

March 17, 2024



IF ANYONE
KEEPS MY

WORD

HE WILL NEVER SEE

DEATH

JOHN 8:51



MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Madison Heights, MI

Pastor Tom Naumann
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5th Sunday in Lent

Pre-Service Personal Prayer: *Blessed Redeemer, let us see the pains of body and agony of soul that were Yours, and help us to realize that our sins were also responsible for them. May we always by faith see You as our Substitute, Who bore the burden of our sin and guilt perfectly, so that we now stand pure and sinless in God's holy eyes. Hear us, for the sake of Your love. Amen.*

Today's Order of Service

Greeting and Prayer

Opening Hymn 431 *Not All the Blood of Beasts*

1 *Not all the blood of beasts On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace Or wash away the stain.*

2 *But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb, Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name And richer blood than they.*

3 *My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,
While as a penitent I stand, And there confess my sin.*

4 *My soul looks back to see The burden Thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursed tree; I know my guilt was there.*

5 *Believing, we rejoice To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice And sing His bleeding love.*

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

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

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to all peo-ple on
earth. Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and
Fa-ther: We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we
praise You for Your glo-ry. Lord Je-sus
Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God: You take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. You are seat-ed at the right hand of the
 Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer. For You a-lone are the
 Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a-lone are the
 Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, in the
 glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

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.

G Amen.

Old Testament Reading: *Genesis 22:1-14*

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I."² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you."⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together.⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"⁸ Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

The Responsive Reading: *Psalms 43*

- P** Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!
- C** **For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you rejected me? Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?**
- P** Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!
- C** **Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.**
- P** Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?
- C** **Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.**

Epistle Reading: *Hebrews 9:11-15*

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. ¹⁵ Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

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.

Hymn 529 *Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus*

- 1** *Since our great High Priest, Christ Jesus, Bears the name above all names,
Reigning Son of God, surpassing Other titles, pow'rs and claims –
Since to heav'n our Lord has passed, Let us hold our witness fast!*
- 2** *Since we have a priest who suffered, Knowing weakness, tears, and pain,
Who like us was tried and tempted, Unlike us, without a stain –
Since He shared our lowly place, Let us boldly seek His grace.*
- 3** *Sacrifice and suff'ring over, Now He sits at God's right hand,
Crowned with praise, no more an outcast, His preeminence long planned;
Such a great High Priest we have, Strong to help, supreme to save.*
- 4** *Love's example, hope's attraction, Faith's beginning and its end,
Pioneer of our salvation, Mighty advocate and friend;
Jesus, high in glory raised, Our ascended Lord be praised!*

The Sermon: John 8:46-59

"Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷ Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

⁴⁸ The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹ Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵² The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' ⁵⁵ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

Theme: JESUS IS THE CHRIST YOU NEED

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 556:1,5-8 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

**1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, With exultation springing,
And with united heart and voice And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done, How His right arm the vict'ry won,
What price our ransom cost Him!**

**5 God said to His beloved Son: "It's time to have compassion.
Then go, bright jewel of My crown, And bring to all salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free; Slay bitter death for them that they
May live with You forever."**

**6 The Son obeyed His Father's will, Was born of virgin mother;
And God's good pleasure to fulfill, He came to be my brother.
His royal pow'r disguised He bore; A servant's form, like mine, He wore
To lead the devil captive.**

**7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me, I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I Myself will be; For you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, and you are Mine, And where I am you may remain;
The foe shall not divide us.**

**8 "Though he will shed My precious blood, Me of My life bereaving,
All this I suffer for your good; Be steadfast and believing.
Life will from death the vict'ry win; My innocence shall bear your sin,
And you are blest forever.**

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 "Scclmtzion". While the usher brings the offering plate forward we sing the following hymn verse

(WS 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

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

Closing Hymn 794:2 The Lord, My God, Be Praised

**2 The Lord, my God, be praised, My trust, my life from heaven,
The Father's own dear Son, Whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atoned With His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith The highest heav'nly good.**

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 God's teachings. Where & when? Your convenience.

6th MIDWEEK LENT SERVICE: We continue our midweek Lent series, *Three Words of Truth*, this Wednesday at 7pm. Pastor Mike Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, will be our guest preacher. We hope you can join us!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE: In the early church, the celebrations of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter were considered to be one continuous service. Good Friday was a continuation of the Maundy Thursday service and Easter was the culmination of both! We hope you will join us for this three-day service:

Maundy Thursday Communion Service: March 28 at 7:00pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Service: March 29 at 7:00pm

(Easter Sunday Brunch, March 31 at 10:00am)

Easter Sunday Worship Service: March 31 at 11:00am

May the LORD bless our meditation and services throughout these days as we celebrate all that our Savior has done for us through His sufferings, death, and resurrection!

EASTER BRUNCH INVITATION AND SIGNUP (MEN COOK): All are invited to attend our annual Easter Sunday Brunch on March 31 at 10:00am – Pancakes, eggs, biscuits & gravy, fruit, bacon, and sausage! Any men willing to help cook are asked and encouraged to do so. See the signup sheet on the hymnal rack.

MT. ZION UPCOMING CALENDAR

Wed. 3/20	7pm	5 th Midweek Lent Service (Pastor Wilke preaching)
Thu. 3/21	8pm	Property Search Committee Meeting
Fri. 3/22	3pm	UM Ann Arbor Bible Study (Shapiro Library)
Sun. 3/24	9am	Bible Class & Sunday School
	10am	Palm Sunday Service
Thu. 3/28	7pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service
Fri. 3/29	7pm	Good Friday Tenebrae Service
Sun. 3/31	10am	Easter Brunch (Men cook)
	11am	Easter Sunday Service
Sun. 4/7	11am	Q2 Voters Meeting

SERVING US THIS MONTH:

Usher: Dave Troyan Church Cleaning: D’Onofrio

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

Last Sunday Attendance = 26 Bible Class/Sunday School = 18

General Fund Offerings Budgeted YTD: \$23,848.10	Weekly General Fund Offerings Budgeted: \$2,384.62
General Fund Offerings Received YTD: \$24,363.00	Last Week’s General Fund Offerings Received: \$9,027.00
Missions Offerings YTD (includes 10% of GB & individual offerings): \$2,436.00	
Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Memorial Fund: \$115,577.00	

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. <> The **Naumanns** are expecting a baby girl in April. <> We continue to search for a **new building** for our church and future school.

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 Nathanael Mayhew of Grace, Sleepy Eye, MN, **has received the call** to be the second pastor of Immanuel Church and School, Mankato, MN. <> Pastor Chad Seybt of the West Wisconsin Quad Parish **has returned the joint call** to St. Peter’s, Iron River, MI, and Calvary, Marquette, MI. <> Teacher Neil Bernthal of Immanuel School, Winter Haven, FL, **has returned the call** from Luther Memorial School, Fond du Lac, WI. <> Teacher Levi Schaller of Grace Lutheran School, Fridley, MN, **has accepted the call** from Messiah School, Hales Corners, WI. <> Teacher Matthew Kranz, Immanuel, Mankato, MN, **has returned the call** from Messiah, Eau Claire, WI to be their 5th- 6th grade teacher and assistant principal. Messiah **has now called** Teacher Caleb Noeldner (member of Gethsemane, Spokane, WA) for that position. <> Teacher Josh Ohlmann Holy Trinity West Columbia, SC **is still considering the call** to Gethsemane, Saginaw, MI.

MANUP! CLC MEN’S RETREAT: Registration is open for the 2024 ManUp! Weekend, which will be held on September 26-29, 2024, at beautiful Wyalusing State Park near Prairie du Chien, WI. The weekend will offer strength and encouragement for men 18 and older for their personal faith, family, and fellowship at church. The weekend will include Bible study, fellowship, leadership training, team building, relationship building, worship, and many outdoor bonding activities. Register and send in your payment before August 31 for the discounted rate of \$75 (lodging and meals included). Fee increases to \$150 on and after September 1st. Register here: www.manup.clclutheran.org.