



1123 Marsh St., Mankato, MN 56001 / (507) 345-4966

MtOliveLutheran.org

Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich

Mr. Larry Rude, Principal/ ✠ ELS

Christmas Eve Vespers

Thursday, December 24, 2015 7pm

Welcome! In the name of our incarnate Savior we welcome you to Mt. Olive and thank you for worshipping with us this evening. If you are a guest please fill out a guest card (found 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.*

~Opening Hymn 128 vv. 1-3, 8

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

~Exhortation: 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.

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

Luke 2:1-7 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.

~Vocal Solo: "The Star Carol" – Wilha Hutson/Alfred Burt

~Scripture Lesson

Luke 2:8-12 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.”

~**Responsory: Hymn 144 vv. 3-5**

Now Welcome! From Thy Heavenly Home

~**Scripture Lesson**

Luke 2:13-20 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!” 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 137 *O Little Town of Bethlehem***

~**Sermon Theme** (based on Luke 2: 10-14)

“Christmas Tidings to Rejoice In”

~**Offering and Solo: “Carol of the Birds”** – Traditional Catalan Carol/ arr. Joan Frey Boytim

~**Canticle: Hymn 116 vv. 1, 4**

Angels We Have Heard on High

~**Kyrie** (p. 124)

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

~**Lord’s Prayer** (p. 125)

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.

*The service continues with the Service of Light. When the solo is sung the light is passed (**please do not tip a lighted candle**), a symbol that Christ, the Babe born in Bethlehem, is the Light of the Church, and the Light of the world.*

~**Vocal Solo: “La Virgen Lava Pañales”** – Traditional Spanish Carol

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

~**Collect** (pp. 126-127, form II)

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.

(The candles are extinguished, the sanctuary is lighted)

~**Benedicamus** (p. 127)

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: ♪ **Thanks be to God.**

~**Benediction** (p. 127)

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.**

~**Closing Verse: Hymn 145 vv. 1, 2** *What Child Is This?*

Officiant: Pastor Luke Ulrich

Organist: Cassie Johnson/Soloist: Jenny Haugen



Christmas Day Worship Service w/Holy Communion: 10AM

New Year's Eve Service w/Holy Communion: 6:30PM