

January 28, 2024



For the kingdom of heaven is like a

LANDOWNER

WHO WENT OUT EARLY IN THE MORNING
TO HIRE LABORERS FOR HIS

VINEYARD.



MATTHEW 20:1, NRSV

MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Madison Heights, MI

Pastor Tom Naumann
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Septuagesima Sunday

Pre-Service Personal Prayer: *Lord God, heavenly Father, make us diligent in the use of Your Word, and enable us by the grace of Your Holy Spirit to walk before You in fervent faith and all holy obedience. Through the Word made flesh, Your Son and our Savior Jesus Christ, work Your blessings in us for now and eternity. In His saving name, Amen.*

Today's Worship!

Greeting and Prayer

Opening Hymn 580 *The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace*

1 *The Gospel shows the Father's grace, Who sent His Son to save our race,
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died That we might thus be justified.*

2 *It sets the Lamb before our eyes, Who made the atoning sacrifice,
And calls the souls with guilt oppressed To come and find eternal rest.*

3 *It brings the Savior's righteousness To robe our souls in royal dress;
From all our guilt it brings release And gives the troubled conscience peace.*

4 *It is the pow'r of God to save From sin and Satan and the grave;
It works the faith which firmly clings To all the treasures which it brings.*

5 *It bears to all the tidings glad And bids their hearts no more be sad;
The weary, burdened souls it cheers And banishes their guilty fears.*

6 *May we in faith its message learn Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
May we in faith its truth confess And praise the Lord, our righteousness.*

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

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

Glo-ry to God, we give you thanks and praise; Of
Lord Je-sus Christ, the Fa-ther's on-ly Son, You
A-lone, O Christ, You on-ly are the Lord, At
heav'n-ly joy and peace on earth we sing. We wor-ship
bore for us the load of this world's sin. O Lamb of
God's right hand in maj-es-ty most high: Who, with the
You, to You our hearts we raise, Lord God, al-
God, Your glo-rious vic-t'ry won, Re-ceive our
Spir-it wor-shipped and a-dored, With all the
might-y Fa-ther, heav'n-ly King.
prayer, grant us Your peace with-in.
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.

Old Testament Reading: *Exodus 17:1-7*

All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The Responsive Reading: *Psalms 95 Selected Verses*

- P** Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- C** Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- P** For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
- C** In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.
- P** The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.
- C** Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
- P** Let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
- C** For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.



Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:24-10:5

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

10:1 For I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

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 Apostles' 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.

The Reception of New Member Kyle Rankin

*Complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love,
being in full accord and of one mind. Philippians 2:2*

Hymn 761 *O Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

1 *Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.*

2 *Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.*

3 *Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die!*

4 *While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.*

The Sermon: *Matthew 20:1-16*

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?' ¹⁴ Take what

belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last."

Theme: GRACE RULES IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

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 573 Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee

- 1** Lord, 'tis not that I did choose Thee; That, I know, could never be;
For this heart would still refuse Thee Had Thy grace not chosen me.
Thou hast from the sin that stained me Washed and cleansed and set me free
And unto this end ordained me, That I ever live to Thee.
- 2** It was grace in Christ that called me, Taught my darkened heart and mind;
Else the world had yet enthralled me, To Thy heav'nly glories blind.
Now I worship none above Thee; For Thy grace alone I thirst,
Knowing well that, if I love Thee, Thou, O Lord, didst love me first.
- 3** Praise the God of all creation; Praise the Father's boundless love.
Praise the Lamb, our expiation, Priest and King enthroned above.
Praise the Spirit of salvation, Him by whom our spirits live.
Undivided adoration To the great Jehovah give.

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 "ScIcmztzion". 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 Benediction

The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26)

☪ 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.
☪ Amen!

Closing Hymn 744:1,3 *Amazing Grace*

***1 Amazing grace--how sweet the sound--
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!***

***3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.***

LIVESTREAM on  **YouTube** @MtZionLutheranChurch

SERMON PODCAST on  **Spotify** @TheWordFromMtZion

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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.

NEW MEMBER: We welcome Kyle Rankin into our fellowship in the name of Jesus, and we give praise and glory to our LORD for His gift of this like-minded believer to our congregation!

A CLEVELAND AREA WORSHIP SERVICE is today at 4pm in North Olmsted, OH. Speak with Pastor for more details.

LIFT "COZY" MEETING THIS FRIDAY: LIFT's first "cozy" meeting of 2024 is set for this Friday, February 2 @ 5:30pm at Royal Oak Taphouse. There is a reservation for 10 under Nichole Anderson. Please contact Nichole if you are able to attend so she can adjust the reservation as needed.

THANK YOU FROM NICHOLAS JAKEL: "I would like to express my deepest gratitude and sincerely thank everyone in our congregation; for all the thoughts, prayers, and generous contributions during this last month since my car accident. Through your donations it has allowed me to get back on the road and work again. I truly appreciate the guidance through these difficult times and for giving me the courage to face whatever comes my way. I am blessed to be a part of this congregation here at Mt. Zion and share the love and support you have all shown me. Nicholas"

MT. ZION UPCOMING CALENDAR

Today	4pm	Cleveland Area Worship service
Fri. 2/2	3pm	UM Ann Arbor Bible Study
	5:30pm	LIFT "Cozy" Meeting @ Royal Oak Taphouse
Sat. 2/3	10am	Board of Education Meeting at Church
Sun. 2/4	9am	Bible Class & Sunday School
	10am	Divine Worship Service
Fri. 2/9	5:30-8pm	Friday Night Bible School
Tue. 2/13	7-9pm	Church Meetings (Elders/Council/Trustees/Outreach)
Wed. 2/14	7pm	Ash Wednesday Midweek Service

SERVING US THIS MONTH:

Usher: Carl Ryan Church Cleaning: Naumanns

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

Last Sunday Attendance = 33 Bible Class/Sunday School = 18

General Fund Offerings Budgeted YTD:	\$7153.86	Weekly General Fund Offerings Budgeted:	\$2384.62
General Fund Offerings Received YTD:	\$4428.00	Weekly General Fund Offerings Received:	\$1390.00
Missions Offerings YTD (includes 10% of GB & individual offerings):			\$442.80
Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Memorial Fund:			\$114,921.99
Nicholas Jakel Help Fund:			\$2740.00

IN OUR PRAYERS <> ENCOURAGEMENT LIST

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

Jackie McGruder remains homebound as she continues to suffer from lupus. **Jay Sandeen** is deployed with his army unit in Kuwait. **Denise Troyan's** sister, Amy, is battling cancer. **Susan Fobear's** dad, Don Nagy, is in hospice care. The **Naumanns** are expecting a baby girl in April. **CLC Pastor John Hein**, 56, Grace, Fridley MN, is being treated for thymic carcinoma cancer. **Kate Sauers**, wife of CLC pastor Rob Sauers, is being treated for lymphoma cancer.

CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION SYNODWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! Psalm 133:1

CLC CALL NEWS: Pastor David Baker **has been called** by Resurrection Lutheran in Corpus Christi, TX. <> Pastor Tim Daub of Prince of Peace Lutheran in Hecla, South Dakota **has been called** by Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN to be their second pastor. <> Pastor Thomas Schuetze of St. Paul Lutheran of Lakewood, CO **has returned** the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI. <> Mr. Ross Kok of Holy Cross Lutheran School in Phoenix, AZ **has been called** by Gethsemane Lutheran in Saginaw, MI. <> Mr. Dan Roehl **is still considering** the call to be the new professor at Immanuel Lutheran College, Eau Claire, WI, replacing retiring Professor Mark Kranz.