



*Christmas Day Service, Saturday, December 25, 2021; 10 AM*

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School, ELS

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Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich | 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.

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*Order of Service, Rite One (p. 41)*



**I. The Service of Preparation**  
*(We prepare ourselves for worshipping God by acknowledging our unworthiness to stand before Him, and by receiving His forgiveness through absolution (forgiveness). We respond with thanks and joy.)*

**~Prelude** — *Recorders Group & 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 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful**

**~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.**

**~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** — *God's declaration of forgiveness*

(ELH p. 43, II; Mk. 16:16)

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.

~**Canticle: Hymn 116 vv. 3, 4** *Come to Bethlehem and See*

~**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. 148, #11)

P: Let us pray: Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks to You that of Your mercy and compassion You caused Your Son to become incarnate, and through Him redeemed us from sin and everlasting death: We beseech You, enlighten our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that we may ever be thankful for such grace, and comfort ourselves thereby in all tribulation and temptation, and at last obtain eternal salvation; through the same, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

**C:** ♪ **Amen.**

~**Senior Choir: Glory to God**

(Handel)

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heav'nly host, praising God, and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, goodwill towards men.

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## 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**

**Isaiah 9:2-7** The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.  
For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.  
You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.  
They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time,  
like the celebration when people divide the plunder.  
For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them.

You have broken the bar on their shoulders and  
the rod of their oppressor,  
as you did in the day of Midian.  
Every boot that marched in battle  
and the garments rolled in blood will be burned.  
They will be fuel for the fire.  
For to us a child is born.  
To us a son is given.  
The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.  
He will be named:  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.  
There will be no limit to his authority  
and no end to the peace he brings.  
He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness  
from now on, into eternity.  
The zeal of the Lord of Armies will accomplish this..

**~Hymn 115 vv. 1-3 *All My Heart Sings and Rejoices***

**~Holy Gospel Lesson**

**John 1:1-14** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**C: ♪ *God be prais-èd for His glad ti-dings.***

~Hymn 115 vv. 5, 6 *If Our Blessed Lord and Maker*

~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.**

~Hymn 115, vv. 7, 8 *Hark! A Voice from Yonder Manger*

~Exordium

~Hymn 142 *Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn*

~Epistle Lesson & Sermon Text

**1 John 1:1-4** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched-- this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.

## ~Sermon Theme

*Complete Joy!*

- 1. We have it, because the Word of life has appeared.*
- 2. And, because His appearing gives life.*
- 3. And, because He gives us the joy of proclaiming it.*

## ~Hymn 150 vv. 1-3 *In This Our Happy Christmastide*

## ~Prayers & Special Petitions

### ~Apostolic Benediction

*(ELH 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.

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### 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.*

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## ~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 148, vv. 1-3, 6-8 Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men**

**Hymn 113, vv. 1, 2, 4 A Great and Mighty Wonder**

**Hymn 125, vv. 3, 4 Hail, the Heavenly Prince of Peace**

**~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.

**~Hymn of Thanksgiving 327, v. 1 O Lord, We Praise Thee**

**~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 126 *God Rest You Merry***

**~Closing Prayer**

*(ELH 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.

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

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

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*Officiant: Pastor John Petersen / Organist: Mark DeGarmeaux  
Senior Choir Director: Kayelynn Lawson*

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- **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.)*



**Poinsettias:** Flowers on the altar today are given to God's glory in memory of loved ones, by Elli & Joe Fisher, Mark & Michelle Graham, Ruth & Bob Heidenreich, Mark & Sharon Madson, Paul & Mary Jane Tweit, Art & Terri Westphal, 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.