


February 18, 2026

A photograph of a wooden cross with three nails, one of which is positioned horizontally across the vertical beam. A crown of thorns is placed on top of the cross. The entire arrangement is set against a purple fabric background.

THE CRUCIAL HOURS



Midweek Lent 2026

MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Madison Heights, MI

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Ash Wednesday Service

Welcome to our Midweek Lent worship series, "The Crucial Hours." During these special services, we will ponder key words and moments from the account of Jesus' passion that demonstrate the thorough completeness of His saving work for us, the breadth and depth of His love for us, and the strength of His union with us. May the Spirit bless our meditation!

Tonight'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 and Opening Responsive

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!

P Behold the Father's love, *(John 3:17)*

C For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

P Behold the Son's grace, *(Matthew 20:28)*

C The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

P Behold the Spirit's patient teaching, *(1 Corinthians 2:12)*

- C** Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

The Confession and Absolution of Sins

We come before our Holy God admitting that we are sinful and need His forgiveness.

- P** Let us confess our sins unto God, calling upon His exceedingly abundant grace to grant us forgiveness.
- C** O Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I, a poor miserable sinner confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray to You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of my Savior Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.
- P** Upon this your confession, I announce the grace of God unto you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.



Lenten Hymn of Praise *(Hymn 543:1-3 What Wondrous Love Is This)*

A song glorifying and praising God for our redemption.

1 *What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!*

*What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!*

2 *When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down Beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.*

3 *To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I AM.
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing.
While millions join the theme, I will sing.*

Passion Harmony: *Reading One* (p.2-6 in the purple booklet)

A selection from the *Passion History of Christ* is read.

Lenten Confession of Faith

From Luther's Large Catechism Explanation to the 2nd Article of the Apostles Creed

C I believe that Jesus Christ, God's true Son, has become my Lord.

He has redeemed me from sin, from the devil, from death, and from all evil. He is the Lord of life, righteousness, every blessing, and salvation. He has delivered us poor, lost people from hell's jaws, has won us, has made us free, and has brought us again into the Father's favor and grace. He has taken us as His own property under His shelter and protection so that He may govern us by His righteousness, wisdom, power, life, and blessedness. This is most certainly true.

LENTE MEDITATION

"THE CRUCIAL HOURS"

"They Bound Him"

John 18:12 So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him.

Hymn 556:2,5-8 *Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice*

*2 Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay; Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day; In sin my mother bore me.
But daily deeper still I fell; My life became a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.*

*5 God said to His beloved Son: "It's time to have compassion.
Then go, bright jewel of My crown, And bring to all salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free; Slay bitter death for them that they
May live with You forever."*

*6 The Son obeyed His Father's will, Was born of virgin mother;
And God's good pleasure to fulfill, He came to be my brother.
His royal pow'r disguised He bore; A servant's form, like mine, He wore
To lead the devil captive.*

*7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me, I am your rock and castle.
Your ransom I Myself will be; For you I strive and wrestle.
For I am yours, and you are Mine, And where I am you may remain;
The foe shall not divide us.*

**8 "Though he will shed My precious blood, Me of My life bereaving,
All this I suffer for your good; Be steadfast and believing.
Life will from death the vict'ry win; My innocence shall bear your sin,
And you are blest forever.**

Prayer for the Word and Luther's Evening Prayer

We implore God to bless us with His Word and protect us through the night.

P Blessed Lord, who has caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our instruction, grant that we may faithfully hear, read, learn, and understand Your Word, that by patience and comfort through the Gospel, we may embrace and hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

G I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; And I pray You to forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body, and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

The Benediction

The Apostolic blessing given by God to His people (2 Corinthians 13:14)

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G Amen!

Closing Hymn 887 Now the Light has Gone Away

**1 Now the light has gone away; Father, listen while I pray,
Asking Thee to watch and keep And to send me quiet sleep.**

**2 Jesus, Savior, wash away All that has been wrong today;
Help me every day to be Good and gentle, more like Thee.**

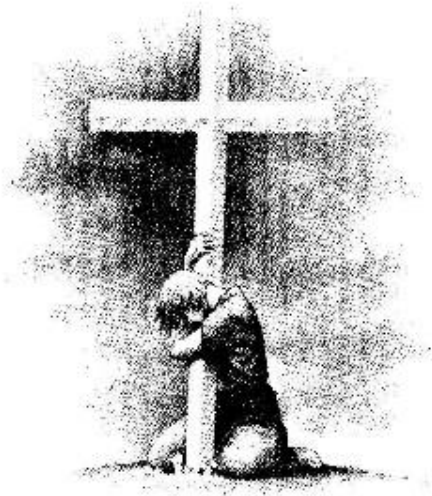
**3 Let my near and dear ones be Always near and dear to Thee.
Oh, bring me and all I love To Thy happy home above.**

**4 Now my evening praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.
All my blessings come from The; Oh, how good Thou art to me!**

**5 Thou, my best and kindest Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.
Let me love Thee more and more, Always better than before.**

Welcome!

*in the name of Jesus, through whose suffering and death
we have obtained forgiveness of sins and eternal life,
and whose resurrection we look forward to celebrating
on Easter Sunday, April 5 at 11:00am.*



Offering Announcement:

*The normal collection of the offering has been omitted from this service.
If you have a special Lenten offering that you wish to contribute, please
deposit it in the gold plate on the hymnal rack or use the \$CashApp on
your mobile device. The church's \$cashtag is "\$clcmztion".*

Midweek Lent 2026 – Pulpit Exchange Schedule

Theme: THE CRUCIAL HOURS

| Date | Preacher | Sermon Text and Theme |
|--|--------------------------|---|
| February 18 | Pastor Tom Naumann | John 18:12 <i>They Bound Him</i> |
| February 25 | Pastor Mike Wilke | Matthew 26:18 <i>“I Will Keep the Passover”</i> |
| March 4 | Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld | Luke 22:31-32 <i>“Satan Has Asked to Sift All of You”</i> |
| March 11 | Pastor Tom Naumann | Luke 22:66 <i>The Semblance of Legality</i> |
| March 18 | Pastor Mike Wilke | Luke 23:13-16 <i>A Part for the Whole?</i> |
| March 25 | Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld | Matthew 27:3-4 <i>When You are Seized with Remorse</i> |
| April 2 Maundy Thursday | Pastor Tom Naumann | Matthew 26:20-30 <i>The Three Unions in Holy Communion</i> |
| April 3 Good Friday | Pastor Tom Naumann | Matth, Mark, Luke, John <i>7 Crucial Last Words</i> |

LIVESTREAM on  **YouTube** @MtZionLutheranChurch

SERMON PODCAST on  **Spotify** @TheWordFromMtZion

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