



MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Greater Detroit, MI

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Lutheran Confession

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Worship 10:00am

Bible Class 9:00am

December 17, 2017



The 3rd Sunday in Advent

Pre-Service Devotion: Luke 1:46-49

“My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.”

Today's Worship!

Greeting and Prayer

Opening Hymn 102 (red hymnal): *Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful*

The Invocation

We invoke (“call upon”) the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

P We begin our Savior’s worship service today in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen!

The Confession and Absolution of Sins

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will!

C Amen!

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Glory to God in the Highest *Gloria in Excelsis*

C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,
Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:
We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,
Lord God, al - mighty Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the subsequent staves contain the melody for the following lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

The Prayer for the Day

The main thoughts for the day are collected together in this prayer.

P Let us pray.

Hear our prayer, Lord Jesus Christ. Come with the good news of deliverance. Drive out the darkness from our hearts and fill them with you light, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 61*

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁵ Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks; foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers; ⁶ but you shall be called the priests of the LORD; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast. ⁷ Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot; therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion; they shall have everlasting joy.

⁸ For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

The Gospel Reading: *John 1:6-8,19-28*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." ²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The Apostle's Creed

We boldly confess what we believe.

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

And is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn 66 (red hymnal): *Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes*

The Sermon: Psalm 126

A Song of Ascents. When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. ² Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." ³ The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad. ⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb! ⁵ Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! ⁶ He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

Restoration Realized

- I. Looking back with joyful reflection (1-3)
- II. Looking forward with joyful anticipation (4-6)

The Offertory



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me
not a - way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly
Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

Hymn 709 (tan supplement): *God Loves Me Dearly*

The Offering of Thankful Hearts

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.

Prayer of the Church – The Lord’s Prayer

The Benediction

The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26)

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- C** Amen!

Closing Hymn 87:1-2 (red hymnal): *Joy to the World*

Announcements

"If the LORD wills, we will do this or that." James 4:15

Welcome Everyone! Especially any visitors who may be with us. We are glad you are here and invite you to join us again soon in our worship of the One true God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you've found it with us. If you'd like to become a member, we offer a FREE "Information Course" in which the Pastor will meet with you at your convenience to study and discuss the Bible's teachings. Just ask!

Midweek Advent Services: *Advent* means "coming." Advent season is the time when we look forward to the celebration of when Christ *came* into the world to begin His mission of redemption. We have one remaining midweek Advent services. Pastor David Schaller from Redeemer Lutheran in Sister Lakes will be guest preaching this Wednesday, December 20 at 7pm. Hope you can make it!

Christmas Caroling: Immediately after church today, we are planning to go caroling at Sunrise Senior Living Center in Troy and at some of our members' homes. Please join us in the singing of some favorite Christmas carols!

Christmas Eve Service: Next Sunday, December 24 at 7pm, we will be holding our Christmas Eve Service. Hope to see you there as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus! Please note that we will NOT be holding a morning service next Sunday.

CLC Call News: The Rev. Nathan Pfeiffer, pastor of Trinity Lutheran, Spokane WA, has returned the call to be co-pastor at Immanuel Lutheran, Mankato MN.

Christmas Game Night: Thanks to everyone who was able to come to the Christmas Game Night this past Friday! It was a fun night of games, carol singing, and snacking.

Daily Devotions by CLC Pastors: Now available on the home page of clclutheran.org are daily devotions written and assembled by pastors of the CLC. You will find them under "Recommended Pages/Sites" on the right side of the site. Perhaps you would share the site on your social media outlets, or print a copy for a family member, friend, or neighbor who would benefit from these faith-building encouragements based on God's Word.

Important Dates at Mt. Zion

Today	11am	Christmas Caroling (Sunrise Senior Living in Troy)
Wed. 12/20	7pm	3 rd Midweek Advent Service
Sun. 12/24	7pm	Christmas Eve Service (No morning service)
Sun. 1/14	11am	Annual Voters Meeting

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Advent – Preparing hearts for the coming of the Savior

The Advent Wreath

The advent wreath is rich in symbolism, and as such it aids our worship as it reinforces our hope in the ultimate coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The wreath is covered with evergreen. Just as the species of tree is always green, so our hope for eternity is always alive because it rests upon the living Christ. The wreath is also in the form of a circle, which has no beginning and no end. What better way to picture that our life with God is everlasting.

The lighted candles are symbolic of the light of Christ and His Gospel, which alone can lift us out of our sin and spiritual darkness. The 4 candles surrounding the center candle remind us of the 4000 years of waiting for Christ by the Old Testament world. Each of the candles has been assigned a special name with special significance.

The Prophecy Candle is the 1st candle lit the first week in Advent. It is symbolic of the long years of waiting during which the prophets, inspired of God, kept alive the hope that the son of God was coming to redeem His people from their sins.

The Bethlehem Candle is the 2nd candle lit. It symbolizes the preparations being made for the coming of the Christ-child. The prophecy in Micah 5:2 that foretold Jesus' birthplace at Bethlehem may seem to be a minor revelation, but it shows how God prepared even the least detail for the coming of Christ.

The Shepherds' Candle is the 3rd candle lit and reminds us of our responsibility to share the Savior and His promises. The shepherds left their task and went with haste to see the Christ-child, then they returned to tell others about the good news of the Savior.

The Angel's Candle is lit the 4th week of Advent. It reminds us of the activity of the angels before and after Jesus' birth, bearing messages, ministering, protecting, praising; they will be with Jesus at His final coming on Judgment Day, to gather the nations.

The Christ Candle is the center candle lit at the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Its white color symbolizes the perfect and holy life our Savior led on our behalf. With His death on the cross, the LORD now counts that white robe of Christ's righteousness to each one of us. God's great gift – His Son Jesus!