

November 17, 2024



As the lightning flashes and lights up  
the sky from one side to the other,  
so will the Son of Man be in his day.

Luke 17:24 ESV

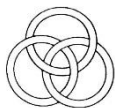


# MT. ZION

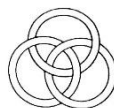
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Madison Heights, MI

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# 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity



**Pre-Service Personal Prayer:** *Blessed Savior Jesus Christ, send Your Spirit from on high upon Your believing children everywhere that they may be true to the faith and at last receive the crown of everlasting life. May Your Word proclaimed to us this day continue to make us wise unto salvation and direct our lives to be fashioned after Your image. In Your name we ask it, Amen.*

## Today's Order of Service

### Greeting and Prayer

#### Opening Hymn 515 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.*
- 2 The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near;  
Go forth as He approaches With alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; The Bridegroom is at hand.*
- 3 The saints, who here in patience Their cross and suff'rings bore,  
Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory The Lamb they shall behold;  
In triumph cast before Him Their diadems of gold.*
- 4 Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption That sets Your people free!*

### 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** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

- C** Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.
- P** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will!
- 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, we give you thanks and praise; Of  
Lord Je-sus Christ, the Fa-ther's on-ly Son, You  
A-lone, O Christ, You on-ly are the Lord, At  
heav'n-ly joy and peace on earth we sing. We wor-ship  
bore for us the load of this world's sin. O Lamb of  
God's right hand in maj-es-ty most high: Who, with the  
You, to You our hearts we raise, Lord God, al-  
God, Your glo-rious vic-t'ry won, Re-ceive our  
Spir-it wor-shipped and a-dored, With all the  
might-y Fa-ther, heav'n-ly King.  
prayer, grant us Your peace with-in.  
heav'n-ly host we glo-ri-fy.

## 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: *Isaiah 49:12-17*

Behold, these shall come from afar, and behold, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene." <sup>13</sup> Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted. <sup>14</sup> But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me." <sup>15</sup> "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. <sup>16</sup> Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me. <sup>17</sup> Your builders make haste; your destroyers and those who laid you waste go out from you.

## The Responsive Reading: *Psalms 14*

**P** The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.

**C** The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

**P** They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

**C** Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the LORD?

**P** There they are in great terror, for God is with the generation of the righteous.

**C** You would shame the plans of the poor, but the LORD is his refuge.

**P** Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!

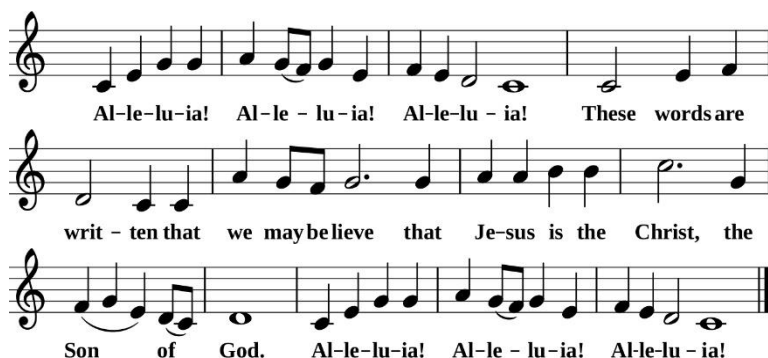
**C** When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.



## Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**[P]** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



## 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 509 *Christ is Surely Coming*

**1 Christ is surely coming Bringing his reward,  
Alpha and Omega, First and Last and Lord:  
Root and stem of David, Brilliant Morning Star:  
Meet your Judge and Savior, Nations near and far!**

**2 See the holy city! There they enter in,  
All by Christ made holy, Washed from ev'ry sin:  
Thirsty ones, desiring All he loves to give,  
Come for living water, Freely drink, and live!**

**3 Grace be with God's people! Praise his holy name!  
Father, Son, and Spirit, Evermore the same.  
Hear the certain promise From the eternal home:  
"Surely I come quickly!" Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

### **The Sermon: Luke 17:20-33**

Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed,"<sup>21</sup> nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is within you."<sup>22</sup> And he said to the disciples, "The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it."<sup>23</sup> And they will say to you, 'Look, there!' or 'Look, here!' Do not go out or follow them."<sup>24</sup> For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day."<sup>25</sup> But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation."<sup>26</sup> Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man."<sup>27</sup> They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all."<sup>28</sup> Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot--they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building,"<sup>29</sup> but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all--"<sup>30</sup> so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed."<sup>31</sup> On that day, let the one who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away, and likewise let the one who is in the field not turn back."<sup>32</sup> Remember Lot's wife."<sup>33</sup> Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will keep it.

### **Theme: THIS IS NOT A DRILL!**

- I. Rejoice! This very day the Kingdom of God is already within you.
- II. Stay ready! On Judgment Day the Kingdom of God will be fully revealed.

## Sermon Worksheet:

*Define the Kingdom of God:*

*What did Jesus do to secure our place in the Kingdom of God?*

*How can the Kingdom of God be “within you”?*

*On what day will the Kingdom of God finally be visible to all people?*

*What two examples of Judgment Day “fire drills” does Jesus point to?*

*What lesson is Jesus teaching when He says, “Remember Lot’s wife”?*

*Describe the attitude we should have toward our earthly belongings:*

*What verdict will King Jesus pronounce to you on Judgment Day? Why?*

*How does the Good News of salvation help us stay ready for His coming?*

### **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 508:1-2,4-6 *The Day is Surely Drawing Near***

***1 The day is surely drawing near When Jesus, God's anointed,  
In all His power shall appear As judge whom God appointed.***

***Then fright shall banish idle mirth, And flames on flames shall ravage earth  
As Scripture long has warned us.***

***2 The final trumpet then shall sound And all the earth be shaken,  
And all who rest beneath the ground Shall from their sleep awaken.  
But all who live will in that hour, By God's almighty, boundless pow'r,  
Be changed at His commanding.***

***4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but carnal pleasures,  
Who here despised His precious Word And loved their earthly treasures!  
With shame and trembling they will stand And at the judge's stern command  
To Satan be delivered.***

***5 My Savior paid the debt I owe And for my sin was smitten;  
Within the Book of Life I know My name has now been written.  
I will not doubt, for I am free, And Satan cannot threaten me;  
There is no condemnation!***

***6 May Christ our intercessor be And through His blood and merit  
Read from His book that we are free With all who life inherit.  
Then we shall see Him face to face, With all His saints in that blest place  
Which He has purchased for us.***

## **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 "\$clcmztion". While the usher brings the offering plate forward we sing the following hymn verse*

*(788:1): **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**

### **The Benediction** *The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26)*

## **Closing Hymn 387:1 *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.***

**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.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who attended Friday Night Bible School's Fall Festival this past Friday! We had a great turnout of both children and parents. There were fall-themed games, pumpkin painting, music, and lots of great costumes—Martin Luther even made an appearance to teach the children's lesson on the Reformation. Thank you, Lord, for such a willing and joyful group of believers!

**THANK YOU** to everyone who came yesterday morning for the church workday. The entire congregation benefits from your service to the LORD. The property has never looked better or cleaner!

**ELECTION RESULTS** from last Sunday's voter's meeting for 2025 church officers: President Randy Wittorp (1yr); Vice President Ben Mueller (1yr); Secretary Jesse Wilke (1yr); Treasurer Carl Ryan (1yr); Financial Secretary Dave Troyan (1yr); Board of Finance Peter Voelzke & Mason Dzakowic (1yr); Elder Randy Wittorp (3yr); Trustee Matt Fobear (3yr); Board of Education Randy Wittorp (3yr).

**POTLUCK & CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING:** On Sunday, December 1, we are holding a potluck meal followed by our annual church Christmas decorating. A sign up for the potluck is on the hymnal rack. All are welcome and encouraged to come to the meal and help beautify our sanctuary for the Advent season!

**DECEMBER MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES:** *Advent* means "coming." Advent season is the time when we look forward to the celebration of when Christ *came* into the world to begin His mission of redemption. Beginning Wednesday, December 4 at 7pm, Mt. Zion will be holding three midweek advent services. These additional worship opportunities are a great way to look forward to the greatest of all Christmas presents: our Savior Jesus!

### **OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL**

Last Sunday Attendance = 34; Bible Class/Sunday School = 20

General Fund Offerings Budgeted YTD: \$107,172.90	Weekly General Fund Offerings Budgeted: \$2,384.62
General Fund Offerings Received YTD: \$100,361.00	Last Week's General Fund Offerings Received: \$3,625
Missions Offerings YTD (includes 10% of GB & individual offerings): \$10,004.00	
Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Memorial Fund: \$128,109.42	

### SERVING US THIS MONTH:

Usher: Jeremiah Rosen      Church Cleaning: Fobears/Workday Crew

### MT. ZION UPCOMING CALENDAR

<b>Thu. 11/21</b>	10am	<del>UM Ann Arbor Bible Study</del> (Off until Dec 5)
<b>Sun. 11/24</b>	9am	Bible Class/Sunday School
	10am	Sunday Service (Prof. D. Schaller Preaching)
<b>Sun. 12/1</b>	11am	Church Potluck Meal
	12-2pm	Church Christmas Decorating
<b>Wed. 12/4</b>	7pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Midweek Advent Service
<b>Tue. 12/10</b>	7-9pm	Church Meetings (Elders/Council/Trustees/Outreach)
<b>Tue. 12/24</b>	7pm	Christmas Eve Service (Children's Program)
<b>Wed. 12/25</b>	10am	Christmas Day Service

### 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. We continue to search for a **new building** for our church and future school. **CLC Pastors John Hein** and **Timothy Wheaton** are both receiving treatment for cancer.

### 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 Caleb Schaller of Messiah Church, Eau Claire, WI has **received** the call to St. Stephen Church and School, Mountain View, CA.

**2025 CLC MISSION HELPER TRIP:** Applications are now being accepted for the 2025 Mission Helper Trip to Nepal. Space is limited for this trip, so please apply early. Find more information at: <https://mht.lutheranmissions.org/>

**MDF OPPORTUNITIES:** The CLC Board of Missions has numerous opportunities to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ with Gospel outreach in several countries around the world. Offerings to the Mission Development Fund (MDF) are needed to support and complete projects such as a seminary classroom building in Nigeria, a multipurpose worship and Bible institute building in Bangladesh, and pastoral training seminars and conferences. The MDF also provides Bibles, catechisms, evangelist and pastor transportation, and support for domestic outreach projects here in the U.S. Additionally, per convention resolution, part of the funding for our Tanzania/East Africa Missionary comes from offerings to the MDF. Please prayerfully consider the needs of the MDF in the furtherance of the Great Commission.