



A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT SEEN FROM A DISTANCE



THE PROPHETS PROCLAIM CHRIST'S COMING

ADVENT 3 MIDWEEK

Wednesday, December 14, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church & School

1123 Marsh St., Mankato, MN 56001 / (507) 345-4966 / church@mtolivelutheran.org

Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich / Principal Benjamin Springer

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Service of Lessons & Carols

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. **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.

~Prelude

~Opening Hymn 12 *Come, Thou Almighty King*

~Introduction & Prayer

P: Beloved in Christ! As Christmas approaches, we want to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, so that in heart and mind we go to Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture the story of God’s loving plan from the day of the fall into sin unto the glorious salvation won for us by this Holy Child, and let us respond with songs and prayers of joy and praise.

~Lord’s Prayer

(ELH p. 125; 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.

~Hymn 110, vv. 1, 5 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

~Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15 They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. The LORD God called

to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" The man said, "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself." God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it." The LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the livestock, and more than every wild animal. You shall crawl on your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel.

~Hymn 125, vv. 2, 4 *Christ, by Highest Heav'n Adored*

~Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18 The Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "I have sworn by myself, declares the Lord, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will bless you greatly, and I will multiply your descendants greatly, like the stars of the sky and like the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the city gates of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

~Hymn 165, vv. 1-5 *Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord*

~Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 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. 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 153, vv. 1, 4-7 *The People That in Darkness Sat*

~Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-4 A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the

fear of the LORD. He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears, but with righteousness he will judge the poor, and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death.

~Hymn 121, vv. 1, 2, 4 *Behold, a Branch Is Growing*

~Lesson

Luke 1:26-38 In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women." But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end." Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month. For nothing will be impossible for God." Then Mary said, "See, I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

~Hymn 131 *Now Hail the Day So Rich in Cheer*

~Lesson

Luke 2:1-7 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. And everyone went to register, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child. And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

~Hymn 145 *What Child Is This?*

~Lesson

Luke 2:8-16 There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind." When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Now let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

~Hymn 147 *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

~Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. He gathered together all the people's chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet: You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel." Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

~Hymn 168, vv. 1, 4, 5 *As With Gladness Men of Old*

~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.

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

~Prayer

P. O God, You gladden our hearts with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him when He shall come to be our judge; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

~Solo *I Wonder As I Wander* (J.M. Niles; text modification by D. Neubauer, 2022)

*I wander as I wander out under the sky.
How Jesus the Savior was born for to die
For poor ordinary people like you and like I,
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.*

*God came as our Brother and gave up His throne.
An innocent Baby, He made earth His home.
Was sacrificed for us His blood to atone.
Invites us to heaven and makes us His own.*

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky.
That Almighty God was born, lived, and died,
Loves all of His creatures, like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.*

~Benediction

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 Hymn 141 *Once He Came in Blessing*

~Announcements

~Postlude

Officiant: Pastor John J. Petersen
Organist: Elisabeth Urtel



Children's Christmas Service:

Sunday, December 18th, 3pm

Christmas Eve Services:

Saturday, December 24th, 4:30pm & 7pm (***Candlelight Service***)
(*Preservice Christmas Music by the Mt. Olive Strings at 4pm*)

Christmas Day Festival Service:

Sunday, December 25th, 10am