

December 25, 2025



... and his name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God,

Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace.



**Isaiah 9:6,
ESV**

MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Madison Heights, MI

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Christmas Day



WELCOME! to our celebration of God's greatest Gift – His Own Son and our great Savior, Jesus Christ the Baby of Bethlehem. We implore God the Holy Spirit to renew in our hearts this great Gospel message.

Oh, Come Let Us Adore Him!

Today's Order of Service

Greeting and Prayer

Opening Hymn 375 *Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising*

1 *Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing, Worthy folk of Christendom.*

2 *Christ, from heav'n to us descending And in love our race befriending;
In our need His help extending, Saved us from the wily foe.*

3 *Jacob's star in all its splendor Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender, Breaking all the pow'rs of hell.*

4 *From the bondage that oppressed us, From sin's fetters that possessed us,
From the grief that sore distressed us, We, the captives, now are free.*

5 *Oh, the joy beyond expressing When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing That Your love has set us free.*

6 *Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us, From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us Till we join Your choir above.*

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!

First Responsive Scripture Reading

A Christmas selection from John 1:1-4

P In the beginning was the Word,

C And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him,

C And without him was not any thing made that was made.

P In him was life,

C And the life was the light of men.

Hymn Verse (362:1 O Sing of Christ)

*O sing of Christ, whose birth made known, The kindness of the Lord,
Eternal Word made flesh and bone, So we could be restored.
Upon our frail humanity God's finger chose to trace
The fullness of His deity, The icon of His grace.*

Second Responsive Scripture Reading

A Christmas selection from Romans 5:12-18 and Galatians 4:4

- P** Death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam,
- C** **Who is a type of Him who was to come.**
- P** Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation,
- C** **Even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.**
- P** For when the fullness of the time had come,
God sent forth His Son,
- C** **Born of a woman, born under the law,**
- P** To redeem those who were under the law,
- C** **That we might receive the adoption as sons.**



Hymn Verse (362:2 O Sing of Christ)

*2 What Adam lost, none could reclaim, And Paradise was barred
Until the second Adam came, To mend what sin had marred.
For when the time was full and right, God sent His only Son;
He came to us as life and light, And our redemption won.*

Third Responsive Scripture Reading

A Christmas selection from John 1:10-13

- P** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him,
- C** **And the world did not know Him.**
- P** He came to His own,
- C** **And His own did not receive Him.**
- P** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God,
- C** **To those who believe in His name:**
- P** Who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man,
- C** **But of God.**

Hymn Verse (362:3 O Sing of Christ)

**3 He came to that which was His own, But He was not received;
Yet still through Him God's glory shone, And some His name believed.
To these He gave the right to be, The heirs of heav'n above,
Born not of human ancestry, But born of God in love.**

Fourth Responsive Scripture Reading

A Christmas selection from Philippians 2:5-8 and 2 Corinthians 8:9

- P** Let this mind be in you,
C Which was also in Christ Jesus,
P Who, being in the form of God,
C Did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,
P But made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a
bondservant,
C And coming in the likeness of men.
P And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and
became obedient to the point of death,
C Even the death of the cross.
P For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He
was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor,
C That you through His poverty might become rich.

Hymn Verse (362:4 O Sing of Christ)

**4 Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell, Among us here on earth
As God with us, Emmanuel, To bring this holy birth.
Though rich, You willingly became, One with our poverty,
That we might share Your wealth and name, For all eternity!**

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: Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,
¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live
self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for
our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and

Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



Christmas Creed

We boldly confess what we believe.

C I believe in God the Father Almighty, who sent His Son to be my Savior.

And I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, my Lord, the long-promised Messiah, Who came as foretold, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, announced by the angels, worshipped by the shepherds, adored by the Wise Men, Who lived to suffer, die, and rise again, to free me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, Who has brought me to faith in my Savior, and by whose work in my heart I rejoice in my salvation, walk in Christ, show forth His praises, and will one day live and reign with Him in all eternity. Amen.

Hymn 368 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

*1 Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.*

[Refrain]: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song? [Refrain]*

*3 Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]*

The Sermon: *Isaiah 9:6-7*

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

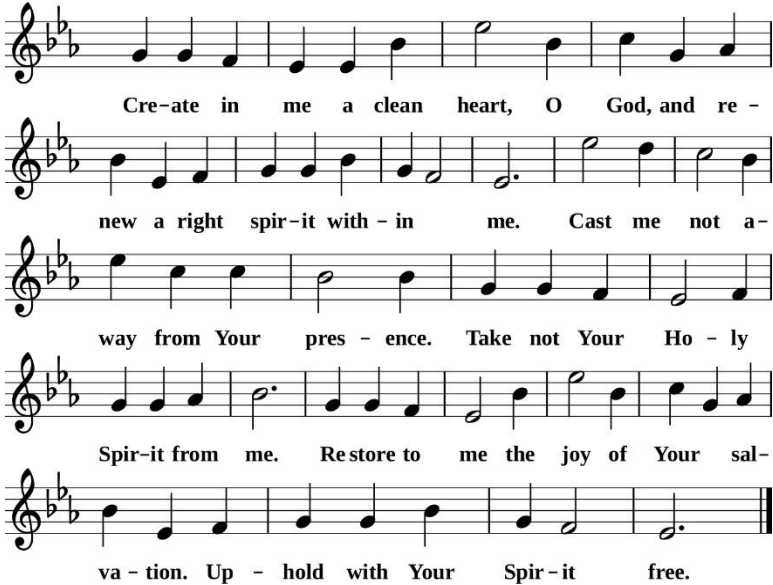


THEME: A KING FOR CHRISTMAS

- I. Born as a gift to His people.
- II. Possessing unrivaled royal attributes.
- III. To establish a heavenly kingdom of eternal peace.

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 525 Crown Him with Many Crowns

**1 Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King Through all eternity.**

**2 Crown Him the virgin's Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn;
Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.**

**3 Crown Him the Lord of Love, Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But down-ward bends their wond'ring eyes At mysteries so bright.**

**4 Crown Him the Lord of Life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.**

**5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the King to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is King of all.**

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

***As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring Christ to Thee our heav'nly King!***

Christmas Prayer – 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 387 *Joy to the World*

***1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King:
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.***

***2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.***

***3 No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.***

***4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.***

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.

- † Restrooms are located to the left after you exit down the main aisle.
- † A Parents Room is located in the back of the sanctuary.
- † If you are visiting with us today, please sign the Guest Book.
- † If you are looking for a church home, ask Pastor Tom about a free one-on-one Bible study for new people. Where & when? Your convenience.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! It is our prayer that the Christmas gospel will strengthen God's gift of faith in our hearts. Faith that trusts in His greatest gift of all – Jesus Christ, His Son and our Savior.

A POST-CHRISTMAS PARTY is being planned by LIFT for Friday, January 9 at 5:30pm. Food & games! Everyone is welcome, so please mark your calendars.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

Sun. 12/28	9am	Bible Class/Sunday School Recessed for Holidays
	10am	Divine Service: 1 st Sunday after Christmas
Tue. 1/6	8pm	Board of Education Meeting
Fri. 1/9	5:30pm	Post-Christmas Church Party
Sun. 1/18	11am	Q1 Voters Meeting

SERVING US THIS WEEK:

Usher: Randy Wittorp ***Church Cleaners:*** Voelzke