

February 16, 2025



Strike
the rock
and WATER
shall come out ...

Exodus 17:6 ESV



MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Madison Heights, MI

Pastor Tom Naumann
(248) 677-7242

mtzionlutheran.info



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 Order of Service

Greeting and Prayer

Opening Hymn 819:1-4 *Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good*

1 Sing praise to God, the highest good, The author of creation.

The God of love who understood Our need for His salvation.

With healing balm our souls He fills And ev'ry faithless murmur stills:

To God all praise and glory!

2 What God's almighty pow'r has made, In mercy He is keeping.

By morning glow or evening shade His eye is never sleeping.

Within the kingdom of His might All things are just and good and right:

To God all praise and glory!

3 We sought the Lord in our distress; O God, in mercy hear us.

Our Savior saw our helplessness And came with peace to cheer us.

For this we thank and praise the Lord, Who is by one and all adored:

To God all praise and glory!

4 He never shall forsake His flock, His chosen generation;

He is their refuge and their rock, Their peace and their salvation.

As with a mother's tender hand, He leads His own, His chosen band:

To God all praise and glory!

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.

Epistle Reading: *1 Corinthians 10:1-13*

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. ⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰ nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹² Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

The Responsive Reading: *Psalms 95:1-9*

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; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

P For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.



- C** Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts,
- P** As at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
- C** When your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

Gospel Reading: 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."

- 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 761 *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: *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?"

Theme: WHAT GRUMBLING SAYS ABOUT YOU

- I. It reveals a lack of faith.
- II. It reveals God’s faithful mercy, nevertheless.

Sermon Worksheet:

Why did the Israelites have no excuse to be grumbling?

What does grumbling reveal about a person’s faith?

How did God respond to Israel’s grumbling? Why is this comforting for us?

How is the rock which Moses struck a picture of Christ? (cf. 1 Cor. 10:4)

How is Jesus the ultimate proof of God’s faithful mercy?

What question should you ask the next time you’re tempted to grumble?

The Offertory

Having heard God’s Word, we pray for spiritual healing through 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 724:1,8-10 *If God Himself Be for Me*

1 *If God Himself be for me, I may a host defy;
For when I pray, before me My foes, confounded, fly.
If Christ, the head and master, Befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster Can drive me from His love?*

8 *No danger, thirst, or hunger, No pain or poverty,
No earthly tyrant's anger Shall ever vanquish me.
Though earth should break asunder, My fortress You shall be;
No fire or sword or thunder Shall sever You from me.*

9 *No angel and no gladness, No throne, no pomp, no show,
No love, no hate, no sadness, No pain, no depth of woe,
No scheming, no contrivance, No subtle thing or great
Shall draw me from Your guidance Nor from You separate.*

10 *My heart with joy is springing; I am no longer sad.
My soul is filled with singing; Your sunshine makes me glad.
The sun that cheers my spirit Is Jesus Christ, my King;
The heav'n I shall inherit Makes me rejoice and sing.*

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

**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 913:3 *O Holy Spirit, Enter In*

3 *O mighty Rock, O Source of Life, Let Your dear Word, in doubt and strife,
In us be strongly burning That we be faithful unto death
And live in love and holy faith, From You true wisdom learning.
Your grace and peace On us shower;
By Your power Christ confessing,
Let us see our Savior's blessing.*

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.

RESCHEDULED: TODAY'S CLEVELAND AREA WORSHIP SERVICE for March 2 at 4pm in North Olmsted, OH. Speak with Pastor for more details.

A LIFT MEETING is scheduled for next Sunday, February 23.

BOARD OF EDUCATION CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The Bd. of Ed holding a congregational meeting on Sunday, March 2 following the service. They will be delivering an updated report on our plan to open a Christian Day School at Mt. Zion. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. There will be time for questions and open discussion.

MIDWEEK LENT SERVICES: The season of Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday, March 5. We are holding 6 midweek services every Wednesday of Lent at 7pm. Our theme this year is *His Final*. The series ponders the significance of the people and places on Jesus' final steps to the cross and three days later, his first steps from the tomb. The pulpit exchange schedule is below.

Date	Preacher	Sermon Text & Theme
Mar. 5	Pastor Tom Naumann	John 11 ... <i>Led to a Tomb</i>
Mar. 12	Pastor Mike Wilke	John 12:1-11 ... <i>Led to a Dinner</i>
Mar. 19	Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld	Matt 21:12-17 ... <i>Led to the Temple</i>
Mar. 26	Pastor Tom Naumann	Mark 11:12-25 ... <i>Led to a Fig Tree</i>
Apr. 2	Pastor Mike Wilke	Luke 2:9-19 ... <i>Led to His Enemies</i>
Apr. 9	Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld	John 12:20-23 ... <i>Led to some Greeks</i>

MT. ZION UPCOMING CALENDAR

Today	4pm	Cleveland Area Worship Service (Rescheduled)
Sun. 2/23	9am	Bible Class/Sunday School
	10am	Sunday Service (w/ Communion)
	11am	LIFT Meeting
Tue. 2/25	8pm	Board of Education Meeting
Thu. 2/27	8pm	Property Search Committee Meeting
Sun. 3/2	11am	Board of Education Congregational Meeting
	4pm	Cleveland Area Worship Service
Wed. 3/5	7pm	Ash Wednesday Service (Lent Begins)

SERVING US THIS MONTH:

Usher: Ben Mueller Church Cleaning: Fobears

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

Last Sunday Attendance = 29; Bible Class/Sunday School = 15

General Fund Offerings Budgeted YTD: \$14,769.24	Weekly General Fund Offerings Budgeted: \$2,461.54
General Fund Offerings Received YTD: \$12,937.00	Last Week's General Fund Offerings Received: \$2,704.00
Missions Offerings YTD (includes 10% of GB & individual offerings): \$1,294	
Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Memorial Fund: \$131,893.48	

IN OUR PRAYERS <> ENCOURAGEMENT LIST

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

Mason Dzakowic's father, Mark, was recently diagnosed with cancer. The severity and prognosis are still forthcoming. **Jackie McGruder** remains homebound as she continues to suffer from lupus. **Dave and Peggy Green** remain homebound as Dave continues to suffer from a very debilitating form of Parkinson's disease. 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: Sam Naumann of Eau Claire, WI, has **received** the call to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Loveland, CO.<> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC,has **received** the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA. <> Teacher Mikkela Schmitt of St. Stephen Lutheran School, Mountain View, CA, has **accepted** the call to Trinity Lutheran School, Watertown, SD. <> Teacher Cathy Augustin of Berea Lutheran School, Inver Grove Heights, MN, has announced her **retirement** at the end of the current school year. <> Pastor Cory Drehle of Berea Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD, has **received** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. <> Pastor Paul Nolting of Grace Lutheran Church, Valentine, NE, Peace Lutheran Church, Mission, SD, and St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, White River, SD, has announced his **retirement** effective Summer 2025. <> Pastor George Dummman of Salem Lutheran Church, Eagle Lake, MN, has **received** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, New Ulm, MN to serve as their pastor along with his current call.

ARTS CAMP 2025: Registration is now open for students grades 5th-8th. Arts Camp is March 21-23, 2025 at Immanuel Church, Mankato, MN. You can find more information at www.immanuelmankato.org/school/arts-camp/ Email Amber Casto at artscamp@immanuelmankato.org with questions!

CLC Youth Camp at Pillager 2025 Registration opens Saturday March 15th at 10am CST. CLC Youth Camp at Pillager is for campers entering grades 6th-12th. Camp runs June 8-14th, 2025. For more information please visit our website, <https://youthcampclc.wixsite.com/camp>, or contact Amber Casto and Ethan Sydow at youthcamp.clc@gmail.com.