

✠ MIDWEEK OF LENT 4 ✠

April 2, 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

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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.

# Midweek of Lent 4

April 2, 2025



*Lent*

***Return to the LORD!***

The word Lent comes from an Old English word for spring (“lengthen,” the time of the year when the days grow longer). For over 1400 years, the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a journey of repentance and prayer, of remembrance and renewal of our baptism. God’s merciful call to his people serves as one of the themes of this penitential season - “Return to the LORD your God” (Joel 2:13).

*Midweek of Lent 4*

***Trial before Pontius Pilate***

This evening we continue to hear from the Passion History of our Lord according to the Gospel of St. Luke. After Jesus identified himself as the Son of God to the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, he was sent to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea.

The Jewish mob accused Jesus of blasphemy and wanted Pilate to sentence him to death. Pilate was no stranger to challenging situations when it came to dealing with the Jews. They were notorious for being difficult to govern, and there was always the threat they might resort to rioting and rebellion. Pilate and Herod wound up finding no basis for a charge against Jesus. However, these men still did not believe in him as the promised Messiah.

Jesus makes great claims to us – to be our Servant, our Shepherd, our Savior, etc. Do we believe these claims, or fight against and reject him like his enemies did? Jesus bore our sins, including those of doubt, rejection, and unbelief – just as he bore the false accusations levied against him during his trial – and nailed them to the cross. It is only through faith in him as our Savior from sin that we are saved.

# Evening Prayer

## Vespers

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**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.*

**There will be no pre-service music or announcements.**

**Please remain silent as you prepare for worship.**

**Our worship begins with the tolling of the bells, followed by the opening hymn.**

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## Service of Light

### Opening Hymn

429 vv 1, 3 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and  
3 Now from your cheeks has van - ished their col - or,



shame weighed down, now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed,  
once so fair; from your red lips is ban - ished



with thorns your on - ly crown, O sa - cred head, no  
the splen - dor that was there. Grim death with cru - el



glo - ry now from your face does shine; yet, though de -  
rig - or has robbed you of your life; thus you have

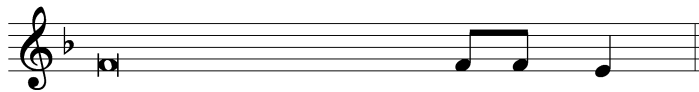


spised and go - ry, I joy to call you mine.  
lost your vig - or, your strength, in this sad strife.

## Opening Sentences

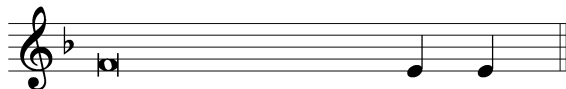
(John 8:12; Luke 24:29; 1 John 1:5)

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



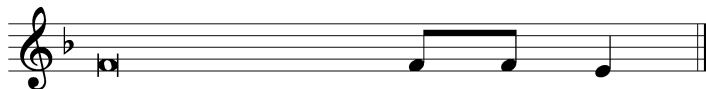
**the light no darkness can o - ver - come.**

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,



**and the day is almost o - ver.**

Be our light and scatter the darkness,



**and hear our evening prayer and praise.**

## Hymn of Light *Phos hilaron*

(Psalm 18:28; Isaiah 9:2; John 1:5-9)



1 Glad - d'ning light of pur - est glo - ry, shin - ing  
2 In the fad - ing light of eve - ning, as the  
3 For your gift of life un - end - ing, joy - ful



down from heav'n on high, from the ev - er -  
set - ting sun de - parts, Fa - ther, Son, and  
voic - es ev - er sing hymns of praise that



liv - ing Fa - ther— hail, most bless - ed Je - sus Christ!  
Ho - ly Spir - it— we a - dore you, Lord our God.  
right - ly hon - or, Son of God, your sav - ing name.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, for you are merciful and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Psalm 141

(Psalm 141:1-4,8)

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing up  
of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I  
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I  
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,  
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

*Tune: David Schack Tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 726758*

Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord, and let your mercy descend on us, that we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# Service of the Word

## Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7

*The Messiah is a weapon in the hand of God. God concealed him like an arrow in a quiver, i.e. the Messiah would come with his glory hidden in flesh. That meant the Servant would suffer, but in that suffering God would display his splendor. Jesus struggled with the cup he was to drink but trusted in God's promised reward. God would use his Servant to restore Israel and shine the light of his love on all nations. The salvation won by the Lamb would be brought to the ends of the earth.*

- 49** Listen to me, you coastlands.  
Pay attention, you faraway peoples!  
The Lord called me from the womb.  
When I was inside my mother, he mentioned my name.
- <sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharpened sword.  
He hid me in the shadow of his hand.  
He made me a polished arrow.  
He concealed me in his quiver.'
- <sup>3</sup> He said to me, "You are my servant Israel,  
in whom I will display my glory."
- <sup>4</sup> But I said to myself, "I have labored in vain.  
I spent my strength and came up empty, with nothing.  
Yet a just verdict for me rests with the Lord,  
and my reward is with my God."
- <sup>5</sup> But now the Lord,  
    who formed me from the womb to be his servant,  
    to turn Jacob back to him,  
    so that Israel might be gathered to him,  
    so that I will be honored in the eyes of the Lord,  
    because my God has been my strength—
- <sup>6</sup> the Lord said:  
    It is too small a thing that you should just be my servant  
        to raise up only the tribes of Jacob  
        and to restore the ones I have preserved in Israel,  
    so I will appoint you to be a light for the nations,  
    so that my salvation will be known to the end of the earth.

7 This is what the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel, its Holy One,  
says to the one deeply despised,  
to the one who is detested by the nation,  
to the servant of rulers.  
Kings will see and stand up.  
Officials will see and bow down,  
because of the Lord, who is faithful,  
because of the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

## Psalm 38

*Psalm 38 is the third of the seven penitential psalms. The Church sings Psalm 38 to ask the Lord for forgiveness, especially in times of illness caused by our own sinful weaknesses. Martin Luther said, "Psalm 38 is a prayer psalm. The writer laments his sins, which make his conscience disheartened and sorrowful. He sees God's arrows: anger, threats, death, and hell. But he also teaches us to persevere and not to despair, to trust God's promises until the comforts of faith flow again."*

- 1 Lord, do not rebuke me in anger.  
Do not discipline me in wrath.
- 2 **Indeed, your arrows have stuck in me.**  
**Your hand has come down on me.**
- 3 There is no health in my flesh because of your rage.  
There is no wellness in my bones because of my sin,
- 4 **because my guilt has gone over my head.**  
**Like a heavy burden, it is too heavy for me.**
- 5 My wounds stink and ooze  
because of my folly.
- 6 **I am drooping. I am completely bent over.**  
**All day long I go around mourning.**
- 7 Even my back burns with pain.  
My whole body is unhealthy.
- 8 **I have become numb. I am totally crushed.**  
**I groan loudly because of my anxious thoughts.**



- 9 Lord, all my needs lie before you.  
My sighs are not hidden from you.
- 10 **My heart beats quickly. My strength leaves me.  
Even the light of my eyes is gone from me.**
- 11 My loved ones and my friends stand far away  
because of the blow I have suffered.  
My neighbors stand at a distance.
- 12 **Those who pursue my life set traps.  
Those who seek to harm me talk about my ruin.  
All day long they plot deception.**
- 13 I am deaf. I cannot hear.  
Like a mute person, I cannot open my mouth.
- 14 **I am like a man who cannot hear.  
No response comes from his mouth.**
- 15 Yet I wait for you, Lord.  
You will answer, O Lord my God.
- 16 **So I said, "Do not let them celebrate because of me.  
Do not let them gloat when my foot slips."**
- 17 Look! I am about to fall,  
and I am always in pain,
- 18 **so I declare my guilt,  
and I am troubled by my sin.**
- 19 My aggressive enemies are numerous.  
Those who hate me for no reason are many.
- 20 **Those who repay evil for good  
slander me because I pursue what is good.**
- 21 Do not forsake me, O Lord.  
My God, do not be far from me.
- 22 **Hurry to help me,  
O Lord, my salvation.**

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Passion History

Luke 23:1-25

*The Jewish leaders take Jesus to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea, hoping he will grant their wish to sentence him to death. Pilate finds no basis for the charges brought against Jesus, so he sends him to King Herod. Herod arrives at the same conclusion, so he sends him back to Pilate. Though both Pilate and Herod recognized Jesus as innocent and not worthy of death, neither had the courage to embrace the truth that Jesus was the promised Christ and King of kings. As unfair to Jesus as these sham trials were, God worked through the evil of those who opposed him to provide salvation for those who embrace him.*

**23** The whole group of them got up and brought him before Pilate. <sup>2</sup> They began to accuse him, saying, “We found this fellow misleading our nation, forbidding the payment of taxes to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.”

<sup>3</sup> Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

“It is as you say,” Jesus replied.

<sup>4</sup> Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”

<sup>5</sup> But they kept insisting, “He stirs up the people, teaching all through Judea, beginning from Galilee all the way here.”

<sup>6</sup> When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean. <sup>7</sup> When he learned that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem during those days.

<sup>8</sup> When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad. For a long time, he had wanted to see him, because he had heard many things about him. He hoped to see some miracle performed by him. <sup>9</sup> He questioned him with many words, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup> The chief priests and the experts in the law stood there, vehemently accusing him. <sup>11</sup> Herod, along with his soldiers, treated him with contempt and ridiculed him. Dressing him in bright clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> Herod and Pilate became friends with each other on that day. Before this they had been enemies of each other.

<sup>13</sup> Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, “You brought this man to me as one who is misleading the people. Look, I have examined him in your presence. I have found in this man no basis for the charges you are bringing against him. <sup>15</sup> Herod did not either, for he sent him back to us. See, he has done nothing worthy of death. <sup>16</sup> So I will have him flogged and release him.”

<sup>17</sup> Pilate needed to release one prisoner to them at the Festival. <sup>18</sup> But they all shouted together with one voice: “Take him away! Release Barabbas to us!” <sup>19</sup> Barabbas had been thrown in prison for a rebellion in the city and for murder.

<sup>20</sup> Pilate addressed them again, because he wanted to release Jesus. <sup>21</sup> But they kept shouting, “Crucify! Crucify him!”

<sup>22</sup> He said to them the third time, “Why? What evil has he done? I have found no grounds for sentencing him to death. So I will whip him and release him.” <sup>23</sup> But they kept pressuring him with loud voices, demanding that he be crucified. And their voices were overwhelming. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate decided that what they demanded would be done. <sup>25</sup> He released the one they had asked for, who had been thrown in prison for rebellion and murder, but he handed Jesus over to their will.

Thus far the Passion History of Our Lord.

**All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed.** (Isaiah 53:6, NIV)

*Please remain silent for meditation*



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law have you bro - ken  
 2 They crown your head with thorns, they smite, they scourge you;  
 3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?  
 4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!



that such sharp sen - tence should on you be spo - ken?  
 with cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge you;  
 It is my sins for which you, Lord, must lan - guish;  
 The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;



Of what great crime have you to make con -  
 they give you gall to drink, they still de -  
 yes, all the wrath, the woe that you in -  
 the Mas - ter pays the debt his ser - vants



fes - sion, what dark trans - gres - sion?  
 cry you; they cru - ci - fy you.  
 her - it, this I do mer - it.  
 owe him, who would not know him.

- 5 The sinless Son of God must die in sadness,  
 the sinful child of man may live in gladness;  
 we forfeited our lives, yet are acquitted;  
 God is committed.
- 6 I'll think upon your mercy without ceasing,  
 that earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;  
 to do your will shall be my sole endeavor  
 henceforth forever.

## Song of Praise

947 v1 "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy"

1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer,  
ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer.  
All sin you car-ried for us, else had de-spair reigned o'er us:  
have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

The image shows a musical score for a song of praise. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written in treble clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first two staves contain the main melody with lyrics: "1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, who on the cross did suf - fer, ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, your-self to scorn did of - fer." The third staff continues the melody with lyrics: "All sin you car-ried for us, else had de-spair reigned o'er us:". The fourth staff concludes the melody with lyrics: "have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!". The music ends with a double bar line.

## Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

(Psalm 51:1; Mark 10:47; Luke 17:13)

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

For minds set on heavenly things, for hearts that long for heavenly glory, and for the will to bear our earthly crosses, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the gifts of humility and repentance, for faith that finds security in Christ and does not use God's patience as an excuse for sin, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For perspective to see that, apart from Christ, gain is loss, and in Christ, loss is gain, and for the perseverance to press on and take hold of our heavenly prize, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Amen.**

## Prayer

Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and 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.**

## Benedicamus

*(Psalm 103:1)*

Let us praise the Lord.



**Thanks be to God.**

## Blessing

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



## Closing Hymn

432 v 7 "O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken"

7 And when, dear Lord, be - fore your throne in heav - en  
to me the crown of joy at last is giv - en,  
where sweet - est hymns your saints for - ev - er  
raise you, I too shall praise you.



***There will not be any post-service music or announcements.***

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

***Please refrain from conversation until after you have departed the church building so those who wish to remain in church to pray and meditate may do so in silence.***

***Pastor Berg will be available in the narthex shortly after the service if you would like to speak with him.***



*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 [PayPal](#), you can scan the QR code below.*

*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...*

*Peter Hermanson for operating the A/V equipment for the live stream...*

*and the Campbell family for making the rough cross we display during the seasons of Lent and Easter.*

*For more information about 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.*

*"**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](http://www.wels.net)*



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