

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Detroit

The Rev. Mark P. Braden, Pastor

The Rev. Gary W. Schultz, Kantor

Parish Office:

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HOLY MASS is celebrated every Sunday and Wednesday at 10am, and on holy days as announced.

COMMUNICANTS ARE BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who have been instructed in and publicly confess the Evangelical-Lutheran Faith. If you desire to commune at Zion, please speak with the Pastor before approaching the Altar.

THE DIVINE OFFICE OF MATINS is prayed Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8:45am in the Chapel of the Holy Incarnation in the Rectory.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION is taught every Sunday and Wednesday immediately following Holy Mass.

SUNDAY SCHOOL for children ages 3-12 is from September through May. Lessons are Bible-story based and activities are designed to reinforce the biblical lesson.

PRIVATE ABSOLUTION is available on Saturdays from 9 – 10am and by appointment.

PASTORAL CONSULTATION based on the Holy Scriptures is available from the Pastor. An appointment is necessary.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM is for infants and adults, and may be arranged by contacting the Pastor for an appointment.

COUPLES DESIRING HOLY MARRIAGE should contact the Pastor before finalizing the wedding date. Biblical instruction in Holy Marriage is required. All marriages are conducted by the Pastor according to Zion's usual order.

NEW MEMBERS are received by Baptism, Confirmation, Transfer or Profession of Faith. Instruction in Luther's Small Catechism and Private Absolution are required for all new members. Please ask the Pastor for further details.

SICK AND HOMEBOUND are visited regularly by the Pastor with the Scriptures and Sacrament. Please contact the Parish Office if you know of any parishioner in need of pastoral visitation.

PARISH OFFICERS DEACONS: William Gramzow, Thomas Habitz, Jr., Eric Russell TRUSTEES: Roderick Atkins, Gregory Gramzow, Paul Snoes; PARISH EDUCATION: Shirley Cross, Alan Kroske, Pamela Ruffin; OFFICERS OF THE VOTERS: Roderick Atkins (chairman), Jason Balaska (vice-chairman), Kristi Russell (secretary), Gregory Gramzow (treasurer), Jessica Chavez (financial secretary).

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS Adult Choir, Altar Guild, Children's Choir, Jubilate Deo Women's Choir, St. Seraphim Prayer Guild, Society of St. Samuel (Altar Boys), Usher Club, Zion Endowment Board.

Zion Evangelical-Lutheran Church

"THE LORD HAS CHOSEN ZION;
HE HAS DESIRED HER AS HIS DWELLING PLACE"



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The Presentation of Our Lord and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary

February 2, 2014

“Lord, Now Lettest Thou Thy Servant Depart in Peace”



In a world where promises mean little and where our own word is losing its reliability, it is good to know there is still a place where One’s Word is still good and true and dependable. That place is here, in the holy Church. For here Our Lord not only sticks to but also fulfills and accomplishes His Word of life and Salvation.

The Theme of Today’s Liturgy

The temple is the central place in today’s Liturgy. It is where we consider the Lord’s loving-kindness (*Introit*). It is where the Lord, whom you seek, is promised to be (*Old Testament*). It is where Our Lord is first taken after His

birth (*Gospel*), where He is presented in the substance of our human flesh (*Collect*). But, as St. Simeon teaches us, the temple is only central because there Our Lord both makes Himself (*Communio*) and His salvation known to us.

The Sermon

The Lord came suddenly to His Temple. God came into this world and took on the Temple of His Flesh. The True Light came into the world. And bearing the flesh of men, He was presented in the Temple. Six hundred years before, the Glory of the Lord left the Temple. Now the Glory of God returned, veiled in human flesh. As Mary’s womb was the true Holy of Holies, so now the Temple is holy again as the old man holds his King. The Glory of God’s people was presented according to the Law. But it is He who fulfills the Law. It is He who will present you, holy and blameless, on the last day. For the Christ presented on the fortieth day is presented to you this day. You eat and drink the Christ Simeon held. So you too in faith may pray “Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace.”

The Holy Eucharist

What Simeon receives in His arms is nothing better and nothing more that you receive into your mouth in the Holy Eucharist. In fact, it is precisely the same gift – Our Lord Jesus Christ in His flesh and blood. And with Christ received, the prayer of Simeon becomes our prayer: “Lord, now you let your servant go in peace.”

The Readings Malachi 3.1-4; 1 Corinthians 1.26-31; St. Luke 2.22-32

The Hymns for Today’s Mass

Processional Hymn	136
Chief Hymn	137
Offering Hymn	138 (stanzas 1-3)
Distribution Hymns	138 (stanzas 4-6), 95
Retiring Processional Hymn	139

into the account of the Presentation to “wait with earnest mind, As Simeon had waited His God and Lord to find.”

Johann Franck (1618-1677) published this hymn in his collection *Geistliches Sion* in 1674, “On the Festival of the Purification of Mary.” Franck was a German lawyer with a love for poetry who studied hymnody with noted Lutheran hymn-writers Simon Dach (1605-1659) and Heinrich Held (d. 1659).

And Present Us in Thy Glory The RETIRING PROCESSIONAL HYMN, “In His Temple Now Behold Him” (# 139), again connects the event of Jesus’ presentation to the faithful Christian’s song. Jesus’ presentation is important for our life in Christ. As Jesus fulfilled the law in being presented in the Temple, He makes us worthy to be presented before the Father at the Last Day:

Jesus, by Thy presentation,
Thou, who didst for us endure,
Make us see our great salvation,
Seal us with Thy promise sure,
And present us in Thy glory
To Thy Father, cleansed and pure!

Prepare for Next Sunday

Transfiguration of Our Lord February 9, 2014

Exodus 34.29-35; 2 Peter 1.16-21; Matthew 17.1-9

Hymns: 132, 343, “O Wondrous Type, O Vision Fair” (insert), 130, “Alleluia, Song of Sweetness” (insert)



Music for the Presentation of Our Lord and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary



The Nunc Dimittis The “Song of Simeon” (Luke 2:29-32) is called the *Nunc Dimittis*, from the first words of its Latin text: “now dismiss.” The *Nunc Dimittis* is the canticle sung at the Office of Compline (the church’s bedtime prayer).

Some Reformation-era orders of the Mass followed the ancient Mozarabic (Spain) and Greek liturgies in placing the *Nunc Dimittis* at the end of the Mass following the distribution of the Lord’s Supper. This is continued in the Common Service. (Zion follows the medieval practice of having a proper *Communio*.)

In addition to being a fitting prayer at bedtime or after receiving the Lord’s Supper, the *Nunc Dimittis* is prayed at the bedside of the dying. In Christ, we are, like Simeon, ready to depart in peace when Our Lord calls us to Himself.

In Peace and Joy I Now Depart (# 137) is Luther’s paraphrase of the Nunc Dimittis, written for Candlemass in 1524. The tune is also possibly by Luther. Notice how Lu-

ther uses additional Scriptural images to expound and make connections with Simeon’s Song. For example, stanza four expounds “a Light to lighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of Your people Israel:”

He is the Hope and saving Light, Of lands benighted;
By Him are they who dwelt in night, Fed and lighted.
He is Israel’s Praise and Bliss, Their Joy, Reward, and Glory.



Many composers have set Luther’s hymn and tune to music. The PRELUDE is two settings of the hymn. The first, J.S. Bach’s (1685-1750) quiet setting from the *Orgelbuchlein* (BWV 616). The second is by twentieth century English-born Canadian composer Healey Willan (1880-1968). In Willan’s setting, the melody is most prominently featured in the pedal.

Drawn by Thy Spirit’s leading, We come with joy and love

In the OFFERING HYMN, “Thou Light of Gentile Nations” (# 138), the singer is drawn

Holy Mass for the Presentation of Our Lord and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary.....	Today, 10a, Church
Adult Bible Class.....	Today, 11:30a, Undercroft
Sunday School.....	Today, 11:30a, Activities Center
Matins	Mon, 8:45a, Chapel
Matins	Tue, 8:45a, Chapel
Vespers	Tue, 5:30p, Chapel
Holy Mass for Wednesday of Epiphany IV	Wed, 10a, Chapel
Matins	Thr, 8:45a, Chapel
Vespers	Thr, 5:30p, Chapel
Matins	Fri, 8:45a, Chapel
Matins	Sat, 8:45a, Chapel
Private Confession and Absolution.....	Sat, 9:15a, Chapel
Youth Catechism.....	Sat, 10a, Rectory
Adult Choir Rehearsal.....	Sun, 8:45a, Choir Loft
Holy Mass for the Transfiguration of Our Lord	Sun, 10a, Church
Adult Bible Class.....	Sun, 11:30a, Undercroft
Sunday School	Sun, 11:30a, Activities Center

IN OUR PRAYERS David Beens, Edward Brown, Linda Buskirk, Lela Casey, John Chavez, Gladys Cline, Anna Dalton, Martha Draspa, Sherry Edwards (surgery on Monday), Sandy Frey, Ellen Hayden, Drucilla Huddleston, Florine Kaiser, Lawrence Kasper, Eleanor Luka, Earlene Maynarich, Michael Maynarich, Robert Murdock, Margaret Quinkert, Pauline Rivard, and Sylvia Schleif.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS From Linda Buskirk for Altar and Statue flowers and for the St. Michael Liturgical Conference in memory of Ronald Buskirk (✕ Feb 4, 1998); From Drucilla Huddleston for the Altar Guild in memory of Ronald Buskirk.

THE PSALM FOR THIS WEEK IS PSALM 48. PRAY IT EVERY DAY!

This psalm is a psalm of thanks, praising God for protecting and defending the city of Jerusalem against the kings and princes. They had to retreat in shame and let the temple stand, along with the worship of God and His Word or rule. With this God has kept His promise, namely, that in accordance with the First Commandment, He would be their God. For, the psalm says, what we have heard and believed, we also see and experience in God’s actions for the city. We also sing this psalm for Christendom and the Gospel, that they will stand against the raging of the kings and princes, who finally withdraw in shame—and the Word they still must let remain. (Luther)

Today's Announcements

ADULT CHOIR The Zion Adult Choir will sing Feb 9 and 16. Rehearsals continue Sundays, Feb 9 and 16 from 8:45-9:30am in the Choir Loft.

BIBLE STUDY **Sunday:** Today in our survey of the New Testament we begin looking at the captivity epistles of St. Paul. Join us in the Undercroft for coffee and the study. **Wednesday:** Our study of Martin Chemnitz's "Ministry, Word, and Sacraments: An Enchiridion" is on the topic: "God Works, or New Obedience."

THE NUNC DIMITTIS IN DAILY PRAYER The *Nunc Dimittis*, the "Song of Simeon," (Luke 2:29-32) in today's Holy Gospel is traditionally prayed by the church at bedtime in the Office of Compline. Consider praying the church's bedtime prayer office as part of your daily prayer at home. It can be modified for families with small children. Copies of Compline are available today in the Narthex.

Luther on Candlemass

Today we celebrate the feast which under the papacy was called the Candlemass, for on that day the focus was on our beloved women in a special ceremony in which wax candles were consecrated, exorcised, lit, and carried in procession. You have already heard how this originated, namely, that Pope Sergius appropriated this from the Romans, for on this night the heathen sauntered about with torches and lighted candles looking for Proserpine (thought to be goddess of the subterranean world of the dead); and in similar manner, in honor of our women, Christians every year were to process on this day with consecrated, lighted candles. We'll leave that matter in the pope's hands, and whoever else keeps the custom. We, however, observe this day in honor of our Lord Jesus Christ, who on this day appeared publicly for the first time as He was brought into the temple at Jerusalem and presented to the Lord."

- From Luther's Candlemass sermon, Feb 2, 1537

