

March 23, 2025



WALK in love, as
CHRIST loved us

Ephesians 5:2 ESV



MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Madison Heights, MI

Pastor Tom Naumann
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3rd Sunday in Lent

Pre-Service Personal Prayer: *Almighty and everlasting God, during this Lenten Season You graciously offer to us the forgiveness of sins, life, and eternal salvation for the sake of the bitter sufferings and death of Your dear Son. Send Your Holy Spirit that we may by faith lay hold of Your offer of grace and mercy. Moved by Your Gospel, we give continual thanks and praise to You, and count on Your strength to live our lives obedient to Your will, Amen.*

Today's Order of Service

Greeting and Prayer

Opening Hymn 435 *Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain*

1 *Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.*

2 *Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.*

3 *Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; They that drink shall thirst no more.*

4 *They that drink shall live forever; 'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified.*

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

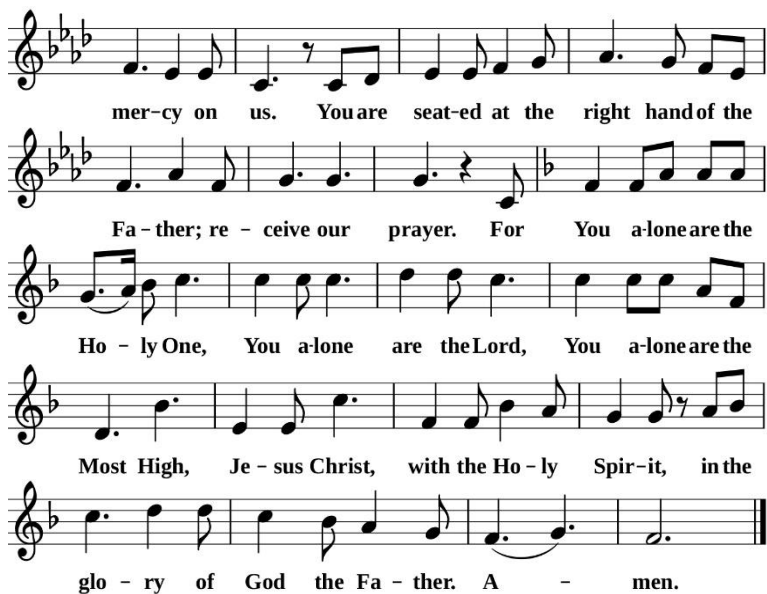
Kyrie – Latin for “O Lord.” We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.

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-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
 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.

Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 22:1-7

And David spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. ² He said, "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, ³ my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence. ⁴ I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. ⁵ "For the waves of death encompassed me, the torrents of destruction assailed me; ⁶ the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me. ⁷ "In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I called. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry came to his ears.

The Responsive Reading: Psalm 136 Selected Verses

- P** Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.
- C** Give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.

- P** Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever;
- C** **To him who alone does great wonders, for his steadfast love endures forever;**
- P** To him who by understanding made the heavens, for his steadfast love endures forever;
- C** **To him who made the great lights, for his steadfast love endures forever;**
- P** The sun to rule over the day, for his steadfast love endures forever;
- C** **The moon and stars to rule over the night, for his steadfast love endures forever;**
- P** It is he who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures forever;
- C** **And rescued us from our foes, for his steadfast love endures forever;**
- P** He who gives food to all flesh, for his steadfast love endures forever.
- C** **Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.**



Gospel Reading: *Luke 11:14-28*

Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵ But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," ¹⁶ while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷ But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸ And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹ When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²² but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³ Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ²⁴ "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to

my house from which I came.' ²⁵ And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶ Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first." ²⁷ As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" ²⁸ But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

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 849 *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

*1. Praise the one who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;
 Praise the one who frees the pris'ners, Turning blindness into sight.
 Praise the one who preached the gospel, Healing ev'ry dread disease,
 Calming storms and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.*

- 2. Praise the one who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the one who drove out demons With a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the one who brings cool water To the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**
- 3. Let us praise the Word Incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one.**

The Sermon: Ephesians 5:2-9

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

Theme: THE CHRISTIAN WALK

- I. A walk in the love of Christ. (2)
- II. A walk away from sin. (3-7)
- III. A walk as a child of light (8-9)

Sermon Worksheet:

What is the Bible referring to when it talks about "The Christian Walk"?

What two adjectives define "agape" love?

What are some ways that you can show Christ's "agape" love in your life?

How do the devil and the world work to corrupt God's gift of sex?

Rather than become partners with those who continually practice sexual sins, how should the Christian respond when confronted by such sins?

What unique feature of the Ephesian congregation likely helped them to understand Paul's illustration of darkness vs. light?

How can Christians be like lights shining in a dark world?

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 685 *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

1 *Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.*

2 *Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.*

**3 Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die, There to live with You on high.**

**4 Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken. Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members; Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly, Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be, Life eternal grant to me.**

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 "Scicmtzion". 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)

☩ 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 717:1,4 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

**1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!**

**4 Make me to walk in Thy commands-- 'Tis a delightful road--
Nor let my head or heart or hands Offend against my God.**

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.

4TH MIDWEEK LENT SERVICE: We continue our midweek Lent series, *His Final Steps*, this Wednesday at 7pm. We hope you can join us! (No soup supper this week).

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 Tom Naumann	Mark 11:12-25 ... <i>Led to a Fig Tree</i>
Mar. 26	Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld	Matt 21:12-17 ... <i>Led to the Temple</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>

BLESSING BAG DONATIONS: There is a box in the coat area for donations that will be included in blessing bags for the homeless. Please bring items such as water bottles, snacks, or disposable washcloths during the month of March for assembly into individual bags. – Susan Fobear

EASTER BRUNCH (MEN COOK): All are invited to attend our annual Easter Sunday Brunch on April 20 at 10:00am—Pancakes, eggs, biscuits & gravy, fruit, bacon, and sausage! Any men willing to bring a brunch dish are invited and encouraged to do so. See the sign-up sheet on the hymnal rack.

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: April 17 at 7:00pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Service: April 18 at 7:00pm

(Easter Sunday Brunch, April 20 at 10:00am)

Easter Sunday Worship Service: April 20 at 11:00am

MT. ZION UPCOMING CALENDAR

Wed. 3/26	7pm	4 th Midweek Lent Service (Pastor Sonnenfeld)
Thu. 3/27	8pm	Compensation Committee Meeting
Sun. 3/30	9am	Bible Class/Sunday School
	10am	Sunday Service
Sun. 4/6	11am	Q2 Voters Meeting
Thu. 4/17	7pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri. 4/18	7pm	Good Friday Tenebrae Service
Sun. 4/20	10am	Easter Brunch (Men cook)
	11am	Easter Sunday Service

SERVING US THIS MONTH:

Usher: Dave Troyan Church Cleaning: D’Onofrio

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

Last Sunday Attendance = 24; Bible Class/Sunday School = 14; Wed. Midweek Lent = 27

General Fund Offerings Budgeted YTD: \$25,944.40	Weekly General Fund Offerings Budgeted: \$2,461.54
General Fund Offerings Received YTD: \$26,858.00	Last Week’s General Fund Offerings Received: \$2,031.00
Missions Offerings YTD (includes 10% of GB & individual offerings): \$2,658	
Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Memorial Fund: \$132,961.25	

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 and is receiving chemo therapy treatment. **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: Grace Lutheran Church, Sleepy Eye, MN, has **called** Mrs. Vanessa Wales and Mrs. Danielle Sippert to teach language arts and other courses for the 2025-2026 school year to replace Mrs. Debra Mayhew whose call will expire at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. <> Teacher Claire Abbas of Berea Lutheran School, Inver Grove Heights, MN, has **returned** the call to Luther Memorial School, Fond du Lac, WI. <> Pastor Caleb Schaller of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, has **accepted** the call to Grace Lutheran Church, Valentine, NE, Peace Lutheran Church, Mission, SD, and St. Paul’s Ev. Lutheran Church, White River, SD. <> Christine Starland (part-time teacher) and Deb Owens (band) have **accepted** their respective calls to Berea Lutheran School of Inver Grove Heights, MN. <> Pastor Paul Krause of Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Watertown, SD, and Zion Lutheran Church, Hidewood Township, SD, has **received** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. <> Pastor Tom Schuetze of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, Lakewood, CO, has **received** the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church and School, Mountain View, CA.

ILC ENROLLMENT NOW OPEN. Our Immanuel Lutheran College in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, offers an academically excellent, Christ-centered college education. There are four-year degree programs in Education (BS) and Pre-Theology (BA), as well as a two-year Associate of Arts program. ILC offers a range of student aid to help you finance your education; apply by the May 1 deadline to receive priority consideration. If you are a high school junior or senior (or older) thinking about college, **check out our academic and registration information at [ILC.edu](http://ilc.edu)**, or contact our Academic Dean, paul.naumann@ilc.edu, phone (715) 836-6636.

Worship at Mt. Zion

We have a singular goal in our worship: “Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools.” (Ecc. 5:1 NKJV)

Our service follows the historic Biblical style of using a liturgy. The liturgy is meant to give order and structure to the worship service. We try to keep our worship respectful in order to foster an atmosphere which allows us to focus on the power of God’s Word. Our service is also meant to be reflective so that each individual can hear, understand, and meditate upon the wonderful works of God! (Acts 2:11)

The Bible teaches that God creates and sustains faith in a person’s heart through the power of His Word: Romans 1:16: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.” In our fast-paced society, meditative and reflective worship is sometimes considered outdated, irrelevant, or boring. Yet, God Himself says, “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of God” (Romans 10:17). God has not changed His method of reaching people with the hope of forgiveness simply because our society has changed. He remains the same and His Word remains powerful.

If the worship service seems strange to you, don’t give up right away! Stick with it, try to learn something new each week, and develop a habit of being present in God’s house. The ability to quietly listen and learn is an acquired skill that takes time and practice. Our prayer each week is that we grow in our ability to listen to God’s Word and thereby increase our faith in Jesus. We hope you will continue to join us!

LIVESTREAM on  **YouTube** @MtZionLutheranChurch

SERMON PODCAST on  **Spotify** @TheWordFromMtZion

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