

December 12, 2021



The
LORD
your

God

is with you, he is

mighty to save.

ZEPHANIAH 3:17, NIV



MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Madison Heights, MI

Pastor Tom Naumann
(248) 677-7242

mtzionlutheran.info



3rd Sunday in Advent

Pre-Service Personal Prayer: *Lord God, heavenly Father, send Your Son into our hearts by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that we, being strengthened by the Sun of Righteousness, may walk before You in fervent faith and all holy obedience. Watch over our little flock, and by Your Word strengthen our faith and renew in us a rejoicing spirit in our Advent and Christmas worship. Amen.*

Today's Worship!

Greeting and Prayer

Opening Hymn 703 (WS2000): *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

- 1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear!**
*The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising, And soon He draweth nigh;
Up, pray and watch and wrestle! At midnight comes the cry.*
- 2. The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near;**
*Go meet Him as He cometh, With hallelujahs clear.
The marriage-feast is waiting, The gates wide open stand;
Up, up, ye heirs of glory; The Bridegroom is at hand!*
- 3. Ye saints, who here in patience Your cross and sufferings bore,**
*Shall live and reign forever, When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory The Lamb ye shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him Your diadems of gold!*
- 4. Our Hope and Expectation, O Jesus, now appear;**
*Arise, Desire of nations, O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption, That brings us unto Thee!*

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** Beloved of God: Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant forgiveness:

C Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer: we confess that we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have not loved You above all things. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins.

P God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

C Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie – Latin for “O Lord.” We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.

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

Glory to God in the Highest (TLH 62:1-3 Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel)

Gloria in Excelsis – Latin for “Glory in the Highest (to God).” A hymn glorifying and praising our God.

1 Oh, come, Oh, come, Em-man - u - el, And ran-som cap-tive
2 Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jes - - se, free Thine own from Sa-tan's
3 Oh, come, Thou Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by Thy
Is - - ra - el That mourns in lone-ly ex - - ile here Un-
tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell Thy peo - ple save And
draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom-y clouds of night And
til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em-
give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em-
death's dark shad-ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em-
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el.
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el.
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el.

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: *Philippians 4:4-7*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Responsive Reading: *Psalms 130*

- P** Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!
- C** O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
- P** If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.
- P** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
- C** My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.
- P** O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.
- C** And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

The Gospel Reading: *Luke 3:7-18*

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸ Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" ¹¹ And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³

And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

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

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! These words are
 writ - ten that we may believe 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.*

- C** 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 272:1-3,5 (TLH): *When All the World was Cursed*

**1. *When all the world was cursed By Moses' condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came With words of consolation.
With true forerunner's zeal The Greater One he named,
And Him, as yet unknown, As Savior he proclaimed.***

**2. *Before he yet was born, He leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing Him as Lord Whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan's rolling stream, A new Elijah bold,
He testified of Him Of whom the prophets told:***

**3. *Behold the Lamb of God That bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes The Enemy's oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God, Who beareth all our sin,
Who for our peace and joy Will full atonement win.***

**5. *Oh, grant, Thou Lord of Love, That we receive, rejoicing,
The word proclaimed by John, Our true repentance voicing;
That gladly we may walk Upon our Savior's way
Until we live with Him In His eternal day.***

The Sermon: *Zephaniah 3:14-17*

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

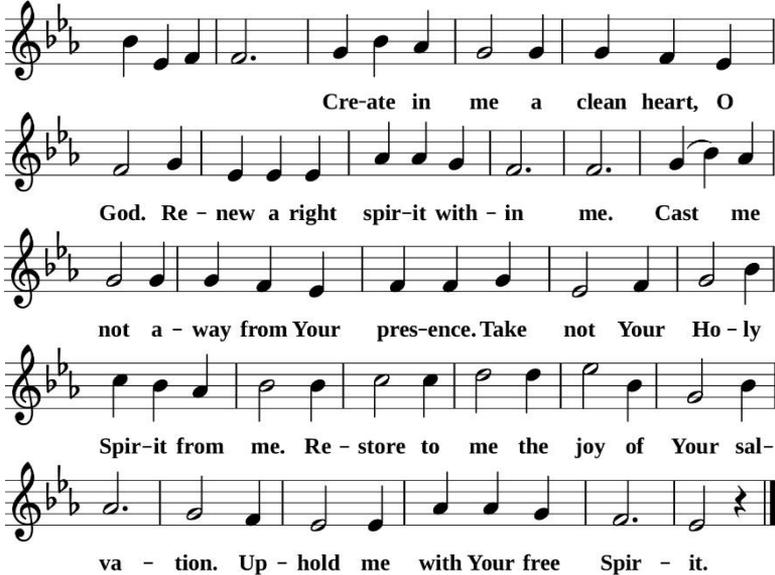
Theme: DOUBLE THE JOY!

- I. Your joy over God
- II. God's joy over you



The Offertory

Having heard God's Word, we ask Him to spiritually heal us, giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O
God. 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 me with Your free Spir - it.

Hymn 87 (TLH): Joy to the World

**1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room And heaven and nature sing. (3x)**

**2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy. (3x)**

**3. No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found. (3x)**

**4. He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love. (3x)**

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. If you wish to give your church offering electronically, you can do so by using the CashApp on your mobile device. The church's Şcashtag is "Şclcmztzion". While the usher brings the offering plate forward we sing the following hymn verse

**(788:1): Lord, You love the cheerful giver Who with open heart and hand
Blesses freely, as a river That refreshes all the land.
Grant us, then, the grace of giving With a spirit large and true
That our life and all our living We may consecrate to You.**

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 Service of the Sacrament

Now we approach the second high point of the liturgy, the Sacrament, in which the Lord comes to bless us with His very body and blood. We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

P It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the Messiah, the very Lamb, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory; Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying...

Holy, Holy, Holy

The Sanctus – Latin for “Holy.” We join our voices to the angels who sing, “Holy, Holy, Holy” around His throne.”

The musical score is written on five staves of music in a single system. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the highest, ho - san-na in the highest. Blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-nain the highest, ho - san-na in the highest

Words of Institution

The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His sacramental body and blood for all time.

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Lamb of God

The Agnus Dei – Latin for "Lamb of God." As we approach the Table of Forgiveness, we want to be thinking about the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for us on Calvary's cross.

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy up - on us. Lamb of God, You
take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy up - on
us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace.

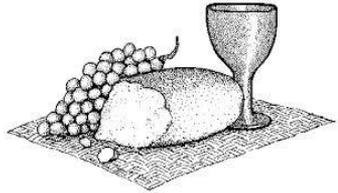
Distribution of the Sacrament

Communion Today is for Members Only Please

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon the Bible passages listed below. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, you'll want to find out if our church teaches what the Bible does! The pastor would be happy to discuss this with you at your convenience!

1 Corinthians 1:10 *"Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."*

1 Corinthians 11:26-30 *"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."*



Thanksgiving

We give thanks and praise the LORD for the forgiveness of sins received in the Sacrament.

Thank the Lord; sing His praise; tell ev'ry one what
He has done. Let all who seek the Lord re-joyce and
bear Christ's ho - ly name. Thank the Lord;
sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.
Send us with Your prom - is - es, Lord; lead Your peo - ple

forth in joy with shouts of thanks - giv-ing. Thank the Lord;
 sing His praise; tell ev'ry one what He has done. Al-le - lu - ia, alle-
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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 61:1-2 (TLH): *Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People*

**1. Comfort, comfort, ye My people, Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
 Comfort those who sit in darkness, Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.**

***Speak ye to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
 Tell her that her sins I cover And her warfare now is over.***

**2. Yea, her sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed;
 All that well deserved His anger He no more will see or heed.**

***She hath suffered many a day, Now her griefs have passed away;
 God will change her pining sadness Into ever-springing gladness.***

Worship at Mt. Zion

We have a singular goal in our worship: “Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools.” (Ecc. 5:1 NKJV)

Our service follows the historic Biblical style of using a liturgy. The liturgy is meant to give order and structure to the worship service. We try to keep our worship respectful in order to foster an atmosphere which allows us to focus on the power of God’s Word. Our service is also meant to be reflective so that each individual can hear, understand, and meditate upon the wonderful works of God! (Acts 2:11)

The Bible teaches that God creates and sustains faith in a person’s heart through the power of His Word: Romans 1:16: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.” In our fast-paced society, meditative and reflective worship is sometimes considered outdated, irrelevant, or boring. Yet, God Himself says, “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17). God has not changed His method of reaching people with the hope of forgiveness simply because our society has changed. He remains the same and His Word remains powerful.

If the worship service seems strange to you, don’t give up right away! Stick with it, try to learn something new each week, and develop a habit of being present in God’s house. The ability to quietly listen and learn is an acquired skill that takes time and practice. Our prayer each week is that we grow in our ability to listen to God’s Word and thereby increase our faith in Jesus. We hope you will continue to join us!

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 and teach. Where and when? Your convenience.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR AND CHILDREN'S PRACTICE: Immediately following the service today, anyone interested in singing in the Christmas Eve choir are asked to gather in the front of church for practice. All voices welcome! The children will practice their Christmas Eve parts following the choir.

EXTRA COPIES OF THE NEW EDITION OF *DAILY REST* are available for purchase on the hymnal rack in the back of church. Please deposit \$4/each into the offering plate with a note: "For Daily Rest."

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES: Continuing this Wednesday, December 15 at 7pm, we'll be holding our third and final midweek Advent service.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Friday, December 24 at 7pm, we will be holding our Christmas Eve Service. All are invited to this special service where we will be reading through the Biblical Christmas account, hearing the children recite Bible verses, singing favorite Christmas carols, and celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus! Hope to see you there!

MT. ZION MAIL MINISTRY: Starting in January Pastor is going to begin weekly mailing out bulletins and sermons to shut-ins, at-a-distance members, and anyone else who'd like to be included. If you or someone you know would like to be put on this mailing list, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the back of church.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHRISTMAS CHORAL SERVICE: A choral service featuring the choirs of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will be live-streamed online Friday, December 17, 2021 at 7:30 pm Central Standard Time from Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. To watch, go to www.eauclairemessiah.com and click on the "Live Stream" button (lower left). If you miss the live stream, a replay will be available to view for one week following the concert. This year's theme is *The Martin Luther Christmas Book* and will feature songs of the season along with devotional readings selected from Luther's Christmas sermons.

CLC CALL NEWS: Teacher Ross Kok of Holy Cross Lutheran School, Phoenix, AZ, **has received** the call to be the upper grade of Grace Lutheran School, Valentine, NE. + Pastor Paul Krause of Trinity Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD and Zion Lutheran Church, Hidewood Township, SD, **has been called** to Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA. + Pastor Sam Rodebaugh of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, Florida, is **still considering** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

SERVING US THIS WEEK

December Usher: Nathan Fobear <> Church Cleaning: Troyans

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL *Offering numbers are from 12/5/21

Worship Attendance Last Sunday = 25 <> Bible Class/Sunday School = 17

Wednesday Advent Attendance = 10

Bi-Weekly Offerings Needed:	\$3,076.92	Total Offerings Needed YTD:	\$73,846.15
Bi-Weekly Offerings Received:	\$3,836.00	Total Offerings Received YTD:	\$71,252.98
Missions Offerings YTD (includes 10% of GB & individual offerings):			\$7,125.30
Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Memorial Fund:			\$1,400.00

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES AT MT. ZION

Tue. 12/14	7pm	Board of Elders Meeting
	7:30pm	Church Council Meeting
	8:00pm	Board of Christian Ed. Meeting
	8:30pm	Outreach Committee Meeting
Wed. 12/15	7pm	3 rd Midweek Advent Service Pastor Sonnenfeld Guest Preaching
Sun. 12/19	9am	Bible Class / Sunday School
	10am	Worship Service
Wed. 12/15	7pm	3 rd Midweek Advent Service
Fri. 12/24	7pm	Christmas Eve Service

IN OUR PRAYERS <> ENCOURAGEMENT LIST

Ephesians 6:18 "Be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

Jackie McGruder had surgery three weeks ago for an aneurism in her heart. She is at home recovering. **Denise Troyan's** sister, Amy, is receiving treatment for cancer. **Dave Troyan's** mother, Lois, was in a serious car accident several weeks ago, breaking her pelvis and an ankle, and suffering trauma to the brain. **The Ryans** are expecting a newborn baby girl in January 2022. **The Naumanns** are expecting a newborn baby in June 2022.