



**Mt. Olive
Lutheran
Church**

1123 Marsh Street
Mankato, MN 56001

(507) 345-4966

mtolivelutheran.org
mtolive@mtolivelutheran.org

Pastors:

John J. Petersen

Luke Ulrich

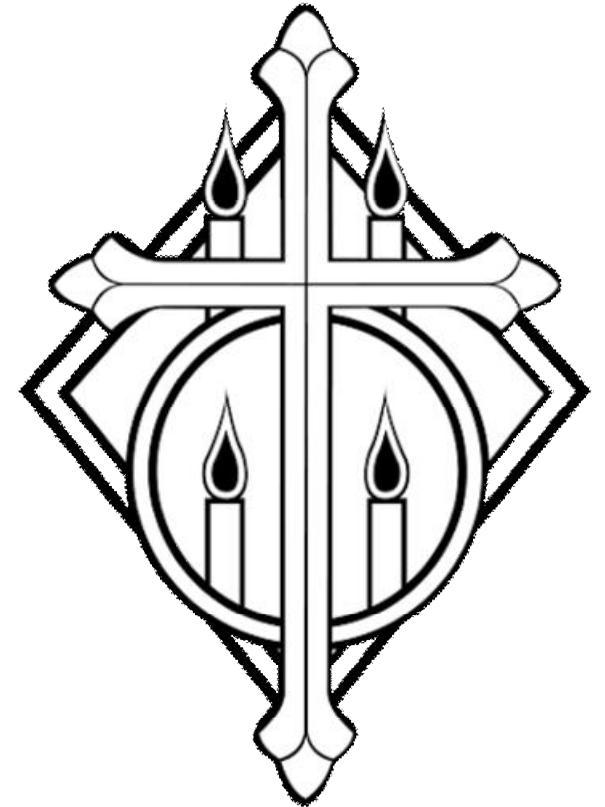
Principal:

Larry Rude

Advent 4

Sunday,
December 20, 2015
8:30 & 10:45am

 Evangelical
Lutheran
Synod





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

<u>Members</u>	<u>In Memory /Honor of</u>
Mark, Michelle, Katelyn & Alyssa Graham	Loved Ones
Janet & Greg Costello	Our Fathers
Mark & Sharon Madson	Loved Ones
Jerome & Jeanette Koberg	Parents & Granddaughter
Phyllis Kenning	Bud Kenning
Rev. Ted & Diane Gullixson	Ruth Gullixson Webber
Paul & Mary Jane Tweit	Our Parents
Ron, Elli, and Joe Fisher	Richard Fisher & Karl Jaster
Bill & Suzanne Bohning	Loved Ones
Sig & Caroline Lee	Olaf & Gerhard Lee
Dottie Kunkel	Parents
Allan & Ellen Mueller	Our Parents
Ruth & Bob Heidenreich	Loved Ones
Tom & Joni Bode	Joshua Bode
The Reichwald Family	Glenn Reichwald & Mary Reichwald Sargent
Sam, Sarah, Megan & Samo Barbosa	Norman & Violet Holte
Janet & Rhea Wassman	Loved Ones
LuAnn & Dean Shoop	Our Parents & Isaiah
Jim, Sandie & Jimmy Tessien	Loved Ones
Art & Terri Westphal	Loved Ones
Hal & Marsha Natvig	Loved Ones
Dottie Kunkel	Loved Ones
Rich, Janine & Ella Andreason	Loved Ones

Kwik Trip Cards: Mt. Olive youth (grades 5-12) are selling Kwik Trip Cards as a fundraiser for our church Youth Groups. The groups currently receive 5% of the profits. Cards are sold between services on **Communion** Sundays year round. Contact Angie Younge: 389-9137 or Rebecca Strom: 386-0372 with questions.

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School

MVL Food Service Assistant Opening We have a part-time position open in the food service at MVL. This position is for about 6 to 6 1/2 hours per day during the school year. Tasks include: food preparation and service, washing dishes and clean up. Individuals interested in this position should contact Principal Tim Plath at MVL at [507-354-6851](tel:507-354-6851) or tplath@mvlhs.org.

Housing for an international student: Would your home be a good fit for an international student? Make a lasting connection with a young world traveler. Consider hosting a new MVL student from China for the Spring Semester. Contact Jason Jaspersen at jjaspersen@mvlhs.org for more information. Please respond by December 22.

Christmas Concert: The MVL Music Department will present its annual Christmas Concert on Tuesday, **December 22** at 7PM. Pre-concert music will be provided by the band beginning at approximately 6:45PM. Groups participating in the concert will be the Freshmen and A Cappella Choirs, MVL Chargaliers, and the MVL Symphonic Band.

SPECIAL UPCOMING SERVICES

Children's Christmas Service: December 20 at 3PM.

Christmas Eve: Service at 4:30PM, Candlelight Service at 7PM.

Christmas Day: Service with Holy Communion at 10AM.

New Year's Eve: Service with Holy Communion at 6:30PM.



Advent 4

Welcome! In the name of our risen Savior we welcome you to Mt. Olive and thank you for worshipping with us this morning. 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.

Explanation of the Week: The coming of God in all His unveiled power at Mt. Sinai was terrifying to the people of Israel. The thundering voice of the Lord puts sinners in fear of death (Deut 18:15-19). God, therefore, raised up a prophet like Moses, the Messiah, the Christ. God came to His people veiled in human flesh. The skies poured down the Righteous One from heaven; the earth opened her womb and brought forth Salvation (Introit) through the blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of the Lord (Lk 1:39-56). The fruit of her womb is the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the One whose sandal strap John was not worthy to loose (John 1:19-28). In Jesus we are delivered from fear and anxiety. In Him alone we have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding (Phil 4:4-7).

Order of Service, Rite One (p. 41)

~Opening Prayer (p. 41)

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your holy Word. We pray You to open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. Amen.

~Hymn 109 *Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes*

~Confession of Sin (p.41, form I)

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins. Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us a true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

~**Kyrie Hymn 268 v. 6 *My Sins are Countless as the Sands***

**My sins are countless as the sands, My crimes, O God, are crying,
Deliver me from sin's dread bands And save me, Lord, when dying;
O let me not, for evil past, Be lost at last, Grant me Thy grace, I pray Thee!**

~**Absolution** (p. 43, form II)

P: Hear the holy and comforting Word of our Lord: Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Lift up your hearts! By the authority of God and of my holy office I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

~**Canticle: Benedictus, Hymn 46 v. 4 *O Bright, Rising Sun, Now Shine on Us***

**O bright, rising Sun now shine on us In need of illumination;
Come, scatter the shades of sin and death And shatter their domination.
Be guiding our footsteps on the path Of peace, in Your presence dawning!**

~**Salutation** (p. 45)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

~**Collect** (p. 45)

P: Let us pray: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, and help us with Your great might, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

Lego League News: Four teams from Mt Olive competed in the FIRST Lego League Minnesota Regional Tournament on Saturday, December 5th at Capitol Hill Magnet School. Every team received awards. The *Wastelanders* received first place in Robot Design. The *P.S. Bots* received first place in Core Values and a Judges Award for displaying good sportsmanship. The *Trashmongers* earned first place in Programming. In the head-to-head robot game, The *Recycled Children* won second place in the Lakes division and The *Wastelanders* were champions in the Woods division. Three of the teams are advancing to the Sectional Tournament to be held in January. 3-2-1 LEGO!!!!

Thank you from ECHO to everyone who contributed food in 2015. Mt. Olive donated approximately 405 pounds of food. The bond fire and the tailgate party brought in 205 of those pounds with the rest being spread out throughout the year. Remember that nearly half the people that ECHO helps are children and the percentage of senior citizens is growing every year. By the end of the year ECHO will have distributed over 150,000 pounds of food. The need is not going away.

New 2 You: Please continue to support New 2 You by volunteering, making donations, shopping our store, or praying for continued blessings on their efforts. If you would like to become a volunteer please call New 2 You at 507-385-1455.

~Please consider volunteering at New2You. Mt. Olive provides volunteers on the first Saturday of every month. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.

Thrivent Members, you can designate Thrivent Choice Dollars by going to www.Thrivent.com, or by calling 1-800-847-4836. The options for designating funds include Mount Olive, Bethany College, Bethany Seminary, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and Thoughts of Faith, among others.

Gym Use: Church members desiring to use our gym should first call the church office to reserve it.

Mt. Olive School Scrip program: The Scrip program offers gift cards for purchase for a wide variety of retailers. A percentage of gift card purchases go towards Mt. Olive Tuition. Visit www.shopwithscrip.com to view the 400+ participating retailers. If you have any questions or need help getting started email Tanya Norris scrip@mtlivelutheran.org or Krista Petzel krista.petzel@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Setting the Stage for Christmas: In Bible Study this Sunday Chaplain Don Moldstad will help us explore what the Jews expected in the coming Messiah, and why God chose Bethlehem for Jesus' birthplace. First century Jewish sources provide insights for us into the actions of the Romans, and what was known about Jesus' parents.

Children's Christmas Service practice: There will be a practice TODAY, **December 20**, during regular Sunday School time. The Children's Christmas service is **TODAY** at **3PM**. Children should meet in their (day school) classrooms prior to the service by 2:45PM. Band members should meet in the band room at 2:30PM to tune and line up before their pre-service performance.

Encourage One Another: Our next meeting will be **January 3, 2016**.

Holiday Office Hours: Please note that office hours will be abbreviated during the holidays, Dec. 21 thru Jan. 1. Please call ahead if you have a specific need.

Home Purchase Project: We are now only \$1,830 short of our matching goal of \$10,000 for the purchase of property in our neighborhood needed for the expansion of our facilities. In these closing days of the year, please give prayerful consideration to making a special gift towards that goal.



2016 Flower Calendar: The 2016 Flower Calendar for the church year is now up in the entry way next to the bulletin board. Thank you for signing up to bring flowers to beautify our altar this coming year!

Annual Report Deadline Update: At a recent voters' meeting, it was decided to make our June 26, 2016 meeting the annual meeting. No reports are due at this time.

Church Directory: Please check the Church Membership Directory in the entry way for correct address, phone number, and email information. Mark any changes and double check with any extended family members or older children who now live away from home.

2016 Offering Envelopes: Your 2016 offering envelopes are available for pickup on the tables in the narthex. Please note that your envelope number may be different than last year.

~Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-8 "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" says your God. "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins." The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." The voice said, "Cry out!" And he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever."

~Men's Choir: "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" – Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed His blood That we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is and is to come; Sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon, For Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, For Christ will be their All!

~Gospel Lesson

John 1:19-28 Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make straight the way of the LORD,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.”

Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. And they asked him, saying, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

John answered them, saying, “I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.”

These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

C: ♪ God be praised for His glad tidings.

~Nicene Creed (p. 47)

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the Resurrection of the dead and the Life of the world to come. ♪ Amen.

~Hymn 111 vv. 1-5 *When Sinners See Their Lost Condition*

~Epistle Lesson & Sermon Text

Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made

SERVING OUR LORD THIS WEEK

Ushers: 1st Service: Arden Olson (captain), Eldon Sting, Peter Finken, Joe Finken, Mark Graham, Greg Costello

2nd Service: Don Lehne (captain), Mark Johnson, Aaron Heyn, John Weber, Matthias Leyrer

Greeters: 1st Service: Dean & Cathy Kluge, Eldon Sting, Keith Anderson

2nd Service: Bob & Ruth Heidenreich, Mike & Anita Smith

Offering Counters: John Foede, John Baumann

Altar Guild: Heidi Graham, Sharon Madson

WEEK AT A GLANCE: December 20, 2015 – December 27, 2015

Sunday December 20	8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM 3PM 7:30PM	Divine Service w/Holy Communion Christmas Service Practice/Bible Class/ Bible Information Class Divine Service w/Holy Communion Children’s Christmas Service Co-Ed Recreational Volleyball
Monday December 21	6:30PM	No School – Christmas Break Begins Divine Service w/Holy Communion
Tuesday December 22	4-6PM 7PM	Lutheran Girl Pioneer Caroling MVL Christmas Concert
Wednesday December 23	9AM 7:30PM	Bible Study – <i>Augsburg Confession</i> Choir
Thursday December 24	4:30PM 7PM	Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Worship Service Candlelight Service
Friday December 25	10AM	Christmas Day Worship w/Holy Communion
Saturday December 26		
Sunday December 27	8:30AM 10:45AM	Divine Service Divine Service <i>Social Hall Reserved</i>

~Collect of Thanksgiving (p. 56)

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank You, Lord God Almighty, that You have refreshed us with these Your salutary gifts; and we beseech You of Your mercy, to strengthen us through the same in faith toward You, and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. **C: ♪ Amen.**

~Benediction (pp. 56-57)

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.

C: ♪ Amen, amen, amen.

~Closing Verse, Hymn 110 v. 6 *O Come, Thou Dayspring, Come and Cheer*

~Closing Prayer (p. 57)

P: O Lord, we render unto You our heartfelt thanks that You have taught us what You would have us believe and do. Help us, O God, by Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep Your Word in pure hearts, that we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

Preacher: Pastor Luke Ulrich/ Liturgist: Pastor John J. Petersen
Organists: 1st: Dennis Marzolf/ 2nd: Mark DeGarmeaux
Men's Choir

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE/LORD'S SUPPER ATTENDANCE

Sunday: 8:30am; 306 10:45am; 135 Monday: 21

Midweek Advent Service: 187

GIVEN LAST WEEK FOR THE LORD'S WORK: \$9,562.19

NEEDED EACH WEEK TO MEET ANNUAL BUDGET: \$15,500

2 Corinthians 9:7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

Mt. Olive Worship Services on TV:

Mt. Olive services are being shown on local cable channel 181 (Charter) and 7 & 507 (Consolidated Communications) on Wednesdays at 10AM and Thursdays at 11:30AM.

known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

~Sermon Theme

"Rejoice! The Lord is at Hand!"

1. His Presence Removes our Anxieties.
2. His Presence Assures Us in Our Prayers.
3. His Presence Gives us Present and Eternal Peace.

~Prayer of the Church (pp. 48-49)

P: Everlasting and merciful God, we beseech You in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

C: To have mercy upon us and to hear our prayer.

P: Look in mercy upon Your Church. Protect it and sanctify it by Your truth. May Your Word be taught in its purity and Your Sacraments be rightly administered. Grant unto Your Church faithful pastors who shall declare Your truth with power and shall live according to Your will. Send forth laborers into Your harvest and open the door of faith unto all unbelievers and unto the people of Israel. In mercy remember the enemies of Your Church and grant to them repentance unto life.

C: O God, in the multitude of Your mercy, hear us in the truth of Your salvation.

P: Let Your protecting hand be over our country and over all who travel. Prosper what is good among us and bring to naught every evil counsel and purpose. Protect and bless Your servants, the President of the United States, the Governor of this state, our judges and magistrates and all in authority. Fit them for their high calling by the gift of Your Spirit of wisdom and fear, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

C: Hear, O Lord, and have mercy! Lord be our helper.

P: According to Your promise, O God, be the defender of the widow and the father of the orphan. Relieve and comfort the sick and the sorrowful (especially our brother/sister ___ who is ill/grieving). Graciously help those who are assaulted by the devil and who are in peril of death. Be the strength of those who are suffering for the sake of Christ's holy name. Grant that we may live together in peace and prosperity. Bestow upon us good and seasonable weather; and bless us with upright Christian counsel in all that we undertake.

C: O Lord, be with all in trouble. Hear their prayers to the honor of Your Name.

P: We especially commend to Your care and keeping this Your congregation which You have bought with a great price. Keep from us all offenses and bind us together in the unity of Your holy love. Grant that the little ones who are baptized in Your name may be brought up in Your fear. At Your table give to those who there commune with You peace and life everlasting.

C: Let all rejoice who trust in You; let them shout for joy because You defend them.

(Special petitions are included)

P: In Your mercy look upon.....In Christ's name we pray.

C: Lord, in Your mercy hear our prayer.

P: Be merciful, O God, to all, according to Your great love in Christ Jesus, our Lord. When our final hour shall come, grant us a blessed departure from this world, and on the last day, a resurrection to Your glory.

C: Amen. Grant us Your peace, O Lord!

~Apostolic Benediction (p. 49)

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

~Offering & Hymn of Preparation 111 vv. 7-9 Behold, He at the Door Is Knocking!

(Guests: Please place guests cards in offering plate)

* **Holy Communion:** *This morning the confirmed, communicant members of our fellowship come to receive the true body and blood of Christ in the Holy Supper. Here Christ gives us this treasure for the remission of our sins. As we commune together we also outwardly demonstrate the unity of faith which we confess. If you are a guest and wish to commune with us, please speak to our pastor prior to the service. Thank you.*

~Prayer (p. 40)

C: Most gracious Lord, You bid me to approach Your altar in confidence and hope. "Come, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

O sweet and friendly word in a sinner's ear, that You, Lord God, invite the needy and the poor to the communion of Your Body and Blood! You, the Lord of the Universe, have willed to come to me, a poor and lowly sinner, to live in me. Of Your infinite grace You have made me Your own dwelling place, for Your glory and my eternal salvation!

Grant me grace at all times and in all places to give You hearty thanks for this marvelous gift. O Christ, Lamb of God, grant me Your eternal peace! Amen.

~Lord's Prayer (p. 53)

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.

~Words of Institution (p. 54)

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. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also 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 Testament in My blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

~Agnus Dei (p. 55)

C: ✠ O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God. You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen.

~Distribution

Hymn 94 vv. 6-10 Rejoice, Then, Ye Sad-Hearted

Hymn 92 vv. 1-3 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Hymn 87 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hymn 92 vv. 4, 5 Fling Wide the Portals of Your Heart

~Dismissal (p. 56)

P: Our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ, who has now bestowed upon you His holy body and blood, whereby He has made full satisfaction for all your sins, strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto everlasting life. Peace be with you. Amen.