



Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

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mtolivelutheran.org

Pastors:

John J. Petersen

Luke Ulrich

Vicar Jacob Kempfert

Principal:

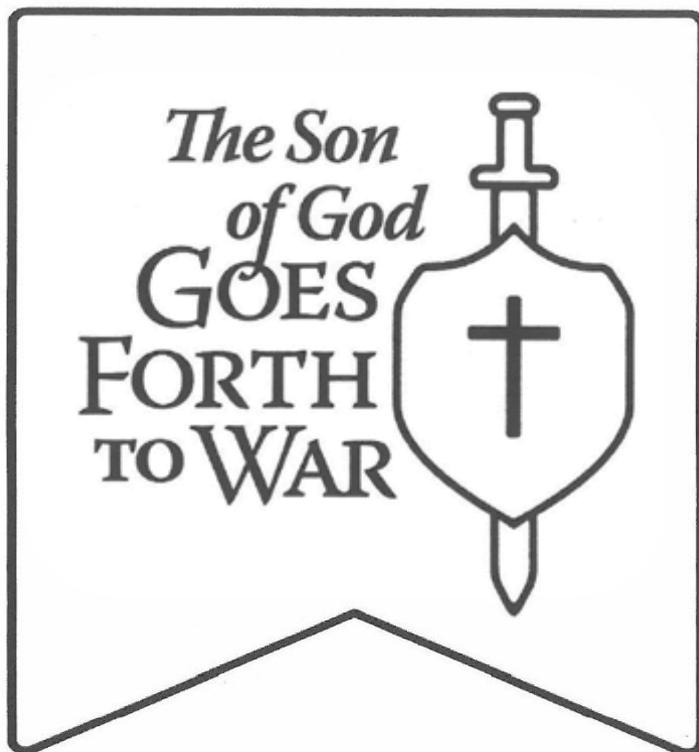
Adam Pavelchik

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday,

February 26, 2020

6:30PM



Our Lenten Theme: *The overall theme for our Lenten season is "The Son of God Goes Forth to War." Scripture is full of imagery and descriptions of our Savior Jesus as the warrior who fights and defeats sin, death, and Satan. Each service throughout the Lenten season focuses on an aspect of our Savior-warrior as He is promised to us, fights our enemies for us, and triumphs over them for us.*

*As we gather together on **Ash Wednesday**, we come before God with repentant hearts; sorry for our sins and turning to God with trust in our Promised Warrior, Jesus Christ—who has won for us forgiveness of those sins. As we gather tonight at His altar for Absolution & the Lord's Supper, this wonderful forgiveness won by our Promised Warrior is delivered to us. What comfort this brings to us!*

Order of Service, p. 130: *The Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution*



(This evening's order of service—adapted from “The Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution” found on pgs. 130-132 of our Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary—has a unique structure and emphasis that focuses us upon the heart and core of the Christian faith. What this service focuses us on is the primary reason why Christians gather together at church in the first place. Here, we come before God as Christians have done throughout the ages, bowing our hearts before the Lord, admitting our sins and calling upon Him to help us. God, speaking through His servants, your pastors, assures you that you have His forgiveness through the atoning sacrifice made by His Son, Jesus Christ. Through the words of Absolution, spoken to you, there is a real impartation of forgiveness that God is giving to you. This special order of service, though only occasionally used, is a powerful reminder to us of what the Christian life is all about: turning to God—admitting our need for His help, and receiving it personally in His Absolution.)

~**Prelude** — *Preservice music & prayer*

*(See “Prayers for Worship”
—ELH p. 40)*

~**Hymn 559, *The Son of God Goes Forth to War***

(Sung to the melody: KINGSFOLD)

~**The Invocation and Versicles**

(ELH p. 130)

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.

P: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.

C: A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. 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.

~**Collect** — *The congregation's prayer of the day*

P: Almighty and everlasting God, You hate nothing that You have made and You forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of You, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

~**Confession of Sin** — *Calling upon God & His forgiveness*

(ELH p. 131, II)

P: And now I ask you, in the presence of God, who searches the heart:

Do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserved His wrath and punishment?

C: I do so confess.

P: Truly you should confess, for Holy Scripture declares: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

Do you heartily repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed?

C: I do repent.

P: Truly you should repent, as did the penitent sinners: King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman; the prodigal son; and others. Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus' sake, will forgive you all your sins?

C: I do so believe.

P: Truly you should believe, for Holy Scripture declares: "God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Do you promise that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will amend your sinful life?

C: I do so promise.

P: Truly you should so promise, for Christ the Lord says: "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Finally, do you believe that through me, a called servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of all your sins?

C: I do so believe.

P: Truly you should believe, for Christ the Lord says: "Whoever hears you, hears Me" and "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them."

~**Personal Absolution** — *God's declaration of forgiveness to you*

(ELH p. 132, II)

P: Upon this your confession, come forward to the altar of the Lord and receive the declaration of the forgiveness of all your sins. *(Under the direction of the ushers, the penitents come forward and kneel at the altar rail. Those who are waiting to come forward are welcome to join in singing the Absolution Hymns.)*

By the authority of God and of my holy office *(then, with the laying on of hands, saying to each one)* I declare to you the gracious forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May He who has begun the good work in you perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Peace be with you. Amen.

~Absolution Hymns

Hymn 276 *When O'er My Sins I Sorrow*

Hymn 103 *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

~General Absolution

(ELH p. 131, 1)

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May He comfort your heart by His holy Absolution, and strengthen you by His Sacraments, that your joy may be full. Peace be with you!

~Collect

(ELH p. 132, 1)

P: 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.

~Epistle Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him. As fellow workers we also urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says: At a favorable time I listened to you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. Look, now is the favorable time! See, now is the day of salvation! We are giving no one a reason to stumble in any way, so that our ministry will not be blamed. Rather, in every way we show ourselves to be God's ministers: in great endurance, in troubles, in hardships, in difficulties, in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in hard work, in sleepless nights, in times of hunger; in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love, in the word of truth, in the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness on the right and on the left; through glory and dishonor, through bad report and good report; treated as deceivers yet being honest, treated as unknown and yet being well known; as dying, and yet look—we live; as punished yet not put to death; as grieving yet always rejoicing; as poor yet making many rich; as having nothing yet possessing everything.

~Senior Choir *Lord For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake* – arr. Richard Farrant

*Lord, for Thy tender mercy's sake,
Lay not our sins to our charge,
But forgive that is past,
And give us grace to amend our sinful lives.
To decline from sin and incline to virtue,
That we may walk in an upright heart,
Before Thee now and evermore. Amen.*

~Gospel Lesson

Matthew 6:16-21 “Whenever you fast, do not make yourself look sad like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces to show everyone that they are fasting. Amen I tell you: They have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that it is not apparent to people that you are fasting, but only to your Father who sees what is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. “Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. Because where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

~Nicene Creed

(ELH p. 69)

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 298, vv. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 *Sing, My Tongue, How Glorious Battle*

~Sermon Text

Isaiah 42:13

The Lord will march out like a champion,
like a warrior he will stir up his zeal;
With a shout he will raise the battle cry
and will triumph over his enemies.

~Sermon Theme

“The Promised Warrior”

~Offering & Hymn 316/317 *Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior*

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.

The Service of Holy Communion



(Following Christ's command, we receive His grace to us in the special meal He instituted for the forgiveness of our sins. Here, He feeds with His true body and His true blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. This is the same body which was born of the Virgin Mary, and the same blood which dripped down the wooden cross. This part of the liturgy is one of the oldest parts, dating back to at least the third century AD.)

Questions and prayers to assist in preparing for the Lord's Supper are found in the black hymnal, pp. 38–40.

Guests & Visitors: *We practice “Close” or “Closed Communion”. We do this out of love and concern for you. We want to make sure that those who take this holy meal receive it as a blessing and not to their harm as Scripture warns. We also understand that those who come forward to take communion are professing a unity of faith with our congregation and are in full agreement with the teachings and doctrines of Mount Olive Lutheran Church and of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Therefore, we ask those who have not taken Holy Communion with us before to peak with a pastor before communing. Thank you.*

~Exhortation

(ELH p. 52-53)

P: Dear friends in Christ! In order that you may receive this holy Sacrament worthily, it is good that you consider what you must now believe and do. From the words of Christ: "This is My body, which is given for you; this is My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sin," you should believe that Jesus Christ is Himself present with His body and blood, as the words declare.

From Christ's words "For the remission of sins," you should believe that Jesus Christ bestows upon you His body and blood to confirm unto you the forgiveness of all your sins.

And finally, you should do as Christ commands you when He says "Take, eat; drink of it, all of you," and "This do in remembrance of Me."

If you believe these words of Christ, and do as He therein has commanded, then you have rightly examined yourselves and may worthily eat Christ's body and drink His blood for the forgiveness of all your sins.

You should also unite in giving thanks to Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for so great a gift, and should love one another with a pure heart, and thus with the whole Christian Church have comfort and joy in Christ our Lord. To this end may God the Father grant you His grace; through the same, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

~Lord's Prayer

(ELH p. 53; 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.

~Words of Institution

(ELH p. 54; Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25)

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** — *“Lamb of God”*

(ELH p. 55; Jn 1:29)

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**

(Communicants come forward at the direction of the ushers. During the Distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:)

Hymn 320 vv. 1, 6-8 *Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Bestowed*

Hymn 333 vv. 1-5 *Christ, the Life of All the Living*

~**Dismissal** — *Assurance of blessing for those who have communed*

(ELH 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.

~**Collect of Thanksgiving** — *In appreciation of God's gifts*

(ELH 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** — *Final blessing for God's people*

(ELH p. 56-57; Num. 6:24-26)

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 Hymn 593 *On My Heart Imprint Thine Image***

Preacher: Pastor Luke Ulrich / Liturgist: Pastor John J. Petersen

Organist: John Baumann

Sr. Choir Director: Elisabeth Urtel



Lenten Meal Schedule

February 26 - Bethany Auxiliary (Pulled Pork)

March 4 - Evangelism Committee (Sloppy Joe's)

March 11 - CDS Faculty (Soup & Sandwich)

March 18 - M.O.M.'s (Hot dish extravaganza)

March 25 - Senior Youth Group (Pulled Pork)

April 1 - Softball Team (Ball park vendor fare)

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES
2020
"The Son of God GOES FORTH TO WAR"

February 26: Ash Wednesday —

Pr. Luke Ulrich

"The Promised Warrior" Isaiah 42:13

March 4: Midweek Lent 2 —

Vicar Jacob Kempfert

"Skirmishes" Hebrews 4:15

March 11: Midweek Lent 3 —

Pr. John Petersen

"The Warrior Faces Satan's Ally – the World" John 18:38

March 18: Midweek Lent 4 —

Pr. Matthew Moldstad (Peace)

"Reconnaissance Report: Know Your Enemy" Ephesians 6:12

March 25: Midweek Lent 5 —

Pr. Keith Siverly (St. Mark's)

"The Warrior Rejected by Many Followers" John 6:66-68

April 1: Midweek Lent 6 —

Pr. Dave Linn (St. Paul's)

"Hidden Warrior" John 11:33-37

April 9: Maundy Thursday —

Tre Ore Service at St. Paul's Lutheran, North Mankato 12pm – 3pm

Tenebrae with Holy Communion at Mt Olive 6:30pm

April 10: Good Friday —

Good Friday with Holy Communion at Mt Olive 6:30pm

April 12: Easter —

Easter Sunrise Service at Mt Olive 7am

Easter Breakfast 8:30-9:30am

Easter Festival with Holy Communion 10am

