

December 5, 2021



Every valley
shall be FILLED,



and every mountain and hill
shall be MADE LOW.



Luke 3:5

MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Madison Heights, MI

Pastor Tom Naumann
(248) 677-7242

mtzionlutheran.info



2nd 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 55 (TLH): *Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come*

- 1. Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, Only Hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.*
- 2. Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart, Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine When Thou art my Guest Divine!*
- 3. My hosannas and my palms Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can, Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace, Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.*
- 4. Hail, hosanna, David's Son! Help, Lord, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing: Hail, hosanna! to our King.*

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 – 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 Old Testament Reading: *Malachi 3:1-4*

"Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Responsive Reading: *Psalms 24 Selected Verses*

- P** Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
C And who shall stand in his holy place?
P He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
C Who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.
P He will receive blessing from the LORD
C And righteousness from the God of his salvation.
P Such is the generation of those who seek him,
C Who seek the face of the God of Jacob.
P Lift up your heads, O gates!
C And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
P Who is this King of glory?
C The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!
P Lift up your heads, O gates!
C And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
P Who is this King of glory?
C The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!



The Epistle Reading: *Philippians 1:3-11*

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

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 Nicene Creed *We boldly confess what we believe.*

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father. And He will

come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn 63 (TLH): *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

- 1. *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings from the King of kings.***
- 2. *Then cleansed be every Christian breast And furnished for so great a Guest.
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.***
- 3. *For Thou art our Salvation, Lord, Our Refuge, and our great Reward.
Without Thy grace our souls must fade And wither like a flower decayed.***
- 4. *Lay on the sick Thy healing hand And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face Till beauty springs in every place.***
- 5. *All praise, eternal Son, to Thee Who advent sets Thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore And Holy Ghost forevermore.***

The Sermon: *Luke 3:1-6*

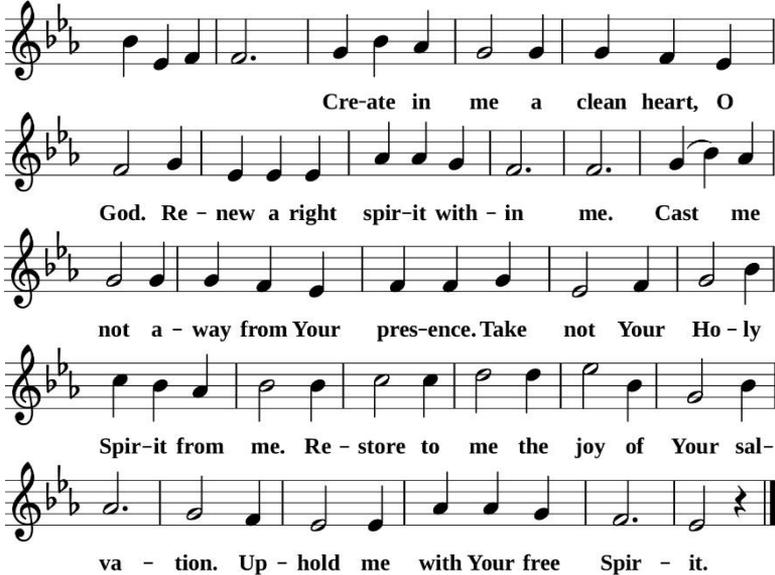
In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Theme: A GOOD ROAD CHANGES EVERYTHING

- I. A road to the heart first leveled by God's law
- II. A road to the heart first traveled by God's Son

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 701 (WS2000): *Prepare the Royal Highway*

**1. Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
Let every hill and valley A level road appear!**

Then greet the King of glory, Foretold in sacred story;

Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word!

2. God's people, see him coming: Your own eternal king!

Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!

God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! (Refrain)

3. Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!

Your king, yet every nation Its tribute too may bring.

All lands will bow before him; Their voices join your singing: (Refrain)

4. His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.

So let your praise be sounding For kindness to abounding: (Refrain)

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 Scashtag is "Slcmtzion". 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 printed below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to B-flat. 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". The score ends with a double bar line.

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.

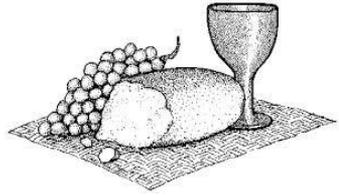
Distribution of the Sacrament

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."*



O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

The Nunc Dimittis – Latin for "Now Dismiss." Simeon's words after seeing the Christ Child. (Luke 2:29-32)

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.

G Amen!

Closing Hymn 75:4 (TLH): *Ye Sons of Men, Oh, Harken*

**4. Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus,
Turn not from me aside,
And grand that I receive Thee
This blessed Advent-tide.
From stall and manger low
Come Thou to dwell within me;
Loud praises will I sing Thee
And forth glory show.**

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 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 more the merrier!

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."

DECEMBER 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. Continuing this Wednesday, December 8 at 7pm, we'll be holding our second midweek Advent service. Midweek services are a great way to look forward to the greatest of all Christmas presents: our Savior Jesus!

CURRENT CLC AFRICA MISSION TRIPS: Pastor John Hein and Missionary Todd Ohlmann have both been visiting CLC mission fields in Africa. Pastor Hein, who serves as our part-time visiting missionary to Liberia, recently returned from a 2 1/2 week visit to Liberia. Missionary Ohlmann has been in Tanzania for about a month. He will return home on December 10th. You can read about the Tanzania visitation on his blog: missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com.

2022 CLC MISSION HELPER TRIP: Missionary Ohlmann is currently in Tanzania. He reports that there are many new opportunities to do Child Evangelism, especially among the Maasai tribes. The leaders of the CLC-Tanzania and CLC-Zambia are very eager and excited to host volunteers again in 2022. The deadline for applications for the 2022 Mission Helper Trip to Africa this summer is January 10th. Find more information and apply online at: mht.lutheranmissions.org/2022-east-africa.

CLC CALL NEWS: Pastor Neal Radichel of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN, **has returned** the call to Living Savior Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN. + After 24 years of teaching at Berea Lutheran School, Inver Grove Heights, MN, Susan Rehm has asked for **a peaceful release** from her call effective at the end of the 2021-22 school year.

SERVING US THIS WEEK

December Usher: Nathan Fobear <> Church Cleaning: Naumanns

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

Worship Attendance Last Sunday = 12 <> Bible Class/Sunday School = 12
 Wednesday Advent Attendance = 12

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

Wed. 12/8	7pm	2 nd Midweek Advent Service
Sun. 12/12	9am	Bible Class / Sunday School
	10am	Worship Service w/ Communion
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
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.