



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Monday, December 24, 2018; 7 PM

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Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich | Principal Silas Born | Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Welcome! In the name of our risen Savior we welcome you to Mt. Olive and thank you for worshipping with us. If you are a guest, please fill out a **Guest Card** (found in front of you in the hymnbook rack) or sign our guest book in the entry. We invite you to come and worship with us again soon. **Large Print** copies of the order of service from the ELS Hymnary are available from the usher stand in the back of the sanctuary. **For the Hearing Impaired:** Our facility is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask an usher for a receiver.

Order of Service, Vespers

(ELH, p. 120)

~**Prelude** — *Organ/piano duet*

~**Hymn 128, vv. 1-3, 8** *Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising*

~**Exhortation**

P: Dear friends in Christ! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to give Him thanks and praise for the gift of His Son, our meek and righteous King, who, by His death became our Savior from sin and eternal death. By His Holy Spirit may He enlighten, govern and direct us that we may ever remain faithful to this righteous King and Savior, and not be offended by His humble form and despised Word, but, firmly believing in Him, obtain eternal salvation and the fullness of joy in heaven. To this end may God the Father grant us His grace, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

P: O God, as You once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant, we beseech You, that we who have known the mysteries of that Light here on earth may come to the fullness of Its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ,

our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

~Psalmody Hymn 138 *Joy to the World*

~Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-14 Moreover the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!" Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

~Hymn 153, vv. 4-5 *To Us a Child of Hope Is Born*

~Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7 The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. You have multiplied the nation And increased its joy; They rejoice before You According to the joy of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For You have broken the yoke of his burden And the staff of his shoulder, The rod of his oppressor, As in the day of Midian. For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, And garments rolled in blood, Will be used for burning and fuel of fire. For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

~Hymn 144, vv. 3-5 *Now Welcome! From Thy Heav'nly Home*

~Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:1-14 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

~Hymn 137 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

~Sermon Text

2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

~Sermon Theme:

Our Celebration of an Indescribable Gift

~Offering & Duet *O Holy Night*

*(The members of Mt. Olive give offerings as a joyful response to what God has given them. These offerings support the work of Gospel ministry in our community and around the world. **Visitors:** Please do not feel obligated to participate in this offering. We ask you to fill out a "Get Connected!" and place that in the offering plate.)*

~Hymn 116, vv. 1, 4 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

~Kyrie — "Lord, Have Mercy"

(ELH p. 124)

C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

~Lord's Prayer

(ELH p. 125; Mt. 6:9-13)

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 pow'r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

~**Collect** — *The Congregation's Prayer*

(ELH p. 126-7)

P: Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us in the end of the day, in the end of our life, and in the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair when death shall come. Abide with us and with all the faithful through time and eternity.

C: Amen.

~**Candle Lighting**

*Our individual candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world. As you pass the candlelight, **always tip the unlit candle** into the upright lit candle. Candles may be extinguished at the conclusion of "What Child Is This."*

~**Hymn 140 *Silent Night***

~**Benedicamus** — *Call for blessing*

(ELH p. 84; 2 Cor. 13:14)

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: ♪ Thanks be to God.

~**Benediction** — *Final blessing for God's people*

(ELH p. 127; Num. 6:24-26)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: ♪ Amen.

~**Hymn 145, vv. 1-2 *What Child Is This***

~**Postlude**

Liturgist/Preacher: Pastor John Petersen

Organist: Cassie Johnson

Preservice Music: Cassie Johnson, Kristin Matzke

Vocal Duet: Beret Finken, Paul Gullixson / Accompanist: Elisabeth Urtel



The Poinsettias displayed on and around the altar have been donated by our members in memory/honor of the following:

Members

*Philip & Jean Jurgenson
Paul & Mary Jane Tweit
Janet & Greg Costello
Ruth & Bob Heidenreich
Tom & Joni Bode
Audrey Spear
Rev. Ted, Diane, Mark & Paul Gullixson
Elli & Joe Fisher
Dottie Kunkel
Linda Loge
Haugen Family
Becky Anton
Dave & Cindy Reimers
Sarah & Jonah Menough
Bob & Diann Brooks
Mark & Michelle Graham
Bob & Sharon Irwin*

In Memory/Honor of

*Delores Beyer, Don & Luella Jurgenson
Our Parents
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Stella & Raymond Richter
Ruth Gullixson Webber
Ron Fisher and Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Parents
Our Fathers, Derald & Reuben
Sarah's Grandmother, Phyllis Dicke

Our Fathers
Our Parents*