

✠ FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT ✠

March 30, 2025



Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church

1665 South 57th St.
West Allis, WI 53214

✝ Nain Evangelical Lutheran Church ✝

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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.

Laetare

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 30, 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.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Grace Instead of Condemnation

The Fourth Sunday in Lent is traditionally known as "Laetare Sunday." The Sunday derives its name from the Latin words of the Introit (i.e. the opening verses) of the day: "Rejoice (*laetare*) with Jerusalem and celebrate with her, all you who love her" (Isaiah 66:10 a).

We assume people get what they deserve. We assume that what goes around comes around. We assume God helps those who help themselves. Those assumptions are false. God does not operate on the principle of merit but of grace. No one is beyond the reach of God's grace. God never turns it off. At the entrance of God's open door is not a Father looking to condemn us, but a Father who has eagerly longed for our return. When we do, he takes us in his loving arms and assures us we are still his child. When the weight of our sin makes us fearful of God's condemnation, he reveals his grace yet again.

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

575 "By Grace I'm Saved"



- 1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; my soul, be -
- 2 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, came down to
- 3 By grace! O mark this word of prom - ise when you are
- 4 By grace to tim - id hearts that trem - ble, in trib - u -
- 5 By grace! On this I'll rest when dy - ing; in Je - sus'



lieve and doubt it not. Why wa - ver at this word of
earth to bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own
by your sins op - pressed, when Sa - tan plagues your trou - bled
la - tion's fur - nace tried, by grace, de - spite all fear and
prom - ise I re - joice, for though I know my heart's con -



prom - ise? Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? So then this
mer - it that Je - sus died, your soul to win? No, it was
con - science, and when your heart is seek - ing rest. What rea - son
trou - ble, the Fa - ther's heart is o - pen wide. Where could I
di - tion, I al - so know my Sav - ior's voice. My heart is

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.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



A - men.

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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

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, you receive us as your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; 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

Isaiah 12:1-6

God's grace turns the fear of our condemnation into the joy of our salvation.

12 In that day you will say:

I will give thanks to you, LORD,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger has turned away,
and you comfort me.

² Surely God is my salvation.

I will trust him and will not be afraid,
because Yah, the LORD, is my strength and song,
and he has become my salvation.

³ Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴ In that day you will say:

Give thanks to the LORD! Proclaim his name.
Declare among the peoples what he has done.
Proclaim that his name is exalted!

⁵ Sing to the LORD, for he has done amazing things!

Let this be known in all the earth!

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, daughter of Zion,
for the Holy One of Israel is great among you!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 32 A "I Turn to You, O LORD"

The Church sings Psalm 32 in services that proclaim forgiveness for the penitent. It is the second of the seven penitential psalms (6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143). In Romans 4:6-8, Paul uses the first two verses of the psalm to demonstrate that the doctrine of salvation is the same in both the Old and New Testaments.

Refrain

I turn to you, O LORD, in time of
trou-ble, and you fill me with the joy of sal - va - tion.

Tone

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are for- / given,
whose sins are / covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count a- / gainst them
and in whose spirit is / no deceit.

When I kept silent, my bones wast- / ed away
through my groaning / all day long.

For day and night your hand was heav- / y on me;
my strength was sapped as in the heat of / summer.

Then I acknowledged my / sin to you
and did not cover up my in- / iquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions / to the LORD."

And you forgave the guilt / of my sin.

Refrain

**You are my / hiding place;
you will protect me from / trouble.
Many are the woes of the / wicked,
but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who / trusts in him.**

**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

Romans 8:1-10

In Christ Jesus, God has already condemned all sin. For us there is only grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

8 So then, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³ Indeed, what the law was unable to do, because it was weakened by the flesh, God did, when he sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. God condemned sin in his flesh, ⁴ so that the righteous decree of the law would be fully satisfied in us who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

⁵ To be sure, those who are in harmony with the sinful flesh think about things the way the sinful flesh does, and those in harmony with the spirit think about things the way the spirit does. ⁶ Now, the way the sinful flesh thinks results in death, but the way the spirit thinks results in life and peace. ⁷ For the mind-set of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God's law, and in fact, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the sinful flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the sinful flesh but in the spirit, if indeed God's Spirit lives in you. And if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the Gospel Acclamation is introduced

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 15:10

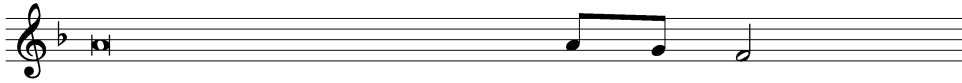


Refrain



Glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, Son of the liv - ing God.

Tone



There is rejoicing in the presence of the an - gels of God



over one sinner who re - pents.

Refrain

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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 15:1-3, 11-32

How does God respond to those who object to or are enraged by his grace? He responds with more grace.

15 All the tax collectors and sinners were coming to Jesus to hear him. ² But the Pharisees and the experts in the law were complaining, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ He told them this parable:

¹¹ Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all that he had and traveled to a distant country. There he wasted his wealth with reckless living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ He went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs.

¹⁶ He would have liked to fill his stomach with the carob pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, and I am dying from hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up, go to my father, and tell him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.””

²⁰ “He got up and went to his father. While he was still far away, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, hugged his son, and kissed him. ²¹ The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick, bring out the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ because this son of mine was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.’ Then they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “His older son was in the field. As he approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. ²⁷ The servant told him, ‘Your brother is here! Your father killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ The older brother was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

²⁹ He answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I’ve been serving you, and I never disobeyed your command, but you never gave me even a young goat so that I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours arrived after wasting your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’

³¹ “The father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. ³² But it was fitting to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day

578 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, high - er than the
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part com - fort to a
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
 5 Strength - en me, O gra - cious Lord, by your Spir - it



blood for me, died that I might live on high,
 heav'ns a - bove, deep - er than the depths of sea,
 wound - ed heart, peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
 all to me; all my wants to him are known,
 and your Word. When my way - ward heart would stray,



lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
 last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty, love that found me—
 joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, faith and hope to
 all my sor - rows are his own. Safe with him in
 keep me in the nar - row way; grace in time of



to the vine, I am his and he is mine!
 won - drous thought— found me when I sought him not.
 walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.
 earth - ly strife, I a - wait the heav'n - ly life.
 need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793-1873, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

"The Parable of the Loving Father"

Nicene Creed *Credo*

(Romans 10:9-10; Philippians 2:10-11)

Please stand

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Please be seated

Offering Collection

(Proverbs 3:9-10; Matthew 6:19-34; Romans 12:1; 2 Corinthians 9:7-11; Galatians 6:6-10)

Offerings

God, who blesses us with all we gave, gives us the privilege of thanking him in many ways. One way is by offering a portion of our income to financially support the ministry of our congregation and synod.

If you are a guest, please do not feel like you must give an offering.

We are happy to share with you the free, good news of Jesus' gracious love for you!

If you would like to give an offering, you can place it in the collection plate when it is passed to you.

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!

Friendship Registers

You are invited to write your name in the Friendship Register - the maroon book at the end of each pew. Please write down your name and the names of those with you, check any appropriate box, and provide your contact information if you want the pastor to speak with you.

Prayer of the Church

Lent

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to free us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

We confess that without your love we are lost.

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

Guard and guide those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and values as Christians.

By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

Keep in your care those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, and those victimized by war and injustice. Comfort all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart. **Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.**

Watch over those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.



And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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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 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)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might.



Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

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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.

O Christ, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

(John 1:29; Isaiah 53:4-7; 1 Peter 1:18-19)

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef. It begins with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of several phrases, each with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us." This phrase is repeated twice. The final phrase is "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace." The piece concludes with the word "A - men." repeated twice. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some notes beamed together and others held as half notes.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.
A - men. A - men.

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Please be seated

Distribution Hymn

658 "With All My Heart I Praise You, Lord"



1 With all my heart I praise you, Lord, that in your
 2 When I con - fess my sin and shame, peace and for -
 3 Lord, I re - joice to be your guest, at your rich



Son you saved me. You saw in me what you de - plored;
 give - ness seek - ing, you grant me par - don in your name
 ta - ble feed - ing, there, by your mer - cy, find - ing rest



my griev - ous sin en - slaved me. Yet, Lord, you paid
 be - fore I've fin - ished speak - ing! In love you lis -
 and all my soul is need - ing. Let your good Spir -



the high - est price, Je - sus' a - ton - ing sac - ri - fice,
 ten care - ful - ly to all our sighs of mis - er - y,
 it work with - in to show that all my wretch - ed sin



that you might ev - er own me. Were I to bless
 our ev - 'ry need ad - dress - ing. Our guilt should make
 has tru - ly been for - giv - en. Thus, well pre - pared,



you all my days, it would be in - suf - fi - cient praise
 you turn a - way; in - stead you turn toward us and say:
 Lord, I be - lieve that in your sup - per I re - ceive



for kind - ness you have shown me.
 "Re - ceive my gra - cious bless - ing."
 life, par - don, peace, and heav - en.

Distribution Hymn

660 "Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face"



1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
 2 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;
 3 I have no help but yours nor do I need
 4 Mine is the sin but yours the right - eous - ness;



here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen,
 this is the heav'n - ly ta - ble spread a - new.
 an - oth - er arm but yours to lean up - on.
 mine is the guilt but yours the cleans - ing blood.



here grasp with firm - er hand e - ter - nal grace,
 Here let me feast and, feast - ing, still pro - long
 It is e - nough, O Lord, e - nough in - deed;
 Here is my robe, my ref - uge, and my peace:



and all my wea - ri - ness up - on you lean.
 the brief bright hour of fel - low - ship with you.
 my strength is in your might, your might a - lone.
 your blood, your right - eous - ness, O Lord, my God.

5 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
 the feast, though not the love, is past and gone.
 The bread and wine remove, but you are here,
 nearer than ever, still my shield and sun.

6 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
 yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
 giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
 the Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

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 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, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (CW 927 : 1)

(Numbers 6:24-26; Colossians 1:3-6)

Please stand as the canticle is introduced

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with
joy and peace. Let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,
tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,
O re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt. Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879 Text and tune: Public domain

Thanksgiving

(Psalm 118:1)

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Proclamation

(1 Corinthians 11:26)

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

Post-Communion Prayer

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

We give 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

551 "Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep"



1 Je - sus, shep - herd of the sheep, who your
2 In your prom - ise firm we stand, none can
3 By your blood our souls were bought, by your
4 Fa - ther, draw us to your Son; we with
5 We, in robes of glo - ry dressed, join th'as -



Fa - ther's flock does keep, safe we wake and
take us from your hand; speak - we hear - at
life sal - va - tion wrought; by your light our
joy will fol - low on till the work of
sem - bly of the blest, gath - ered to e -



safe we sleep, guard - ed still by you.
your com - mand, we will fol - low you.
feet are taught, Lord, to fol - low you.
grace is done, there to live with you.
ter - nal rest in the fold with you.

Text: Henry Cook, 1788-1868, alt. Tune: Friedrich Filtz, 1804-1876 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 38), and hear a portion of the Passion History of our Lord according to the Gospel of St. Luke (23:1-25).

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.***

***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... Peter Hermanson for serving as distribution assistant...*

Ben Leyrer for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream...

Aaron Palmer and Michael Kraft for serving as ushers... 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 "[Worship Resources](#)" 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.*

*Nain is a member congregation of the **Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.***

For more information about our synod, please visit its website: www.wels.net



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

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Psalm introduction from Christian Worship: Psalter

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