



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Tuesday, December 24, 2019; 7 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

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Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School, ELS

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Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich | Vicar Jacob Kempfert | Principal Adam Pavelchik |

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 **“Get Connected!”** card (found in front of you in the hymnbook rack). 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.

Order of Service, Vespers

(ELH, p. 120)

~Prelude

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

~Christmas Eve 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.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

~Collect — *The Congregation’s Prayer of the Day*

(ELH p. 125; p. 148, #9)

P: Let us pray: 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*

~Old Testament Lesson

Micah 5:2-4 But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel. His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity. Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child. Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel. He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.

~Solo *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (arr. Mark Hayes)

~Epistle Lesson

Titus 3:4-7 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared, he saved us—not by righteous works that we did ourselves, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs in keeping with the hope of eternal life.

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

~Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:15-20 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

~Hymn 268, vv. 1-4 *On Mary, Virgin Undeiled*

~ Sermon Text

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

~Sermon Theme:

"St. Paul's Christmas Carol"

~Offering & Handbell Choir

"Christians give their offerings as a joyful response to what God has given them. The offerings given here support the continued Gospel ministry of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and School, and to support the work of sharing the Gospel throughout our community and around the world."

~Canticle 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: Let us pray: O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works proceed, give Your servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments, and also that we, being defended by You from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God now and forever.

C: Amen.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Ceremony

This part of our Christmas Eve service symbolizes how our Lord Jesus has entered into our world as a "light shining in the darkness" (John 1:5). The child born and announced in the midst of a dark Bethlehem night is the great "Light of the World" who brings His light of salvation to us (John 8:12). As the light is taken from the Christ-Candle in our Advent wreath, it is shared through the whole congregation symbolizing how Christ even now comes to us and enlightens each of us with the light of faith. This great Light of Christ enters into our hearts with His forgiveness and salvation as we receive His Word and Sacraments. (NOTE: Please use caution with the candles. Please only tip the unlit candles to prevent dripping hot wax.)

~**Responsory** —

(Taken from Isaiah 59 & 60)

P: We hope for light, but look, there is only darkness.

C: We hope for bright light, but we walk around in the darkest gloom.

P: Yes, our rebellious deeds are many before You;

C: And our sins testify against us.

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is dawning upon you.

C: The Lord will dawn upon you, and His glory will be seen over you.

P: The sun will never again be your light by day, and the moon will not shine to provide brightness for you;

C: For the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your splendor.

P: Your sun will never again set, and your moon will not wane,

C: Because the Lord will be your everlasting light.

ALL: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

~**Lighting of the Candles & Handbell Choir**

(Candlelight will be taken from the Christ Candle. Pastor will share that light with the Ushers, who will come walk down the aisles lighting the candles along the way. Please share your candlelight with those around you in the pew until all the candles are lit. After the Handbell Choir finishes playing the Sanctuary lights will be dimmed.)

~Hymn 140, vv. 1-3 *Silent Night*

1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!

3. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

~Benedicamus — *Call for blessing*

(ELH p. 127; 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*

(You may extinguish your candles after the singing of the closing hymn. Please be careful not to drip wax as you extinguish your candle.)

1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

2. Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

~Postlude

Liturgist/Preacher: Pastor Luke Ulrich
Organist: Cassie Johnson / Pianist: Kristin Matzke
Handbell Choir Director: Kristi Hislop
Soloist: Jenny Haugen / Accompanist: Paul Gullixson



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

Members

Mark & Sandy Johnson
Paul & Mary Jane Tweit
Janet & Greg Costello
Ron & Mary Younge
Bill & Suzanne Bohning
Audrey Spear
Rev. Ted, Diane, Mark & Paul Gullixson
Elli & Joe Fisher
Dottie Kunkel
Art & Terri Westphal
Dave & Melodie Karge and Girls
Becky Anton
Dave & Cindy Reimers
Dean & LuAnn Shoop
Mercedes Hansen
Lois Johnson
John & Joyce Petersen
Scott Theresa Dzwonkowski
Barbara Forst

In Memory/Honor of

Orville & Mary Sampson
Our Parents
Al Nelson, John & Maxine Costello
Loved Ones
Our Parents
Stella & Raymond Richter
Ruth Gullixson Webber
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Grandpa Lyle Fox & Steve Karge
Robert & Ruth Kimble (Parents)
Loved Ones
Isaiah & Abram Shoop

Walther & Mildred Gullixson
Loved Ones
Miles Moyer, Timothy Moyer, Carol Dzwonkowski
Greg Forst & Sheryl Carroll