



## Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25, 2022; 10 AM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School

1123 Marsh Street Mankato, MN 56001 | (507) 345-4966 | [mtolive@mtolivelutheran.org](mailto:mtolive@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.

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**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).

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## 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 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!

~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: 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, #10)

P: Let us pray: Grant, we beseech You, almighty God, that the new birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free who are held in the old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

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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

(ELH p. 45; EHV)

**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.

**~Men's Group** *Sing with Joy, Glad Voices* (J. Geletzky; arr. S. Wolff)

*Sing with joy, glad voices lift, Honor God, the highest Gift,  
Who such wondrous deeds performs, Who sent His own beloved Son to save us,  
Everlasting life through Him He gave us. Truly, truly! God was born of lowly maid.  
Out of His great love the Father willed it. On this day did He appear,  
Christ Jesus dear, Immanuel, Brings to us salvation, Saves us from death and hell.*

*See how angels in the sky God in heaven glorify. Sing as they the glad refrain  
Of peace on earth, good will to men and blessing, Exultation in the song expressing,  
Truly, truly! So bless we the Christ Child then, Join their chorus,  
Sing again with gladness: Glory be to God on high, on high,  
On earth be peace, to men good will. Joy and wonder evermore each heart may fill.*

**~Holy Gospel Lesson**

(ELH p. 46; EHV)

**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.*

~**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 115, vv. 1-3, 5, 6** *All My Heart Sings and Rejoices*

~**Exordium** — *Festival exhortation and introduction from the preacher*

~**Exordium Hymn 142** *Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn*

~**Epistle Lesson & Sermon Text**

(ELH p. 48, EHV)

**2 Corinthians 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich.

~**Sermon Theme**

*The Incarnation: He Became Poor, so That We Can Be Rich!*

## ~Offering Hymn 115, vv. 7, 10, 14 Hark! A Voice From Yonder Manger

### ~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](http://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!**

~**Apostolic Benediction** — *Final blessing for God's people* (ELH p. 127; Num. 6:24-26)

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.*

~**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, for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory, that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things which are not seen. 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**

*(Communicants come at the direction of 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 Heav'nly Prince of Peace**

**Hymn 135 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice**

~**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 Thanks: Hymn 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. 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)*

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*Officiant: Pastor Luke Ulrich  
Cover Artwork: Jason Jaspersen (used with permission)  
Organist: John Baumann  
Men’s Group Director: Carl Bloedel*

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**LAST WEEK’S ATTENDANCE/THE LORD’S SUPPER**

**Sunday: 8:30am**, 185/154; **10:45am**, 138/94; **Monday: 17/13**

**Sunday**: CDS Children’s Christmas Service, 750

**Online Viewing**: 10

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**WE THANK THOSE SERVING OUR LORD TODAY:**

**Greeters**: 1<sup>st</sup> Service—Mark & Vivian Smith, Ron & Mary Younge  
2<sup>nd</sup> Service—Keith Anderson

**Offering Counters**: John Baumann, Jana Finken

**Altar Guild**: Heidi Graham, Sharon Madson, Peggy Harstad

**Media Center**: Dave Norris

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**Weekly Financial Update**

**Given Last Week**: \$21,586.81

**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](http://www.mtolivelutheran.org) and click on the link “*donate online*”.

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**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 25, 2022 — January 1, 2023***

<b>Sunday,</b> December 25	10AM	Divine Worship w/Holy Communion <b>No BIC/Sunday School/Bible Study</b> <b>No Artemis</b>
<b>Monday,</b> December 26		<b>No Worship Service</b>
<b>Tuesday,</b> December 27		<b>No Ladies' Bible Study</b>
<b>Wednesday,</b> December 28		<b>No Adult Bible Study</b> <b>No Adult Choir</b>
<b>Thurs., Dec. 29</b>	4:30-9PM	Kiwanis Lights volunteers
<b>Fri., Dec. 30</b>		
<b>Sat., Dec. 31</b>		<b>No New Year's Eve Service</b>
<b>Sunday,</b> January 1	8:30AM  10:45AM	<b>New Year's Day</b> Divine Worship w/Holy Communion and Individual Absolution No BIC/Sunday School/Bible Study Divine Worship w/Holy Communion and Individual Absolution

**ANNOUNCEMENTS—Mt. Olive Lutheran Church & School**

**Flowers on the altar today** are given to God's glory by Bob & Ruth Heidenreich in honor of their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, which they celebrated this past Friday. May God continue to bless them and their family into the future.

**Thank you** to all who purchased craft items to support the mission work being done by Thai Village to bring the Gospel to the country of Thailand. A total of \$2,700 was raised to support this mission. Please keep Thai Village and its mission among the Buddhist villagers in your prayers.

**Mt. Olive Congregation Night** at MVL is Friday, **January 6**—it's MVL Boys' Basketball vs. Sleepy Eye—St. Mary's. The C-squad game is at 4:45pm, the JV at 6pm, and the Varsity at 7:30pm. The church office has free tickets—first come, first served.

**Artemis participants:** please note that there is no Artemis on Sunday, **January 8**.

**The MVL Christmas Concert** originally scheduled for this past Wednesday, December 21, has been rescheduled to Sunday, **January 8**. The band will begin playing at 6:45pm, and the concert will begin at 7pm.



Mt. Olive is scheduled to provide volunteers at New 2 You on Saturday, **January 7**. Both morning and afternoon shifts are available. Duties include running the cash register, bagging customer purchases and helping display merchandise. Check out the new displays and shop while you are there! The sign-up sheet is on the narthex table. Your time and support is much appreciated, and it supports Christian education! Please call New 2 You at 507-345-1455 if you have any questions. Thank you!

**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!

**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.