



ADVENT 4

Sunday, December 18, 2022, 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School

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

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

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. **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.

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. 148, #8)

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, it is good and right that we should give thanks to You, that You have given us a glorious baptism like that of John the Baptist, and that therein You have promised us the forgiveness of sins, the Holy Spirit, and everlasting life through Your Son, Jesus Christ: We beseech You, by Your grace and mercy preserve us in such faith, that we never doubt Your promise, but be comforted by our baptism, until, by Your grace, we obtain our 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. Amen

~**Hymn 89, vv. 1, 3, 5** *Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring*

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

(ELH p. 41-42, II)

P: Let us confess our sins to God and pray: We poor sinners confess to You, O God, not only that we have been conceived and born in sin, but also that throughout life we have often and in many ways offended You, our Lord and Maker, in thought, word and deed, so that You could with perfect justice reject and condemn us for all eternity.

Therefore we come before You with sorrow of heart, in dread and terror of Your holy justice and of everlasting death. Our sins are a grievous foe, which we should hate in every way as long as we live.

O merciful God, You still grant us in this hour to be reminded of Your fatherly goodness. According to the promise of Your Word we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, and implore You, dearest Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your only-begotten Son, our Brother, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised again for our justification: Forgive us all our sins through faith, which the Holy Spirit increases in our hearts to full assurance.

C: We therefore pray You, O Lord, through Your servant to declare to us the forgiveness of all our sins. We poor sinners are willing to forgive all who have offended against us. We earnestly desire to grow in true godliness. Help us, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. 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!**

~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. 148, #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

(ELH p. 45; 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

(ELH p. 45; 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 109 *Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes*

~Holy Gospel Lesson & Sermon Text

(ELH p. 45; EHV)

John 1:19-29 This is the testimony John gave when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny. He confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “Who are you then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” “No,” he answered. Then they asked him, “Who are you? Tell us so we can give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ just as Isaiah the prophet said.” They had been sent from the Pharisees. So they asked John, “Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, or Elijah, or the Prophet?” “I baptize with water,” John answered. “Among you stands one you do not know. He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.” These things happened in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. The next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

~Sermon Theme

“Who Are You? One Who Points to Jesus...”

~Offering Hymn 115, vv. 3, 5, 6 *Shall We Still Dread God's Displeasure?*

~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).

~Prayers & Special Petitions

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.**

~Exhortation

(ELH p. 52)

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**

Hymn 111, vv. 1-5 *When Sinners See Their Lost Condition*

Hymn 90, vv. 1, 4, 5, 6 *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Hymn 111, vv. 6-9 *O May He Soon to Ev'ry Nation*

Hymn 325 *O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee*

~**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, v. 1** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

~**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.

~**Announcements**

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

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

Officiant: Pastor Luke Ulrich
Organists: 1st: Cassie Johnson / 2nd: Mark DeGarmeaux
Preservice Music (both services): Mathias Barents

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

Sunday: 8:30am, 238; 10:45am, 184; Monday: 13; Wednesday: 188
Online Viewing: Sunday, 15; Wednesday, 4

WE THANK THOSE SERVING OUR LORD TODAY:

Greeters: 1st Service—Mark & Vivian Smith, Ron & Mary Younge
2nd Service—Keith Anderson

Offering Counters: John Baumann, Jana Finken

Altar Guild: Heidi Graham, Sharon Madson, Peggy Harstad

Media Center: John Baumann

Weekly Financial Update

Given Last Week: \$38,397.11

Fiscal Year-to-Date Surplus (Deficit) as of 10/31/22: (\$36,757.05)

2 Corinthians 9:8 God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will overflow in every good work.

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 available on local cable channel 181 (Charter) and 7 & 507 (Consolidated Communications) on Wednesdays at 10am and Thursdays at 11:30am.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: *December 18, 2022 — December 25, 2022*

Sunday, December 18	8:30AM	Divine Worship w/Holy Communion
	9:45AM	Sunday School/BIC/Adult Bible Class
	10:45AM	Divine Worship w/Holy Communion
	3PM	Children’s Christmas Service
	6-9PM	Artemis Christmas Party
	7:30PM	Volleyball (coed recreational)
Monday, December 19	10AM	CDS Christmas Break begins Veterans Bible Study
	6:30PM	Divine Worship w/Holy Communion
	6:30PM	Board for Stewardship
Tuesday, December 20		No Ladies’ Bible Study
	6:30PM	Jesus Cares Ministry Christmas Program
Wednesday, December 21		No Adult Bible Study
	7PM	Adult Choir
Thurs., Dec. 22		
Fri., Dec. 23		
Saturday, December 24		Christmas Eve
	4:30PM	Christmas Eve Service
	7PM	Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 25		Christmas Day
	10AM	Divine Worship w/Holy Communion
		No BIC/Sunday School/Bible Study No Artemis

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Mt. Olive Lutheran Church & School

Flowers on the altar today are given to God’s glory by Andy & Laurie Overn in memory of Andy’s father, Robert Overn.

Baptized yesterday: Vivian Ruth Geibe and Harold Earl Geibe, infant twins of Phillip Geibe and Jane Mueller. Sponsors are Julie Mueller and Maggie Hamen. May they ever grow in Christ and be blessed through this Sacrament.

Winter Clothing Drive: **today** is the last day to donate new or gently used coats, hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, snow pants, or boots that your family is no longer using. Place your items in boxes located outside the classrooms and in the coat rack hallway.

Who Is He? Find the answer to that question by attending the Children's Christmas Concert **today** at 3pm, at Mt. Olive. Parents: please have your children at the school by 2:30pm.

Artemis is meeting at 6pm tonight instead of December 25 for our Christmas Party gift exchange! Kids who wish to participate should bring a wrapped gift of about \$10; also, bring \$3 if you want pizza and pop.

Any string players (violin, viola, cello, bass) interested in joining the Mt. Olive Strings in playing pre-service music for our 4:30pm Christmas Eve service should contact Sue Halvorson by this Tuesday, **December 20**.

**You're invited
to our**

**Jesus Cares
Ministry
Christmas Service**

Tuesday, December 20
6:30 PM
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
1123 Marsh St.
Mankato, MN 56001



Kiwanis Light Volunteer Opportunities: Mt. Olive has two more opportunities to volunteer with the Kiwanis Holiday Lights located in Sibley Park this Christmas Season. We need **8 volunteers on Thursday, December 29**, from 4:30-9pm. Also, we need **3 volunteers on Sunday, January 2**, from 1-4pm, to help tear down the lights. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. Please reach out to Matthew Holt at 507-340-8014 with any questions.

Bethany Lutheran College is taking applications for a controller and a head volleyball coach. Please check the Bethany website for more information: <https://blc.edu/campus-life/campus-services/human-resources/bethany-jobs/>

Could you help serve school lunches at Mt. Olive? If so, please contact the church office.

Thank you to everyone who donated fleece and/or cut fleece for the blanket project in After School Care. Together, we tied and donated 12 blankets to The Reach, a drop-in center for homeless and at-risk youth in the Mankato area.

Help the church office update our email address database. If you would like to receive Mt. Olive announcements (such as the monthly *Olive Press* newsletter or giving statements) electronically, please let the church office know, and we can add or update your email address in our files. Thank you!



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

Mount Olive Lutheran Church Mission Statement

The mission of Mount Olive Lutheran Church is to proclaim the Gospel of Christ through God's Word, so that souls are called into and kept in the Christian faith unto eternal life.