



EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 2, 2022, 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 Welcome table and in front of you in the pew). We invite you to come and worship with us again soon.

Explanation of the Week: *In fleeing from murderous Herod, our young Lord goes to Egypt (Mt 2:13-23), that the prophecy might be fulfilled, “Out of Egypt I called my Son” (Hos 11:1). Jesus brings to perfection what old Israel could not. He is the faithful Israel, the true embodiment of the people of God. Unlike Herod, He is the true king who has come to help—not hurt or murder—His people. He is one who comes with true concern for His people—one who comes in gentleness and concern. (Isaiah 42:1-4). Because of this, He offers His perfect and holy life in place of our own. He submits Himself to persecution and suffering in order to save us. Therefore, we should not think it strange when we who are in Christ experience trials because of the faith (1 Pet 4:12-19). Rather, we rejoice to share in Christ’s sufferings, knowing that we will also share in His glory.*

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 168 As With Gladness Men of Old**

~**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 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.

~Canticle 113 vv. 1, 4 A Great and Mighty Wonder

~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, #18)

P: Let us pray: O God, by the leading of a star You manifested Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles: Mercifully grant that we, who know You now by faith, may after this life enjoy the fullness of Your glorious Godhead; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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

(NKJV)

Isaiah 63:1-6 Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength? — “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.” Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? “I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes. For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come. I looked, but there was no one to help, And I wondered That there was no one to uphold; Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; And My own fury, it sustained Me. I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, Made them drunk in My fury, And brought down their strength to the earth.”

~Hymn 153 vv. 1, 4 *The People That In Darkness Sat*

~Epistle Lesson

(NKJV)

Romans 3:23-31 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

~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 167 vv. 1, 2 *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star*

~Holy Gospel Lesson & Sermon Text

(NKJV)

Matthew 2:1-12 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' " Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

~Sermon

Traveling On Faith

1. *The Wise Men traveled by faith in God's word.*
2. *By faith they persisted in the journey.*
3. *By faith they reached their destination.*

~Offering Hymn 120 vv. 1, 3 **Bright and Glorious**

(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.)

~Offering Prayer

~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!

~Lord's Prayer

(ELH p. 49; 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 power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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.**

~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 145 *What Child Is This?*

Hymn 167 vv. 3, 4 *Now Richly to My Waiting Heart*

Hymn 120 vv. 5, 6 *Guided By the Star*

Hymn 166 *Arise, and Shine in Splendor*

~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 172 vv. 1, 4 Songs of Thanksgiving and Praise**

~**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,90; 10:45am, 108; Monday: 33

Sunday Live (8:30am) Online Viewing: 40

WE THANK THOSE SERVING OUR LORD THIS WEEK:

Greeters: 1st service: Nate & Heidi Graham

2nd Service: Dan & Joanne Maas

Media Center: David Norris

Offering Counters: Steve Lussky, John Pfeffer

Altar Guild: Connie Gullixson, Connie Meyer

Weekly Financial Update

Given Last Week: \$38,376.44 (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: *January 2, 2022 — January 9, 2022*

Sunday, January 2	8:30AM	Divine Worship w/Holy Communion No Sunday School and Bible Study
	10:45AM	Divine Worship w/Holy Communion
Monday, January 3	6:30PM	Divine Worship
	7PM	Board of Deacons
Tuesday January 4	6:30PM	Jesus Cares Ministry
Wednesday January 5	8:10AM	CDS Chapel
	9AM	Adult Bible Study
	4PM	Confirmation Class
	6:30PM	Board of Education
Thur. Jan. 6		
Fri. January 7		
Sat. January 8		
Sunday, January 9	8:30AM	Divine Worship
	9:45AM	Sunday School and Bible Study
	10:45AM	Divine Worship Volleyball
	6-9PM	Artemis Gaming

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Mt. Olive Lutheran Church & School

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!

 **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. and the Coffee Servers Sign Up link at the bottom of the page. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 8:00 AM to prepare the coffee (regular and decaffeinated) and serve 4-5 dozen treats.

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

Mount Olive is in need of volunteers for setting up and serving catered lunches for funerals held at the church. 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!

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 Mehhlop.

Bethany Lutheran College

Bethany Lutheran College is taking applications for the following positions, 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. 7th – 12th grade youth are invited to a Winter Youth Retreat at Heritage Lutheran in Apple Valley. **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. Bring cash or make checks payable to Peace Lutheran Church 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.