 11:26)

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

Post-Communion Prayer

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

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing (Numbers 6:24-26)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Please be seated

Closing Hymn

387 "Arise, Your Light Is Come"



- 1 A rise, your light is come! The Spir it's call o bey;
- 2 A rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris on door;
- 3 A rise, your light is come! All you in sor-row born,
- 4 A rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!



show forth the glo-ry of your God, which shines on you to-day. pro-claim the cap-tive's lib-er-ty, good ti-dings to the poor. bind up the bro-ken-heart-ed ones and com-fort those who mourn. Rise up like ea-gles on the wing; God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Tune: William H. Walter, 1825–1893
Text: © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: Public domain





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

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

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

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

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

Special thanks to: Juanita Becker for playing piano... Mark Buske for serving as distribution assistant... Michael Kraft for serving as usher... Ben Leyrer for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream... and Amy Hermanson 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 "Worship Resources" page of our church website.

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

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



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

© 2016 The Wartburg Project. All rights reserved.

www.wartburgproject.org

Setting Four from Christian Worship
Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.
Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

Psalm introduction from Christian Worship: Psalter © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Reprinted by permission.

Front and back cover artwork by Ian M. Welch https://paramentics.com. Used by permission.

Page 3 artwork courtesy of Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission.

Reprinted under OneLicense.net # 726758.