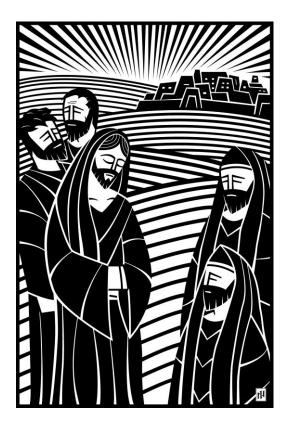
# + SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT +

# March 16, 2025



# Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57<sup>th</sup> St. West Allis, WI 53214

# + Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church +

1665 South 57<sup>th</sup> Street | West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

414-545-6925 | www.nainlutheran.org | www.facebook.com/nainlutheran



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

Organist:Rachel CordesChurch 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.

# Reminiscere Second Sunday in Lent

# March 16, 2025



Lent

# Open Door Policies God's Surprising Strategies for Getting Sinners Back Home

When a wayward child wanders far from home, how does a loving parent pursue them without driving them further away? One thing that parent does is let the child know that there is an ongoing open-door policy. The child knows they will always be welcomed back home. Likewise, when we wander from God, he always keeps his door open for us. But God doesn't just passively wait for us to return. He lovingly pursues sinners in ways that make them long for home. Throughout the season of Lent, we will see the surprising strategies our heavenly Father uses for getting sinners back home, close to him and the loving care he offers.

### Second Sunday in Lent No Detours Allowed

The Second Sunday in Lent traditionally known as *"Reminiscere"* Sunday. The Sunday derives its name from the Latin words of the Introit (i.e. the opening verses) of the day: *"Remember (reminiscere)*, O Lord, your compassion and your mercy, for they are from eternity" (Psalm 25:6).

The door to God and the glory he has prepared for us stands wide open. However, he has mapped out a very specific pathway to that door. It is not an easy one. As it did with Jesus, this route takes us through opposition, suffering, and even death. While our human nature may cause us to want to take a detour around these things, Jesus own life shows us that no detour is allowed. His cross came before his crown. The same path lies ahead of us. However, at the end of it, through the open door, we are offered a reward far superior to anything the world can offer.

# 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**

"Hail, O Once-Despised Jesus" 534



# Invocation

#### Please stand

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

# **Opening Dialogue**

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate,

# slow to anger and abounding in mercy, and he relents from sending disaster. (Joel 2:13)

Lord, hear my prayer. Give ear to my cry for mercy. In your faithfulness, answer me in your righteousness. (*Psalm* 143:1)

# Do not bring charges against your servant, because no one living can be righteous before you. (*Psalm 143:2*)

Be gracious to me, God, according to your mercy. Erase my acts of rebellion according to the greatness of your compassion. (*Psalm* 51:1) **Scrub me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin.** (*Psalm* 51:2)

Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you. (*Psalm* 9:10) **You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abounding in mercy, and you relent from sending disaster.** (*Jonah* 4:2b)

# Confession

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.

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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Traditionally, "Glory be to God" (i.e. the "Gloria") is not sung during the penitential season of Lent. During this time of preparation, the Church looks forward to the return of this song on Easter Sunday when we will celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ's glorious resurrection from the dead.

# The Word

#### Salutation

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

# Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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**

# **First Reading**

Jeremiah knew the path the Lord had called him to walk—calling the nation to repent—might get him killed. In love for the Lord and for his nation, Jeremiah walked that path willingly.

<sup>8</sup> When Jeremiah had finished saying everything the LORD had commanded him to say to all the people, then the priests, the prophets, and all the people seized him and said, "You must die! <sup>9</sup> Why do you prophesy in the name of the LORD that this house will be like Shiloh and that this city will be desolate with no one living here?" All the people crowded around Jeremiah in the House of the LORD.

<sup>10</sup> When the officials of Judah heard about these things, they came up from the king's house to the House of the LORD and sat in the entrance of the New Gate of the LORD's house.

<sup>11</sup> Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, "This man deserves the sentence of death because he has been prophesying against this city, as you heard with your own ears."

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

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

"O Lamb of God, I Come"

Jeremiah 26:8-15

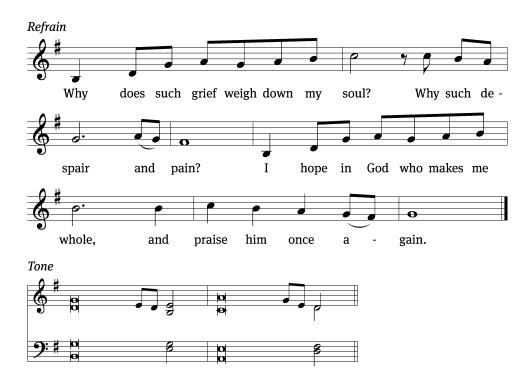
<sup>12</sup> Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and to all the people, "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the things that you have heard. <sup>13</sup> Now reform your ways and your actions, and obey the LORD your God. Then the LORD will relent and not bring about the disaster he has pronounced against you. <sup>14</sup> But as for me, look, I am in your hands. Do with me whatever seems good and right in your eyes. <sup>15</sup> But you can be certain of this. If you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live here, for it is true that the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing."

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

#### Psalm of the Day

Psalm 42 C "Why Does Such Grief Weigh Down My Soul"

The Church sings Psalm 42 in services that recognize the reality of forces hindering the preaching of the gospel, whether those are natural storms or human opposition. This psalm begins Book II of the Psalter, where the Hebrew word for God (Elohim) is more common than the Hebrew word for LORD (Yahweh).



As the deer pants for streams of / water, so my soul pants for / you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the / living God. When can I go and / meet with God? My tears have been my food / day and night, while people say to me all day long, "Where / is your God?"

#### Refrain

These things I re- / member as I pour / out my soul: how I used to go to the / house of God under the protection of the / Mighty One with shouts of / joy and praise among the / festive throng.

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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.
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Refrain

Text: Christopher Idle Text: © 1975 The Jubilate Group, admin. Hope Publishing Co. (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Setting: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758

#### Second Reading

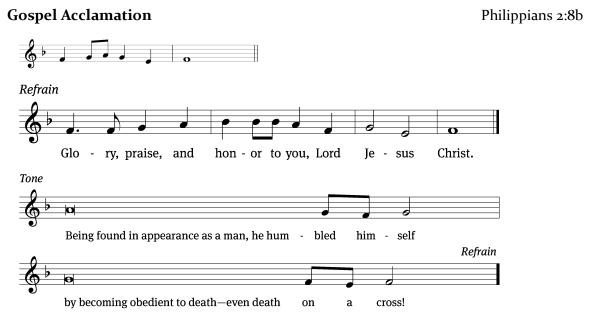
Philippians 3:17 - 4:1

Paul explains that being a follower of Jesus means that our path in life will resemble his. Paul encourages us to not try and take detours as we journey toward heaven.

<sup>17</sup> Brothers, join together in imitating me and in paying attention to those who are walking according to the pattern we gave you. <sup>18</sup> To be sure, many walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. I told you about them often, and now I am saying it while weeping. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is their appetite, and their glory is in their shame. They are thinking only about earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. We are eagerly waiting for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> By the power that enables him to subject all things to himself, he will transform our humble bodies to be like his glorious body. **4** So then, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, in this way keep standing firm in the Lord, my dear friends.

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

The Pharisees offer Jesus a detour around danger and a shortcut to safety. But Jesus was determined to continue down the path he was on for us and our salvation.

<sup>31</sup> In that very hour, some Pharisees came to him and said, "Leave, and go away from here, because Herod wants to kill you."

<sup>32</sup> He said to them, "Go tell that fox, 'Look, I am going to drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal. <sup>33</sup> Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the next day, because it cannot be that a prophet would be killed outside Jerusalem!'

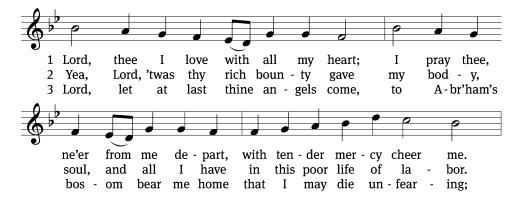
<sup>34</sup> "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I have wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you will say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

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

Please be seated

# Hymn of the Day

817 "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart"





Text: Martin M. Schalling, 1532–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Tune: Zwey Bücher... Tablatur, Strassburg, 1577 Text and tune: Public domain

> Luke 13:31-35 "Love for Those Who Hate"

#### Sermon

#### 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.

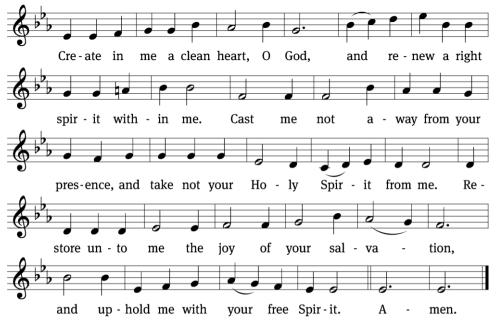
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

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...

Special prayers and intercessions

The Christian Church has traditionally marked March 19 as a day to give thanks to God for his work through St. Joseph, Guardian of Our Lord. 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.

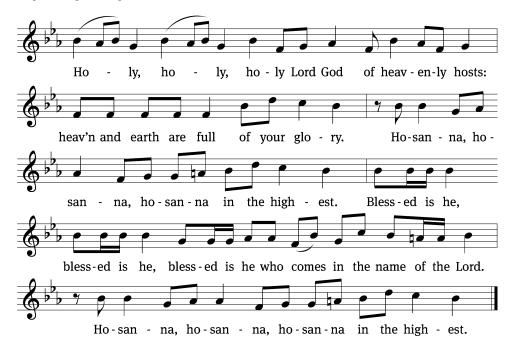


It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome.

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)

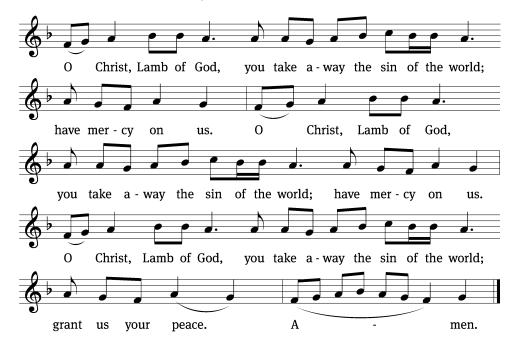
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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

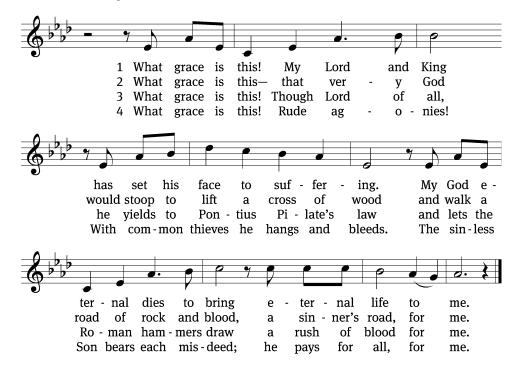
"Christian Questions," a guide for personal preparation before receiving Holy Communion is printed on pages 295-296 in the hymnal. Prayers for before and after communing are printed on the first page of the hymnal.

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.

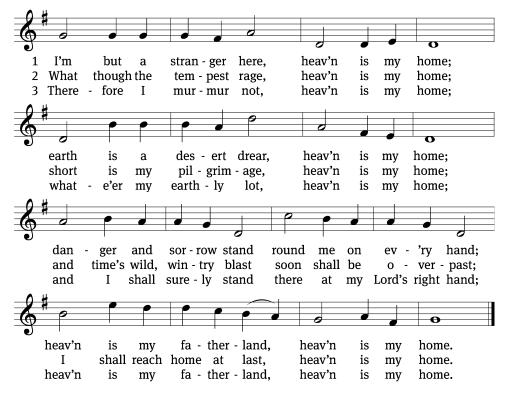
**Distribution Hymn** 



- 5 What grace is this! Once wrapped in cloths and gently laid in manger-trough, he's taken, dead, from wretched cross and wrapped again for me.
- 6 What grace is this? How can it be? He wears this raw humility to lift me to eternity.

Such grace—sweet grace—for me.

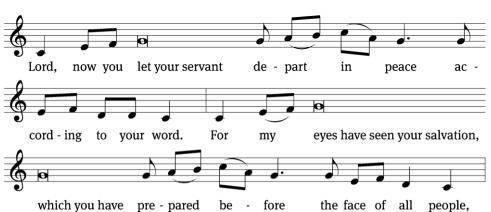
Text: Laurie F. Gauger, b. 1965 Tune: G. A. Hennig, b. 1966 Text: © 2005 Laurie F. Gauger, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 Tune: © 2005 G. A. Henniq, admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758 **Distribution Hymn** 



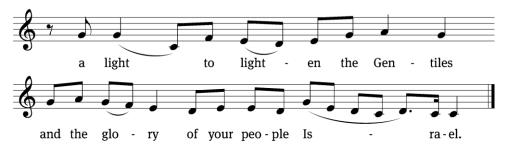
Text: Thomas R. Taylor, 1807–1835, abr. Tune: Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900 Text and tune: Public domain

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

(Luke 2:29-32)



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

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

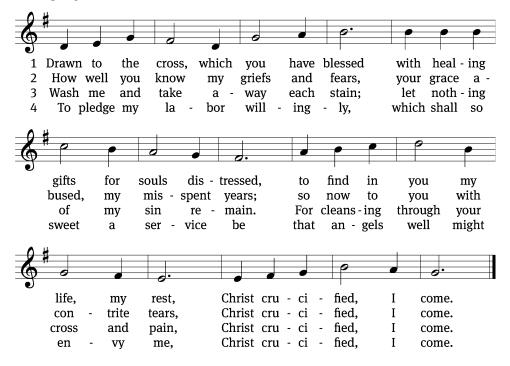
(Numbers 6:24-26)

(Psalm 118:1)

(1 Corinthians 11:26)

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

# **Closing Hymn**



Text: Genevieve M. Irons, 1855–1928, alt. Tune: Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896 Text and tune: Public domain

+ + +

**Please join us this Wednesday at 4:00 or 7:00 pm for our Midweek Lenten Service.** The 7:00 pm service will be live streamed.

Please visit our website (www.nainlutheran.org) to be directed to our YouTube channel.

We will follow the order of Evening Prayer, read one of the Penitential Psalms (Psalm 130), and hear a portion of the Passion History of our Lord according to the Gospel of St. Luke (22:39-54).

If you are unable to attend, please consider reading the Passion History reading at home so you can remain caught up on our journey with Jesus to the cross and the empty tomb.



#### 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 <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: Rachel Cordes for playing organ...

the members of the Church Choir for singing, and Lois Buske for directing them... Joe Lopina for serving as distribution assistant... Michael Kraft for serving as usher... Peter Hermanson for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream... Joanne Kohler for serving on Altar Duty... and the Campbell family for making the rough cross we display during the seasons of Lent and Easter.

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.

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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