

February 15, 2026



NOW THE
APPEARANCE OF THE
GLORY OF THE LORD
WAS LIKE A
DEVOURING FIRE
IN THE TOP OF THE
MOUNTAIN.

EXODUS 24:17



MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Madison Heights, MI

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Transfiguration Sunday

Pre-Service Personal Prayer: *Lord Jesus Christ, at the height of Your Epiphany You revealed Your great power and glory to the disciples, eyewitnesses of Your transfiguration. Send now Your Holy Spirit to us through Your Word. Work in us repentance of sins and the assurance of Your forgiveness. Hear us for Your own sake, Amen.*

Today's Order of Service

Greeting and Prayer

Opening Hymn 414 *'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here*

**1 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Thy glory fills the night;
Thy face and garments, like the sun, Shine with unborrowed light.**

**2 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Thy beauty to behold
Where Moses and Elijah stand, Thy messengers of old.**

**3 Fulfiller of the past And hope of things to be,
We hail Thy body glorified And our redemption see.**

**4 Before we taste of death, We see Thy kingdom come;
We long to hold the vision bright And make this hill our home.**

**5 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain;
But since Thou bidst us leave the mount, Come with us to the plain.**

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 image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

The image shows seven staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff is in G major (one sharp). The second and third staves are in D minor (two flats). The fourth and fifth staves are in B-flat major (two flats). The sixth and seventh staves are in F major (one flat). The lyrics are written below the notes.

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.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 17:1-9*

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³ And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵ He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." ⁸ And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. ⁹ And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

Responsive Psalm Reading: Psalm 2:6-12

- P** "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."
- C** **I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.**
- P** Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.
- C** **You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."**
- P** Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.
- C** **Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.**
- P** Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled.
- C** **Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**



Epistle Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹ And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- 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 image shows three staves of musical notation 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, hymn-like style. Below the first staff, the lyrics 'Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! These words are' are aligned with the notes. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'writ-ten that we may believe that Je-sus is the Christ, the'. The third staff concludes the phrase with 'Son of God. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!' and ends with a double bar line.

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.

415 *Jesus on the Mountain Peak*

*1 Jesus on the mountain peak Stands alone in glory blazing;
Let us, if we dare to speak, Join the saints and angels praising. Alleluia!*

*2 Trembling at His feet we saw Moses and Elijah speaking
All the prophets and the law Shout through them their joyful greeting: Alleluia!*

*3 Swift the cloud of glory came: God proclaiming in its thunder
Jesus as the Son by name! Nations, cry aloud in wonder: Alleluia!*

*4 This is God's beloved Son! Law and prophets sing before Him,
First and last and only One. All creation shall adore Him! Alleluia!*

The Sermon: Exodus 24:8-18

And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." ⁹ Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹ And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank. ¹² The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." ¹³ So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. ¹⁴ And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them." ¹⁵ Then Moses went up on

the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

**THEME: “I WILL BE THEIR GOD,
AND THEY WILL BE MY PEOPLE”**

- I. In Himself, God is terrifying. II. In His wisdom, God wants a people.
- III. In His grace, God chooses a mediator.

Sermon Worksheet:

Why is the holiness of God so terrifying to us?

Why does God want a people? What comfort is there in this desire of His?

What is the difference between the terrifying fire of Mount St. Helens and the terrifying fire of Mt. Sinai? (hint: Mr. Beaver)

How has God provided a way for His people to approach Him?

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 621 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

**1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending Comes our homage to demand.**

**2 King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.**

**3 Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light descending From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish As the darkness clears away.**

**4 At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"**

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 Sçashtag is "Scmctzion". 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!**

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 507:3 *Holy, Holy, Holy*

**3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.**

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.

A CLEVELAND AREA WORSHIP SERVICE is today at 4pm in North Olmsted, OH. Speak with Pastor for more details.

THE SEASON OF LENT begins this week with Ash Wednesday on February 18. We are holding 6 midweek services: 7pm each Wednesday in Lent. We are again participating in a pulpit exchange with sister CLC congregations: Gethsemane (Saginaw) and Redeemer (Sister Lakes). Our theme this year is *The Crucial Hours*. The series ponders the key words and moments from the account of Jesus' passion. The pulpit exchange schedule is below.

Date	Preacher	Sermon Text and Theme
Feb 18	Pastor Tom Naumann	John 18:12 <i>They bound Him</i>
Feb 25	Pastor Mike Wilke	Matt. 26:18 <i>"I will keep the Passover"</i>
Mar 4	Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld	Luk 22:31-32 <i>"Satan has asked to sift you all"</i>
Mar 11	Pastor Tom Naumann	Luke 22:66 <i>The semblance of legality</i>
Mar 18	Pastor Mike Wilke	Luke 23:13-16 <i>A part for the whole?</i>
Mar 25	Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld	Matt 27:3-4 <i>Seized with remorse</i>

CLC MISSION BOARD PRESENTATION: On Sunday, March 1, Mr. Jeff Radichel of the CLC Board of Missions will be visiting us to give a special presentation on the Mission Board's new "Domestic Mission Roadmap". That Sunday there will be no 9am Sunday School or Bible Class. Instead, Mr. Radichel will give his presentation at 11am, following the morning service. There will be a potluck at noon after his presentation. Please mark your calendars!

UPCOMING CALENDAR

Today	4pm	Cleveland Worship Service
Wed. 2/18	7pm	Ash Wednesday Service (Lent begins)
Sun. 2/22	9am	Bible Class/Sunday School
	10am	Divine Worship Service
Tue. 2/24	8pm	Board of Education Meeting
Sun. 3/1	11am	Presentation from CLC Mission Board: Jeff Radichel Topic: "Domestic Mission Roadmap"
	12pm	Church Potluck

SERVING US THIS MONTH:

Usher: Ben Mueller *Church Cleaners:* Muellers

OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

Last Sunday Attendance = 35 Bible Class/Sunday School = 20

General Fund Offerings Budgeted YTD: \$16,384.62	Weekly General Fund Offerings Budgeted: 2,730.77
General Fund Offerings Received YTD: 18,118.00	Last Week’s General Fund Offerings Received: \$2,688.00
Building Fund: \$10,022.00	Missions Offerings (10% of GF): 1,225.00
School Fund (Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Fund): \$107,755.53	

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.
Dave and Peggy Green remain homebound as Dave continues to suffer from a very debilitating form of Parkinson’s disease.

CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION SYNODWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! Psalm 133:1

CALL FOR CLC NOMINATIONS: The deadline is March 31 for nominations to CLC offices at our upcoming synod convention, June 25-28, 2026. Pastors, professors, male teachers, and voters of congregations within the Church of the Lutheran Confession are invited to nominate individuals for the following synodical offices: ● CLC President ● CLC Vice-President ● CLC Moderator ● CLC Secretary ● Called Servants for the Board of Trustees, Regents, Missions, and Education ● Lay Members for the Board of Trustees, Regents, Missions, and Education. An online nomination form and accompanying information is available at cclutheran.net/nominations.

CALL NEWS: Pastor Emeritus John Schierenbeck has **accepted** the vacancy call to Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN. <> Seminarian Sam Radermacher, in conjunction with his vicarship under Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA, has **received** the summer vacancy call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA. <> Teacher Claire Abbas of Berea Ev. Lutheran School, Inver Grove Heights, MN, has **returned** the call to Redeemer Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY. <> Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD, has **received** the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ.

RETIREMENT: Pastor Ted Barthels of St. Paul’s Ev. Lutheran Church, Austin, MN, has announced his **retirement** from the pastoral ministry as of April 30, 2026.