

December 11, 2022



He has sent me
to bring good news
to the oppressed ...
to give them a

garland
instead of ashes.

ISAIAH 61:1, 3, NRSV



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 62:1-2 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
Is - - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - - ile here Un-
tyr - - an - ny; From depths of hell Thy peo - ple save 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-
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: *Isaiah 35:1-10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Responsive Reading: *Psalms 146 Selected Verses*

P Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

C I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

P Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

C When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,



C Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;

P Who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

C The LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

P The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

C The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

The Epistle Reading: James 5:7-11

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

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 64 (TLH): *Jesus, Thy Church with Longing Eyes*

- 1. Jesus, Thy Church with longing eyes For Thine expected coming waits.
When will the promised light arise And glory beam from Zion's gates?*
- 2. E'en now, when tempests round us fall And wintry clouds o'ercast the sky,
Thy words with pleasure we recall And deem that our redemption's nigh.*
- 3. Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew, Our foes repel, our wrongs redress,
Man's rooted enmity subdue, And crown Thy Gospel with success.*
- 4. Oh, come and reign o'er every land; Let Satan from his throne be hurled,
All nations bow to Thy command, And grace revive a dying world.*
- 5. Teach us in watchfulness and prayer To wait for the appointed hour
And fit us by Thy grace to share The triumphs of Thy conquering power.*

The Sermon: *Matthew 11:2-11*

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴ And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more

than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." ¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Theme: BRING YOUR QUESTIONS TO THE ONE TRUE ORACLE

- I. Jesus gives true answers
- II. Jesus gives true meaning

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 652 (TLH): I Lay My Sins on Jesus

- 1. I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;
 He bears them all and frees us From the accursed load.
 I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains
 White in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.*
- 2. I lay my wants on Jesus, All fulness dwells in Him;
 He healeth my diseases, He doth my soul redeem.
 I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares;
 He from them all releases, He all my sorrows shares.*

**3. I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces, I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.**

**4. I long to be like Jesus, Meek, loving, lowly, mild;
I long to be like Jesus, The Father's holy Child.
I long to be with Jesus Amid the heavenly throng
To sing with saints His praises, To learn the angels' song.**

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 \$cashtag is "\$clcmztzion". 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

☩ 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.

☩ The Lord be with you.

☩ And also with you.

☩ Lift up your hearts.

☩ We lift them up to the Lord.

☩ 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.”

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 high-est, ho - san-na in the high est.
Blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
san-na in 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.”

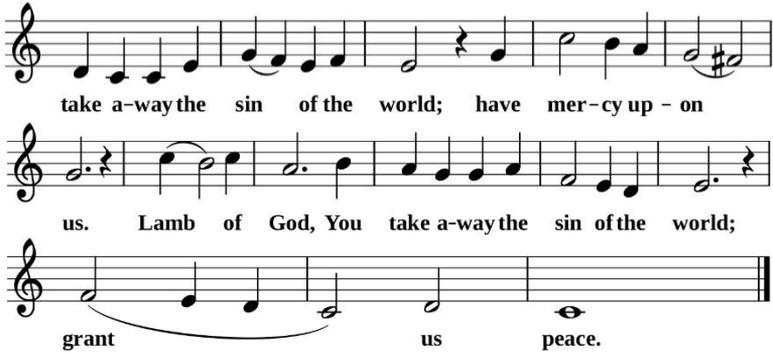
In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, “Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

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

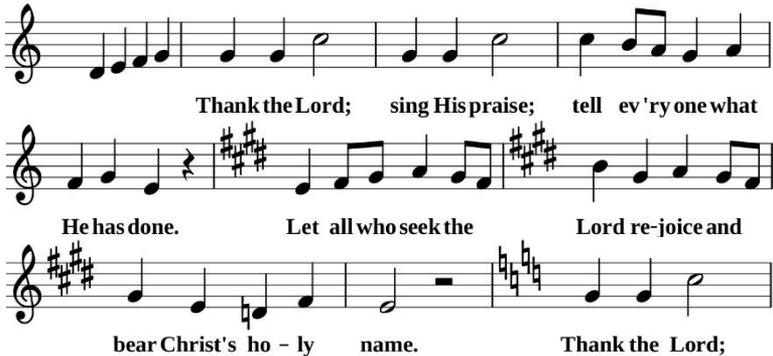
We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon the Bible passages listed below. Therefore, if you 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-joice 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, al le-
 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 93:1,4 (TLH): *O Lord, We Welcome Thee*

**1. O Lord, we welcome Thee, Our hearts for joy are leaping.
 Thou, Jesus, dearest Child, Thy precious promise keeping,
 Art come from heaven to earth To be our Brother dear;
 Thou gracious Son of God, Wilt banish all our fear.**

**4. To Thee alone we cling, For Thee all else forsaking;
 On Thee alone we build Though heaven and earth be quaking.
 To Thee alone we live, In Thee alone we die;
 O Jesus, dearest Lord, With Thee we reign on high.**

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 Pastor about a free Bible study he offers to explain our beliefs and teachings. Where & when? Your convenience.

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 14 at 7pm, we'll be holding our third and final midweek Advent service. Midweek services are a great way to look forward to the greatest of all Christmas presents: our Savior Jesus

A CHRISTMAS POTLUCK MEAL is being planned for next Sunday, December 18. Please see the signup sheet in the back of church to volunteer to bring a dish or dessert.

AN AFTER-CHRISTMAS PARTY is being planned for Friday, January 13. Pizza, snacks, a white elephant gift exchange and games! Everyone is welcome, so please mark your calendar.

NEW CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE: LIFT is proposing a new way to schedule church cleaning. Those who are willing and able to serve the Lord in this way are asked to put their names on a volunteer list in the back by the end of the year. LIFT will then add those names to a schedule in order to assign weeks for cleaning (2 weeks at a time). If you are unable to clean on a week that is assigned to you, please make arrangements to trade your week with another volunteer. Thank you for your much needed service.

2023 CLC MISSION HELPER TRIP: The application deadline for the 2023 Mission Helper Trip to Nepal is quickly approaching. Applications need to be submitted by January 16th, 2023. Space is limited for this trip so please apply soon. Find more information at: mht.lutheranmissions.org/

CLC CALL NEWS: Pastor Rob Sauers of Luther Memorial, Fond du Lac, WI, **has accepted** the call to Immanuel, Winter Haven, FL. + Pastor Tim Daub of Prince of Peace Church, Hecla, SD, **has received** the dual call to serve Redemption, Lynnwood, WA and Ascension, Tacoma, WA.

THE ILC BUILDING COMMITTEE has produced promotional materials for the new ILC Fieldhouse and Fine Arts Center project, which was approved by the 2022 CLC Convention. A PDF presentation can be seen at tinyurl.com/ilcbp-pres. An impressive video "walk-through" of the future facilities can be seen at tinyurl.com/ilcbp-walkthru. Additional publicity materials will follow, including an online presence and progress reports. Contributions toward this project should be identified as "ILC Building Project."

SERVING US THIS WEEK

December Usher: Carl Ryan Church Cleaning: D’Onofrio

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

Worship Attendance Last Sunday = 33; Bible Class/Sunday School = 17

Bi-Weekly Offerings Budgeted:	\$3307.69	Total Offerings Budgeted YTD:	\$81,038.46
Bi-Weekly Offerings Received:	\$3440.00	Total Offerings Received YTD:	\$74,340.16
Missions Offerings YTD (includes 10% of GB & individual offerings):			\$7454.02
Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Memorial Fund:			\$67,012.50

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES AT MT. ZION

Tue. 12/13	7-9pm	Elders/Council/Trustees/Outreach Meetings
Wed. 12/14	7pm	3 rd Midweek Advent Service (Pastor Wilke)
Sun. 12/18	9am	Bible Class and Sunday Pre-School
	10am	4 th Sunday in Advent Worship Service
	11am	Christmas Potluck Meal
Sat. 12/24	7pm	Christmas Eve Service
Sun. 12/25	10am	Christmas Sunday Service
Fri. 1/13	6pm	After-Christmas Party

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. **Jay Sandeen** is deployed with his army unit in Iraq. **The Wittorps** are expecting a newborn baby in April. **CLC Pastor John Hein** (Grace Lutheran Church, Fridley, MN) is receiving treatment for stage 4 thymic carcinoma cancer.