

December 8, 2024



"PREPARE THE WAY  
OF THE LORD,  
MAKE HIS PATHS  
STRAIGHT."

LUKE 3:4, ESV

# MT. ZION

Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Madison Heights, MI

Pastor Tom Naumann  
(248) 677-7242

[mtzionlutheran.info](http://mtzionlutheran.info)



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

**Pre-Service Personal Prayer:** *Lord God, heavenly Father, send Your Son into our hearts by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that we, being strengthened by the Sun of Righteousness, may walk before You in fervent faith and all holy obedience. Watch over our little flock, and by Your Word strengthen our faith and renew in us a rejoicing spirit in our Advent and Christmas worship. Amen.*

### Today's Order of Service

#### Greeting and Prayer

#### Opening Hymn 344 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

**1** *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!*

**2** *Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.*

**3** *We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away Like flow'rs that wither and decay.*

**4** *Lay on the sick Thy healing hand And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.*

**5** *All praise, eternal Son, to Thee Whose advent sets Thy people free.  
Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit evermore.*

#### 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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text: "Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text: "on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us." The lyrics are written below the notes.

## The “O” Antiphons *(Hymn 357:2-3 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)*

*Advent means “coming.” During the Advent season, we pray for the Messiah Jesus to come and make His home with us.*

*These hymn verses are a part of the “O” Antiphons—ancient chants which formed the basis for “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”*

**C**  *O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord'rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*



## 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: *Malachi 4:1-6*

"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2</sup> But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. <sup>3</sup> And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>4</sup> "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel. <sup>5</sup> "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup> And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

## The Responsive Reading: *Psalms 50 Selected Verses*

- P** The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- C** **Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.**
- P** Our God comes; he does not keep silence; Before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty tempest.
- C** **"Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God.**
- P** Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me.
- C** **I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds.**
- P** For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.
- C** **I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.**
- P** "If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.
- C** **Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?**
- P** Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High,
- C** **And call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."**

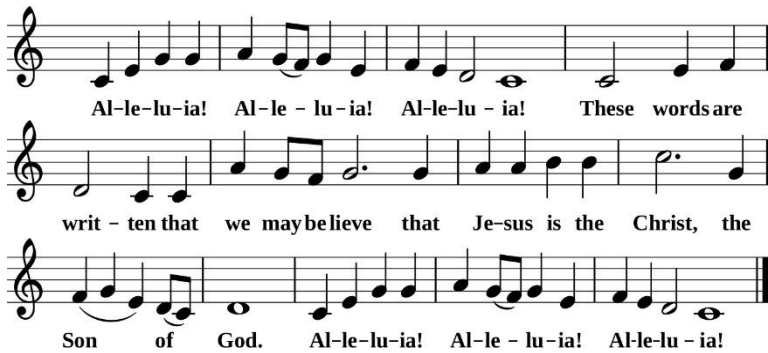
Psalms,  
Hymns,  
&  
Spiritual  
Songs



## Epistle Reading: *Romans 15:4-13*

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." <sup>10</sup> And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." <sup>11</sup> And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." <sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." <sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

**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 346 *When All the World Was Cursed*

*1 When all the world was cursed By Moses' condemnation,  
Saint John the Baptist came With words of consolation.  
With true forerunner's zeal The greater One he named,  
And Him as yet unknown, As Savior he proclaimed.*

*2 Before he yet was born, He leaped in joyful meeting,  
Confessing Him as Lord Whose mother he was greeting.  
By Jordan's rolling stream, A new Elijah bold,  
He testified of Him Of whom the prophets told:*

*3 Behold the Lamb of God That bears the world's transgression,  
Whose sacrifice removes The devil's dread oppression.  
Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away our sin,  
Who for our peace and joy Will full atonement win.*

*4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we receive, rejoicing,  
The word proclaimed by John, Our true repentance voicing,  
That gladly we may walk Upon our Savior's way  
Until we live with Him In His eternal day.*

### **The Sermon:** *Luke 3:1-6*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,<sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.<sup>3</sup> And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.<sup>4</sup> As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways,<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

### **Theme: A GOOD ROAD MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE**

I. A road to the heart first leveled by God's Law.

II. A road to the heart first traveled by God's Son.

## Sermon Worksheet:

*What kind of roads did God send John the Baptist to build?*

*How is pride like a mountain and doubt like a valley?*

*What Biblical message is intended to level our pride and doubt, and prepare the way for our Savior?*

*Through what Biblical message does Jesus travel the road to our hearts?*

*When did Jesus first travel the road to your heart? When does He still travel that road today?*

*How has Jesus' presence in your heart transformed your life?*

*What do the historical details of our text teach us about our Savior?*

### **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 343 *Prepare the Royal Highway*

**1 Prepare the royal highway, The King of kings is near!**

**Let every hill and valley A level road appear!**

**Then greet the King of glory foretold in sacred story:**

**[Refrain]: Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!**

**2 God's people, see Him coming: your own eternal king!**

**Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!**

**God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! [Refrain]**

**3 Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!**

**Tour king, yet every nation Its tribute too should bring.**

**All lands, bow down before him! All voices, thus adore Him! [Refrain]**

**4 His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heaven above.**

**His rule is peace and freedom, And justice, truth, and love.**

**So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding: [Refrain]**

## 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 Sčashtag is "Scicmtzion". 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

**C** 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 Service of the Sacrament

*Now we approach the second high point of the liturgy, the Sacrament, in which the Lord comes to bless us with His very body and blood. We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration.*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up to the Lord.



**P** It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the Messiah, the very Lamb, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory; Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying...

## Holy, Holy, Holy

*The Sanctus – Latin for “Holy.” We join our voices to the angels who sing, “Holy, Holy, Holy” around His throne.”*



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of Sa-ba-oth, a-dored; Heav'n and  
earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name. Sing ho -  
san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san-na to the Lord; Tru-ly  
blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Words of Institution

*The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His sacramental body and blood for all time.*

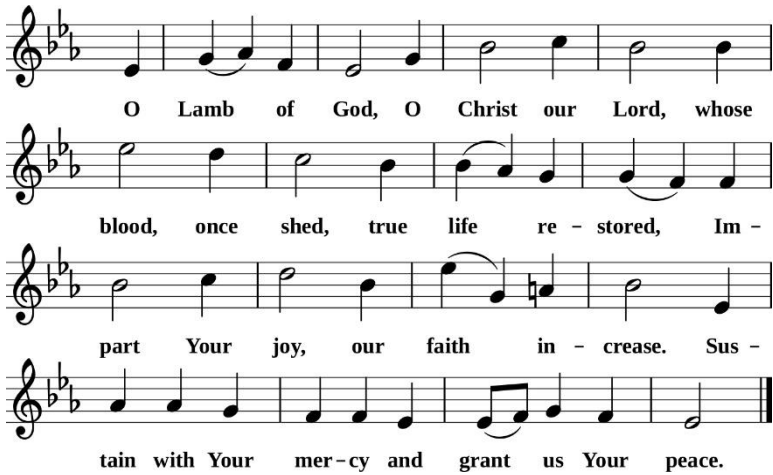
**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, “Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, “Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

# Lamb of God

The Agnus Dei – Latin for “Lamb of God.” As we approach the Table of Forgiveness, we want to be thinking about the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for us on Calvary’s cross.



O Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose  
blood, once shed, true life re - stored, Im -  
part Your joy, our faith in - crease. Sus -  
tain with Your mer - cy and grant us Your peace.

## Distribution of the Sacrament

### Communion Today is for Members Only Please

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon the Bible passages listed below. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, you'll want to find out if our church teaches what the Bible does! The pastor would be happy to discuss this with you at your convenience!

**1 Corinthians 1:10** "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

**1 Corinthians 11:26-30** "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body."



# O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

*The Nunc Dimittis – Latin for “Now Dismiss.” Simeon’s words after seeing the Christ Child. (Luke 2:29-32)*

O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De - part in heav'n-ly  
All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All glo - ry to the  
peace, For I have seen the glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing  
Son, All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in -  
grace: A light to lead the Gen - tles Un - to Your ho - ly  
One; For as in the be - gin - ning, Is now, shall ev - er  
hill, The glo - ry of Your peo - ple, Your  
be, God's tri - une name re - sound - ing Through  
cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
all e - ter - ni - ty.

**P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

# Thanksgiving

*We give thanks and praise the LORD for the forgiveness of sins received in the Sacrament.*

My heart has now be come Your dwelling, O blessed ho - ly Trin - i -  
ty. With an - gels I, Your prais - es tell - ing, Shall live in  
joy e - ter - nal - ly. Lord, may Your bod - y and Your  
blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

## The Benediction

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

**P** 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.

**G** Amen!

## Closing Hymn **340:5** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

***5 Redeemer, come and open wide  
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
O enter with Thy grace divine;  
Thy face of mercy on me shine.  
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on  
Until our glorious goal is won.  
Eternal praise and fame  
We offer to Thy name.***

**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.

**SECOND MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE:** This Wednesday, December 11 at 7pm, we have our second of three midweek advent services. Our theme this year is “*Come, Lord Jesus.*” Join us we look forward to the celebration of when Christ *came* into the world to begin His mission of redemption!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Sermon Text</b>	<b>Sermon Theme</b>
<b>December 4</b>	1 John 4:7-12	<i>Come, Lord Jesus, With Your Love</i>
<b>December 11</b>	1 John 4:1-6	<i>Come, Lord Jesus, With Your Truth</i>
<b>December 18</b>	1 John 4:17-19	<i>Come, Lord Jesus, With Your Power</i>

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES SCHEDULE:**

**Christmas Eve Service**, Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00pm (See below)

**Christmas Day Service**, Wednesday, December 25 at 10:00am

May the LORD bless our meditation throughout these days as we celebrate God’s greatest gift—His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope you will join us!

**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** Tuesday, December 24 at 4pm, we will be holding our traditional Christmas Eve Service. All are invited to this special service where, with the help of the congregation’s children, we will be reading through the Biblical Christmas account, singing favorite Christmas carols, and celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus!

### **MT. ZION UPCOMING CALENDAR**

<b>Today</b>	8pm	Board of Education Meeting
<b>Tue. 12/10</b>	7-9pm	Church Meetings (Elders/Council/Trustees/Outreach)
<b>Wed. 12/11</b>	7pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Midweek Advent Service
<b>Fri. 12/13</b>	5:30-8pm	Friday Night Bible School
<b>Sun. 12/15</b>	9am	Bible Class/Sunday School
	10am	Sunday Service (w/ Communion)
<b>Tue. 12/24</b>	4pm	Christmas Eve Service (Children’s Program)
<b>Wed. 12/25</b>	10am	Christmas Day Service

### **SERVING US THIS MONTH:**

Usher: Nathan Fobear    Church Cleaning: Troyans

## OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL

Last Sunday Attendance = 28; Bible Class/Sunday School = 16

Wednesday Advent Service = 24

General Fund Offerings Budgeted YTD: \$114,326.76	Weekly General Fund Offerings Budgeted: \$2,384.62
General Fund Offerings Received YTD: \$105,395.00	Last Week's General Fund Offerings Received: \$1,476.00
Missions Offerings YTD (includes 10% of GB & individual offerings): \$11,533.00	
Maisie Wittorp Christian Education Memorial Fund: \$128,580.86	

### 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 Drew Naumann of Trinity Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA has **received** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO.

**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.