



ADVENT 4

Sunday, December 19, 2021, 8:30AM & 10:45AM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School

1123 Marsh Street, Mankato, MN 56001 | (507) 345-4966 | church@mtolivelutheran.org
Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich | Principal Adam Pavelchik | 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 **"Get Connected!"** card (on the tables at the back of worship area). We invite you to come and worship with us again soon.

Explanation of the Week: *The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord!" (Is 40:1-8). This message that John was to proclaim was meant to be a message of comfort. It comforts those who are pointed away from themselves and to Christ for salvation! John pointed to Jesus as the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the One "whose sandal strap John was not worthy to loose" (Jn 1:19-28). Jesus is far greater than we are! He is able to do so much more than we could! We put our hope in Him alone for our salvation. In Him alone we have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding which gives us reason to "Rejoice!" (Phil 4:4-7).*

Order of Service, Rite One (p. 41). This order of service, known as the “Bugenhagen Order,” grew out of the Lutheran Reformation. It was provided for use in the churches of Denmark and Norway in 1537 by Johannes Bugenhagen, Martin Luther’s pastor. Minor revisions were made to this service in 1685 and 1889 before it was translated into English for **The Lutheran Hymnary** (1913). The service printed here comes directly from the **Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary** (1996).



I. The Service of Preparation

(We prepare ourselves for worshiping God by acknowledging our unworthiness to stand before Him, and by receiving His forgiveness through absolution (forgiveness). We respond with thanks and joy.)

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

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

~**Opening Prayer**

(ELH 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 89 vv. 1, 2 *Jesus Came, The Heaven Adoring***

~**Confession of Sin** — *Admitting our sinfulness to God*

(ELH p. 41, 1)

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.

~**Hymn 268 vv. 6 *My Sins are Countless***

**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!**

~General Absolution

(ELH p. 43, II; Mt 11:28, Jn 3:16)

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.

~Salutation — *The people’s blessing for the pastor’s work*

(ELH p. 45)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

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

(ELH p. 45; p. 147-166, #7)

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.



II. The Service of the Word



(After receiving the forgiveness of sins, we thanked God by singing His praises and praying to Him. He now increases our faith through His holy Word which we hear through the Lessons and especially through the Sermon where God’s Word is applied to our lives today.)

~Old Testament Lesson

(EHV)

Isaiah 40:1-8 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her. Her warfare really is over. Her guilt is fully paid for. Yes, she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. A voice is calling out: In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord. In the wasteland make a level highway for our God. Every valley will be raised up, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The rugged ground will become level, and the rough places will become a plain. Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh together will see it. Yes, the mouth of the Lord has spoken. A voice was saying, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry out?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside. Grass withers, flowers fade, when the breath of the Lord blows on them. Yes, the people are grass. Grass withers, flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever.

~Epistle Lesson

(EHV)

Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

~Nicene Creed — *Confession of faith*

(ELH 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.

~Chief Hymn 111 vv. 1-3 *When Sinners See Their Lost Condition*

~Holy Gospel Lesson & Sermon Text

(NKJV)

John 1:6-8, 19-28 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. ... 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.

~Sermon

A Witness To The Light

- 1. A witness with a divine mission.*
- 2. A faithful witness.*
- 3. A humble witness*

~Offering Hymn 89 vv. 3 *Jesus Comes to Hearts Rejoicing*

~Offering Prayer

We take this time to acknowledge and thank God for moving the hearts of His people to continue to support the mission and work of our church. Our ushers will bring the offering plates forward to the altar and the pastor will offer a prayer of thanks. Please Note: You may place any offerings into the plates on the stands at the main aisle entrance to the Sanctuary either before or after the service. Online giving is also available through mtolivelutheran.org or by text message through your smartphone by texting the amount you would like to give to 833-726-3742 (a link will be provided for first-time users to register an account.)

~Prayer of the Church

(ELH p. 48)

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!

III. 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 Speak with a pastor before communing. Thank you.*

~**Preface** — *Preparing our hearts for Communion* (ELH p. 50; 2 Tim 4:22, Col 3:1, Ps 136)

P: The Lord be with you. **C: ♪ And with your spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts unto the Lord. **C: ♪ We lift up our hearts unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God. **C: ♪ It is good and right so to do.**

~**General Preface** (ELH p. 51)

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the Messiah, the very Lamb of God, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

~**Sanctus** — *“Holy, Holy, Holy”* (ELH p. 51-52)

C: ♪ Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; heav’n and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

~**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

Hymn 111 vv. 4-6 *When Jesus Comes. O Blessed Story*

Hymn 89 vv. 4, 5 *Jesus Comes in Joy and Sorrow*

Hymn 111 vv. 7-9 *Behold, He at the Door is Knocking*

Hymn 313 vv. 12, 14, 15 *With Thee, Lord, I am now United*

~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 110 vv. 4 *O Come, Thou Rod of Jesse’s Stem*

~Closing Prayer

(ELH p. 59)

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.

~Announcements

~Postlude — *Opportunity for prayer & to greet one another!*

(See "Prayers for Worship"
—ELH p. 40)

Officiant: Pastor John Petersen

Organists: 1st: Cassie Johnson /2nd: Elisabeth Urtel

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Sunday: 8:30am,190; 10:45am, 134; Monday: 32

Sunday Live (8:30am) Online Viewing: 31

WE THANK THOSE SERVING OUR LORD THIS WEEK:

Greeters: 1st service: Mark & Michelle Graham and Ron & Mary Younge

2nd Service: Mark & Vivian Smith

Media Center: John Baumann

Offering Counters: John Foede, John Baumann, Jana Finken

Altar Guild: Heidi Graham, Sharon Madson

Weekly Financial Update

Given Last Week: \$18,327.72 (includes text & on-line giving)

Fiscal Year-to-Date Deficit (as of 10/31/21): \$18,045

Philippians 4:19 And my God will fully supply your every need, according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Did you know you can give your offering online? Just go to www.mtolivelutheran.org and click on the link, "[donate online](#)".

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 10:00 AM and Thursdays at 11:30AM.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: *December 19, 2021 — December 26, 2021*

Sunday, December 19	8:30AM	Divine Worship
	9:45AM	Sunday School and Bible Study
	10:45AM	Divine Worship
	3PM	CDS Children’s Christmas Service
	7:30PM	Volleyball
Monday, December 20	6:30PM	Divine Worship
	6:30PM	Board for Stewardship
Tuesday, December 21	6:30PM	Jesus Cares Ministry Christmas Service
Wednesday, December 22	4PM	Confirmation Class
Thursday, December 23		
Friday, December 24	4:30PM	Christmas Eve Service
	7PM	Candlelight Service
Saturday, December 25	10AM	Christmas Festival Service w/Holy Communion
Sunday, December 26	8:30AM	Divine Worship
	10:45AM	Divine Worship No Volleyball

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Mt. Olive Lutheran Church & School



Flowers: Flowers on the altar today are given to God’s glory in memory of loved ones, by Ruth & Bob Heidenreich, Art & Terri Westphal, Elli & Joe Fisher, Paul & Mary Jane Tweit, Mark & Sharon Madson, Mark & Michelle Graham, Phyllis Kenning (Bud and Joe) Bill & Suzanne Bohning Rev. Ted & Diane Gullixson (Ruth Gullixson Webber), Dottie Kunkle (Jim), Janet & Greg Costello, Andy & Laurie Overn, Antonio Guerrero Jr, Jeannette Koberg (Jerry), Brenda & Duane Garbers, Dan & Jane Birkholz (our parents), Keith & Claudia Eisberg, Audrey Spear (Stella & Raymond Richter), and Harlan Mehlop.

On the Narthex table Meditations, December’s Olive Press, and Volunteer sign up sheets.



Sign Up for Coffee & Treats! If you would like to provide coffee and treats during our Sunday morning Bible Study, visit our website mtolivelutheran.org for further information.

Feeling under the weather? For the time being, please stay at home and view the service on our Facebook page. Then, be sure to come back to worship “in person” just as soon as you can!

Mount Olive is in need of volunteers for setting up and serving catered lunches for funerals held here at the church. Please sign up on the table in the Narthex if you can assist us in this important work. Call the church office with any questions. Thank you!

Join us today! For the CDS Children’s Christmas Service in the gym, **today** at 3pm. Students need to be in their classrooms no later than 2:45pm

Youth skiing/snowboarding trip – Dec 21 | 4pm 7-12th grade youth are invited to come for an evening of skiing/snowboarding at Mount Kato on Tuesday, Dec. 21st, at 4pm. Parents and siblings are welcome to join us. The cost is \$10 for a lift ticket, \$10 for rentals, and \$4 for helmets. Please indicate when signing up how many of each you will need for your family. Please bring cash or a check (written out to Peace Lutheran Church). Sign up at peacemankato.com/skiing

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School

The MVL Christmas concert, "Oh That We Were There," will be presented on Wednesday, **December 22nd** in the school gymnasium. The concert will feature the MVL Symphonic Band, our Freshman Choir, the A Capella Choir, and the Chargaliers. The band will begin playing at 6:45 P.M. with the processional of the choirs at 7:00. We sincerely hope that you can join us as we finish our semester with the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus! Merry Christmas to you all!

Bethany Lutheran College

Bethany Lutheran College is taking applications for the following positions, please see our website for additional information. Maintenance Technician, Custodian - Academic Buildings, Production Studio Specialist, Adjunct Faculty (Public Relations)

Community Opportunities

ELS Winter Youth Retreat and Trip to Nickelodeon Universe. Our 7th grade to high school youth are invited to a Winter Youth Retreat at Heritage Lutheran in Apple Valley from **January 28th to 29th**. The retreat will include an evening of fun, games, and Bible Study on Friday night with a trip to Nickelodeon Universe (NU) on Saturday. The cost is \$30 per student and covers a five-hour unlimited ride pass to NU as well as food and drinks while at Heritage. You can bring cash or write a check to Peace Lutheran Church (the church setting up the retreat) the day of. Go to peacemankato.com/retreat to sign up and for more details. Students must sign-up by **January 23rd** to guarantee their spot.

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod invites applications for the position of Business Administrator. Request job description from Keith Wiederhoeft, 6 Browns Court, Mankato MN 56001. Keithw@blc.edu. 507-344-7395. Please submit resume and references to President Glenn R. Obenberger at the same address by January 10. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Minimum of Bachelor's degree in business administration, accounting or finance. Benefits include health, life insurance, and pension plan. Start date after March 1, 2022.

Come, join us, and see what we do at Jesus Cares. There might be a way that you would be comfortable helping.

Jesus Cares Ministry Christmas Service

**Tuesday, December 21
6:30 P.M.**

**Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
1123 Marsh St.
Mankato, MN**



- CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - Friday, Dec. 24th
 - 4p - Mt. Olive Strings - Sacred Christmas Music
 - 4:30p Service
 - 7p CANDLELIGHT Service
- CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE - Saturday, Dec. 25th
 - 10a Christmas Festival Service with Holy Communion
- NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE - Friday, Dec. 31st
 - 6:30p Service with Individual Absolution & Holy Communion

*(Please Note: Our Office will be closed on December 24th & 31st.
Please contact our Pastors directly if there is an emergency.)*