

February 23, 2025



ISAIAH 55:10-11
NRSV

FOR AS THE
RAIN *and the* SNOW
COME
DOWN
FROM
heaven...

MAKING IT BRING FORTH
and SPROUT...

SO SHALL MY *Word* BE

THAT GOES OUT FROM MY MOUTH;

IT SHALL NOT
RETURN TO ME
empty.



MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Madison Heights, MI

Pastor Tom Naumann
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Sexagesima Sunday

Pre-Service Personal Prayer: *We thank You, gracious Father in heaven, for the forgiveness of sins you have given us in our loving Savior Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit to work in our hearts forgiveness for all people. Above all, strengthen and keep us in our saving faith by Your Word unto eternal life. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Today's Order of Service

Greeting and Prayer

Opening Hymn 575 *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

1 *My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

Refrain: *On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.*

2 *When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. [Refrain]*

3 *His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. [Refrain]*

4 *When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne! [Refrain]*

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.

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, rhythmic style. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and includes a double bar line at the end.

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-enly 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

The musical notation consists of eight staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, rhythmic style. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and includes a double bar line at the end.



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.
- C** Amen.

Epistle Reading: *Hebrews 4:9-13*

So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰ for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. ¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

The Responsive Reading: *Psalms 119:97-105*

- P** Oh how I love your law!
- C** It is my meditation all the day.
- P** Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.
- C** I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation.
- P** I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.



C I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.

P I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me.

C How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

P Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

C Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 8:4-15*

And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: ⁵ "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶ And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. ⁸ And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." ⁹ And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, ¹⁰ he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.' ¹¹ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. ¹⁴ And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵ As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

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 577 *Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast*

*1 Almighty God, Your Word is cast Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend And righteous fruits abound.*

*2 Let not the sly satanic foe This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev'ry heart To bring forth fruits of love.*

*3 Let not the world's deceitful cares The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold The fruits of peace and joy.*

*4 So when the precious seed is sown, Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive Its saving pow'r may know.*

The Sermon: *Isaiah 55:10-13*

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹² "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

Theme: THE WORD IS LIFE

I. The Word alone reveals God's GRACE. (12-13)

II. The Word alone is God's means of GRACE. (10-11)

Sermon Worksheet:

What does the phrase “water is life” mean?

When used as an acronym, what do the letters of GRACE stand for?

How is God’s grace revealed in both the Old and the New Testament?

Why should our trust in God’s Word be like our trust in water?

What does it mean that God’s Word is His means of grace?

How does the teaching of God’s Word as His means of grace effect church ministry and personal evangelism?

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 827 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling

**1 Hark, the voice of Jesus calling, “Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting— Who will bear the sheaves away?”
Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying, “Here am I, send me, send me?”**

**2 Some take up His task in morning, To their Lord responding soon;
Some are called in heat of midday, Others late in afternoon;**

***Even as the sun is setting, Some are sent into the fields,
There to gather in the bounty That God's Word so richly yields.***

***3 For as rain and snow from heaven Water seeds in dusty soil,
Causing them to bud and flower, Giving bread to those who toil;
So the Lord sends forth His promise, Words of life and joy and peace—
Never void to Him returning, Bearing fruit with great increase.***

***4 Harken to the Lord whose coming Marks the time when grace shall end,
When with His angelic reapers He in glory shall descend.
Soon the night, the final harvest; Soon the time for work shall cease.
Then the souls His grace has garnered Shall enjoy His Sabbath peace.***

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 "ScLcmzcion". 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

☑ 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)*

Closing Hymn 584 Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing

***1 Faith and truth and life bestowing, Open now the Scriptures, Lord,
Seed to life eternal sowing, Scattered on the wind abroad.
Let not hearts, your Word receiving, Like a barren field be found,
Choked with thorns and unbelieving, Shallow earth or stony ground.***

***2 May the Spirit's pow'r unceasing Bring to life the hidden grain,
Daily in our hearts increasing, Bearing fruit that shall remain.
So in Scripture, song, and story, Savior, may your voice be heard.
Till our eyes behold your glory Give us ears to hear your Word.***

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.

A LIFT MEETING is today following the service. All women of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend.

BOARD OF EDUCATION CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The Bd. of Ed holding a congregational meeting next 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.

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

MIDWEEK LENT SERVICES: The season of Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday, March 5. We are holding 6 midweek services every Wednesday in Lent at 7pm. Our theme this year is *His Final Steps*. 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 and 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 23:9-19 ... <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	11am	LIFT Meeting
Tue. 2/25	8pm	Board of Education Meeting
Thu. 2/27	8pm	Property Search Committee Meeting
Sun. 3/2	9am	Bible Class/Sunday School
	10am	Sunday Service (w/ Communion)
	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 = 15; Bible Class/Sunday School = Canceled

General Fund Offerings Budgeted YTD: \$17,230.78	Weekly General Fund Offerings Budgeted: \$2,461.54
General Fund Offerings Received YTD: \$14,826.00	Last Week's General Fund Offerings Received: \$1,889.00
Missions Offerings YTD (includes 10% of GB & individual offerings): \$1,483	
Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Memorial Fund: \$131,953.48	

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. **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: Pastor Cory Drehle of Berea Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD, has **returned** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. <> Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, MN, has **received** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. <> Sam Naumann of Eau Claire, WI, has **accepted** the call to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Loveland, CO.<> Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC, has **returned** the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA. <> Pastor Caleb Schaller of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, has **received** the call to Grace Lutheran Church, Valentine, NE, Peace Lutheran Church, Mission, SD, and St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, White River, SD. <> Pastor George Dumann of Salem Lutheran Church, Eagle Lake, MN, has **accepted** 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!