

December 18, 2022



MATTHEW 1:21, KJV

**THOU
SHALT
CALL
HIS
NAME**

JESUS



MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Madison Heights, MI

Pastor Tom Naumann
(248) 677-7242

mtzionlutheran.info



4th Sunday in Advent

Pre-Service Personal Prayer: *Lord God, heavenly Father, watch over our little flock, and by faith make us ready at all times for the second coming of Jesus. Forgive us our sins, strengthen our faith, and renew in us a right 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 62:1-2 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-joyce! Re-joyce! Em-
 give them vic-t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joyce! Re-joyce! 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 7:10-14*

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³ And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.



The Responsive Reading: *Psalm 24*

P The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

C For he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

P Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?

C He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

P He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

C Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

P Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

C Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!

P Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

C Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

The Epistle Reading: *Romans 1:1-7*

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 62:3-7 (TLH): *Oh, Come, Oh come, Emmanuel*

**3. Oh, come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night And death's dark shadows put to flight.**

[Refrain]: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

**4. Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come And open wide our heavenly home:
Make safe the way that leads on high And close the path to misery. [Refrain]**

**5. Oh come, Oh, come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law In cloud and majesty and awe. [Refrain]**

**6. Oh come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. [Refrain]**

**7. Oh come, Desire of Nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. [Refrain]**

The Sermon: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Theme: CHRISTMAS IS A LEAP OF FAITH

I. Joseph jumped despite the scandal

II. Won't 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, 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: *The Hands that First Held Mary's Child* (to the tune of 725)

- 1. The hands that first held Mary's Child Were hard from working wood,
From boards they sawed and planed and filed And splinters they withstood.
This day they gripped no tool of steel, They drove no iron nail,
But cradled from the head to heel Our Lord, newborn and frail.**
- 2. When Joseph marveled at the size Of that small breathing frame,
And gazed upon those bright new eyes And spoke the Infant's name,
The angel's words he once had dreamed Poured down from heaven's height,
And, like the host of stars that beamed, Blest earth with welcome light.**
- 3. 'This Child shall be Emmanuel, Not God upon the throne
But God with us, Emmanuel, As close as blood and bone.'
The tiny form in Joseph's palms Confirmed what he had heard,
And from his heart rose hymns and psalms For heaven's human word.**
- 4. The tools which Joseph laid aside A mob would later lift
And use with anger, fear and pride To crucify God's gift.
Let us, O Lord, not only hold The Child who's born today,
But, charged with faith, may we be bold To follow in his way.**

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 "Scmctzion". 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 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 647:4 (TLH): *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell:
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**



A Child Is Born!

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.

A CHRISTMAS POTLUCK MEAL is today following the service. We hope you can stick around for food and fellowship!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Saturday, December 24 at 7pm, we will be holding our traditional Christmas Eve Service. All are invited to this special service where, with the help of the congregation's children, we will be reading through the Biblical Christmas account, singing favorite Christmas carols, and celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus!

ALTAR POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE: Mt. Zion has the tradition of decorating the altar/chancel with poinsettias for Christmas Eve and the following Sunday. If you would like to share a poinsettia or two for the service, please bring it Saturday night!

NO BIBLE CLASS/SUNDAY SCHOOL NEXT TWO SUNDAYS: We are in recess for Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Our regular Sunday schedule will resume on January 8.

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 Tim Daub of Prince of Peace Church, Hecla, SD, *is still considering* 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 = 24; Bible Class/Sunday School = 16

Bi-Weekly Offerings Budgeted:	\$3307.69	Total Offerings Budgeted YTD:	\$82,692.31
Bi-Weekly Offerings Received:	\$2813.00	Total Offerings Received YTD:	\$75,130.16
Missions Offerings YTD (includes 10% of GB & individual offerings):			\$7533.02
Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Memorial Fund:			\$67,527.99

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES AT MT. ZION

Today	11am	Christmas Potluck Meal
Sat. 12/24	7pm	Christmas Eve Service
Sun. 12/25	9am	NO Bible Class/Sunday School (Holiday Recess)
	10am	Christmas Sunday Service
Tue. 1/10	7-9pm	Elders/Council/Trustees/Outreach Meetings
Fri. 1/13	6pm	After-Christmas Party
Sun. 1/15	11am	Q1 Voters Meeting

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.