

August 16, 2020



I have no pleasure in  
the death of anyone,  
declares the Lord, GOD;  
so turn, and live.

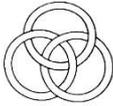


**MT. ZION**

Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Madison Heights, MI

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# 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Pre-Service Personal Prayer:** *Lord God, heavenly Father, we ask You, graciously abide among us with Your blessing, and keep us from covetousness and the cares of this life, that we may seek first Your kingdom and righteousness, and in all things needful for body and soul, provide Your ever-present help; through Jesus Christ, Amen.*

## Today's Worship!

### Greeting and Prayer

**Hymn 277 (TLH):** *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

1. *I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Come unto Me and rest;  
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down,  
Thy head upon My breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
Weary and worn and sad;  
I found in Him a resting-place,  
And He has made me glad.*
2. *I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Behold, I freely give  
The living water; thirsty one,  
Stoop down and drink and live."  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
Of that life-giving stream.  
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
And now I live in Him.*
3. *I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"I am this dark world's Light.  
Look unto Me; thy morn shall rise  
And all thy day be bright."  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
In Him my Star, my Sun;  
And in that Light of Life I'll walk  
Till traveling days are done.*

**The Invocation** *We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

**P** 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 admitting that we are sinful and 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.

### 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 - might - y 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 Prayer for the Day

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

- P** Let us pray. . . through Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## The Epistle Reading: *Hebrews 3:7-15*

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice,"<sup>8</sup> do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness,<sup>9</sup> where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years.<sup>10</sup> Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.'<sup>11</sup> As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'"

<sup>12</sup> Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.<sup>13</sup> But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.<sup>14</sup> For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.<sup>15</sup> As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

## The Responsive Psalm Reading: *Psalms 18:20-28*

- P** The LORD dealt with me according to my righteousness;
- C** According to the cleanness of my hands he rewarded me.
- P** For I have kept the ways of the LORD,
- C** And have not wickedly departed from my God.
- P** For all his rules were before me,
- C** And his statutes I did not put away from me.
- P** I was blameless before him,
- C** And I kept myself from my guilt.
- P** So the LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness,
- C** According to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.
- P** With the merciful you show yourself merciful;
- C** With the blameless man you show yourself blameless;
- P** With the purified you show yourself pure;
- C** And with the crooked you make yourself seem tortuous.
- P** For you save a humble people,
- C** But the haughty eyes you bring down.
- P** For it is you who light my lamp;
- C** The LORD my God lightens my darkness.



## The Gospel Reading: *Matthew 11:16-24*

"But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates, <sup>17</sup> "'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.' <sup>18</sup> For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' <sup>19</sup> The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds."

<sup>20</sup> Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. <sup>21</sup> "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>22</sup> But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. <sup>23</sup> And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. <sup>24</sup> But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you."

**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 318 (TLH): *Before Thee, God, Who Knowest All***

**1. *Before Thee, God, who knowest all,  
With grief and shame I prostrate fall.  
I see my sins against Thee, Lord,  
The sins of thought, of deed, and word.  
They press me sore; I cry to Thee:  
O God, be merciful to me!***

**2. *O Lord, my God, to Thee I pray:  
Oh, cast me not in wrath away!  
Let Thy good Spirit ne'er depart,  
But let Him draw to Thee my heart  
That truly penitent I be:  
O God, be merciful to me!***

**3. *O Jesus, let Thy precious blood  
Be to my soul a cleansing flood.  
Turn not, O Lord, Thy guest away,  
But grant that justified I may  
Go to my house at peace with Thee:  
O God, be merciful to me!***

**The Sermon: *Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32***

The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup> "What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? <sup>3</sup> As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup> Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

<sup>25</sup> "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? <sup>26</sup> When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>27</sup> Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. <sup>28</sup> Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>29</sup> Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? <sup>30</sup> "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares

the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. <sup>31</sup> Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup> For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

**The LORD Declares, "Make a U-Turn!"**

- I. Turn from blaming others and repent
- II. Turn to God and live

**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 331:1-2,5-7 (TLH): Yea, as I Live, Jehovah Saith**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1. Yea, as I live, Jehovah saith,<br/>         I would not have the sinner's death,<br/>         But that he turn from error's ways,<br/>         Repent, and live through endless days.</b></p> <p><b>5. The words which absolution give<br/>         Are His who died that we might live;<br/>         The minister whom Christ has sent<br/>         Is but His humble instrument.</b></p> | <p><b>2. To us therefore Christ gave command:<br/>         "Go forth and preach in every land;<br/>         Bestow on all My pardoning grace<br/>         Who will repent and mend their ways.</b></p> <p><b>6. When ministers lay on their hands,<br/>         Absolved by Christ the sinner stands;<br/>         He who by grace the Word believes<br/>         The purchase of His blood receives.</b></p> |
|---|---|
- 7. All praise, eternal Son, to Thee  
 For absolution full and free,  
 In which Thou showest forth Thy grace;  
 From false indulgence guard our race.**

## Prayer of the Church – The Lord’s Prayer

**C** 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.

## 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!

## Hymn 50:1 (TLH): *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*

**1. Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing,  
Fill our hearts with joy and peace.  
Let us each, Thy love possessing,  
Triumph in redeeming grace.  
Oh, refresh us, Oh, refresh us,  
Traveling through this wilderness!**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**WELCOME EVERYONE!** We pray that God's Word and our worship today will help you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus. We ask our visitors to please sign our guest book. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you've found it with us. Ask our Pastor about a free Bible study he offers to explain what we believe, teach, and practice. Where and when? Your convenience.

**A CHURCH WORKDAY** has been scheduled by the Board of Trustees for Saturday, August 22, beginning at 9:00am. We have a number of building and maintenance projects that we hope to accomplish, including: landscaping, caulk shed, siding repairs, replace door locks, seal ramp, planters, and cross, and other things. If you can, please come help beautify God's house!

**VIRTUAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** In lieu of in-person Vacation Bible School this summer, our congregation's outreach committee has produced a virtual VBS series. Join us as we embark on a three-day video journey that explores some of Jesus' most powerful miracles. Each short video contains a bible story, craft, and memory verse. Please visit Mt. Zion's YouTube channel to watch and share: <https://bit.ly/3jOfTYu>

**OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT:** The normal collection of the offering has been omitted from this service. If you have an offering that you wish to contribute, please deposit it in the gold plate on the shelf in the back of church OR use one of the following options: 1) Electronic giving is available through "CashApp." The church's \$cashtag is "\$clcmztion". 2) You may mail your contribution to Financial Secretary Nathan Fobear, 22034 Donaldson St. Dearborn, MI 48124.

**ILC OPENING SERVICE:** Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary is opening its academic year with in-person learning. Much planning is in the works as we learn to live in the midst of the current pandemic. The opening service will be on Sun. Aug. 23, 3 pm. This will also include the installation of ILC President Daniel Schierenbeck and Professor Mark Weis. Some precautions will be necessary for this service given mitigation and local guidelines, e.g., physical distancing, collecting contact information, gathering size, etc. For those who aren't students, parents, or staff, we encourage you to virtually attend the service through livestream to help ensure that our gathering size is manageable and compliant with local guidelines. For details about livestreaming and the opening weekend schedule, see [ilc.edu](http://ilc.edu). Please keep the staff and the students in your prayers

during these challenging times. May the Lord richly bless the upcoming year as the students grow in the truth of God's saving Word!

**CLC CALL NEWS:** Pastor Del Maas, Gift of God, Mapleton, ND has **accepted** the non-resident call to St. Paul, Ponsford, MN. This means Pastor Maas will be serving both congregations full-time, while living in Mapleton. <> Pastor Ben Libby, Ascension, Tacoma, WA has **received** the call to Redeemer, Bowdle, SD and Zion, Ipswich, SD. <> Pastor Luke Bernthal, St. Stephen, Mountain View and St. Stephen, Hayward, CA has **received** the call to Living Savior, Eden Prairie, MN. <> Pastor Emeritus Robert List has asked to be relieved of his vacancy work at Trinity, Spokane, WA. Pastor Wayne Eichstadt, Gethsemane, Spokane Valley, is now serving the vacancy.

**SERVING US THIS WEEK**

Church Cleaning: Naumanns

**OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL**

Bi-Weekly Offerings Needed:	\$2,615.38	Total Offerings Needed YTD:	\$41,846.15
Bi-Weekly Offerings Received:	\$3,596.00	Total Offerings Received YTD:	\$48,431.22
Missions Offerings YTD (includes 4% of GB & individual offerings):			\$2,054.37

**IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES AT MT. ZION**

<b>Today</b>	4pm	Cleveland Area Worship Service
<b>Mon. 9/17</b>	8:30pm	Trustees Meeting
<b>Sat. 8/22</b>	9am	Church Workday
<b>Sun. 8/23</b>	9am & 10:30am	Sunday Worship Services
<b>Thu. 9/24 – Sun. 9/27</b>		ManUp Retreat (CLC Men’s Retreat) Wyalusing State Park, Wisconsin
<b>Tue. 9/29 – Thu. 10/1</b>		Great Lakes Pastoral Conference Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI

**IN OUR PRAYERS <> ENCOURAGEMENT LIST**

*Ephesians 6:18 “Be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”*

**Jackie McGruder** remains homebound as she continues to suffer from lupus, a chronic autoimmune disease that attacks tissues and organs. **Sharon Vincent** continues to cope with the pain of a past back surgery. **Jay Sandeen** (at-distance member in Columbus, OH) is currently serving with his Army National Guard unit overseas in Kuwait.

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