



LENT 3

Sunday, March 12, 2023, 8:30 & 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.

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. We respond with thanks and joy.)

~**Prelude** — *Preservice music & opportunity for prayer*

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

~**Hymn 261** *Who Trusts in God, a Strong Abode*

Invocation — *Calling upon the Triune God*

(ELH p. 60; Matt. 28:19)

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: ♪ Amen.

~**Confession & Absolution** — *Admitting our guilt & receiving God's forgiveness*

(ELH p. 60, II; Ps 124:8, Ps 32:5)

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: ♪ Who made heav'n and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord;

C: ♪ And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: 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 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.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only-begotten Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

C: Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.

~**Introit** — *Entrance Psalm*

(ELH p. 62)

P: My eyes are ever toward the Lord,

C: For He shall pluck my feet out of the net;

P: To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul,

C: O my God, I trust in You.

P: Turn Yourself to me and have mercy on me,

C: For I am desolate and afflicted.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

~**The Kyrie Eleison**— *“Lord, Have Mercy”*

(ELH p. 63, l; Mk 10:47)

C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

~**Salutation** — *The people’s blessing for the Pastor’s work*

(ELH p. 66; 2 Tim 4:22)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

~**Collect** — *The congregation’s prayer of the day*

(ELH p. 66; p. 153, #44)

P: Let us pray: We beseech You, almighty God, look upon the hearty desires of Your humble servants, and stretch forth the right hand of Your majesty to be our defense against all our enemies; 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**

(EHV)

2 Samuel 22:1-7 David spoke the words of this song to the LORD on the day when the LORD had delivered him from the grasp of all his enemies, even from the grasp of Saul. He said: The LORD is my rocky cliff, my stronghold, and my deliverer. My God is my rock. I take refuge in him. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my high fortress, my refuge, and my savior. You save me from violence. I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies. The

waves of death swirled around me. Floodwaters of destruction rolled over me. The ropes of the grave wrapped around me. The traps of death threatened me. In my distress I called to the LORD. To my God I cried out. He heard my voice from his temple. My cry for help reached his ears.

~Lenten Sentence

(ELH p. 67)

C: ♪ Christ has humbled Himself, and become obedient unto death; ev'n the death of the Cross.

~Holy Gospel Lesson

(EHV)

P: The Holy Gospel for the third Sunday in Lent is written in the eleventh chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke, beginning at the fourteenth verse.

C: ♪ Glory be to You, O Lord!

Luke 11:14-28 Jesus drove out a demon, which was mute. After the demon had gone out, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed. But some of them said, "He drives out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons." Others were testing him by demanding of him a sign from heaven. But he knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is destroyed. And a house divided against itself falls. If Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? You say that I drive out demons by Beelzebul. But if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons drive them out? So they will be your judges. Yet if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks him and defeats him, he takes away that man's full armor, in which he had trusted, and divides up his plunder. "The one who is not with me is against me. The one who does not gather with me scatters. When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places, seeking rest, but does not find any. Then it says, 'I will return to my house, the one I left.' When it returns, it finds the house swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and dwell there. The last condition of that man becomes worse than the first." While he was saying these things, a woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that carried you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" But he said, "Even more blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it."

C: ♪ Praise be to You, O Christ!

~**Apostles' Creed** — *Confession of faith*

(ELH p. 68)

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.

~**Hymn 259, vv. 1, 5, 6, 7** *The Kingdom Satan Founded*

~**Epistle Lesson & Sermon Text**

(EHV)

Revelation 2:1-7 To the messenger of the church in Ephesus write: The one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven gold lampstands, says this: I know your works, your labor, and your patient endurance, and that you are not able to tolerate evil people. You have tested those who say they are apostles, but are not, and have found them to be liars. Indeed, you do have patient endurance. You have endured hardships on account of my name and have not become weary. But I have this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember, therefore, the state from which you have fallen! Repent and do the works you did at first. Otherwise I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, if you do not repent. But you do have this: You hate the actions of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious I will give the privilege to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

~**Sermon Theme**

"Does Our Church Resemble the Church in Ancient Ephesus?"

- 1. Do we deserve the praise the Lord gave them?*
- 2. Do we deserve the admonishment the Lord gave them?*

~**Offertory** — *Prayer of renewal before offering*

(ELH p. 70-71; Ps 51:10-12)

C: ♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit. Amen.

~**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.)

~**Prayer of the Church**

(ELH p. 71-72)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

(Special petitions are included)

P: For..., let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: O Lord, heavenly Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit we faithfully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. We praise You for His victorious resurrection from the dead. We thank You for the strength of grace and majesty of faith which He bestows on the Church by virtue of His ascension to Your right hand, where He intercedes for us as our Advocate and High Priest. Grant that the Holy Spirit will gather us into the company of all the faithful from the ends of the earth, so that we may celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.

In Your mercy receive our prayers. Deliver us and preserve us. To You alone we give all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore. Amen.

~Lord's Prayer

(ELH p. 85; 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.

~Collect of Thanksgiving

(ELH p. 86, III)

P: Grant, we beseech You, Almighty God, unto Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from above, that Your Word, as becomes it, may not be bound, but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and in the confession of Your name abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

~Benediction — *Final blessing for God's people*

(ELH p. 87; 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.

~Hymn 409, vv. 1, 2, 5, 6 *Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower*

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

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

Officiant: Pastor John Petersen

Organists: 1st: Cassie Johnson / 2nd: John Baumann



Brass players, adults or students: a brass band will be accompanying the organ on simple and familiar hymns for the Easter Sunrise service. Find your horn, start practicing, and let the church office (or Dan Neubauer at 507-514-2035) know that you are available to play. Music will be sent to you for a short run-through sometime during Holy Week (time and date to be determined later). Thank you.

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE/LORD'S SUPPER

Sunday: 8:30am, 231/163; 10:45am, 118/93; Monday: 27/20

Sunday Live (8:30am) Online Viewing: 18

Wednesday: 162; Live Online Viewing: 13

WE THANK THOSE SERVING OUR LORD TODAY:

Greeters: 1st Service—Keith Anderson, Will & Lisa Holt

2nd Service—Dean & LuAnn Shoop, Art & Terri Westphal

Offering Counters: Lisa Holt, Brenda Garbers, Connie Meyer

Altar Guild: Elyse Haugen, Carol Leiferman, Lisa Holt

Media Center: Benjamin Springer (March 12); Dave Norris (March 15)

Weekly Financial Update

Given Last Week: \$18,736.00

Line of Credit (LOC) Challenge given last week: \$882.00

LOC total as of 2/23/23: \$14,035.66 (\$5,964.34 still needed to make \$20,000 goal)

Fiscal Year-to-Date Surplus (Deficit) as of 01/31/23: \$60,550.64

Romans 8:31-32 What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?

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.

Please keep Pastor Patrick Ernst and his family in your prayers as he considers the call from Mt. Olive and his current call at St. John's Lutheran in Frankenmuth, MI. A copy of Pastor's Ernst's acknowledgement of the call is posted on the narthex bulletin board.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: *March 12, 2023 — March 19, 2023*

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| Sunday, March 12 | 8:30AM | Divine Worship |
| | 9:40AM | BIC/Sunday School/Bible Study |
| | 10:45AM | Divine Worship |
| | 1PM | Encourage One Another |
| | 2PM | Adult Pickleball |
| | 4PM | Board of Deacons |
| | 6-9PM | Artemis Gaming |
| | 7:30PM | Coed Recreational Volleyball |
| Monday, March 13 | 9:30AM | Area Pastors' Conference @ Peace |
| | 6:30PM | Divine Worship |
| | 6:30PM | Church Council |
| Tuesday, March 14 | 9AM | Ladies' Bible Study |
| | 1PM | MOM's Bible Study @ Mt. Olive |
| Wednesday, March 15 | 8:10AM | CDS Chapel |
| | 9AM | Adult Bible Study |
| | 5PM | Lenten Meal |
| | 6:30PM | Divine Worship |
| | 7:30PM | Adult Choir Practice |
| Thursday, March 16 | 8:30AM | MOM's Bible Study @ Peace |
| | 6:30PM | Phased Growth |
| Fri., Mar. 17 | | |
| Sat., Mar. 18 | | |
| Sunday, March 19 | 8:30AM | Divine Worship w/Holy Communion |
| | 9:40AM | BIC/Sunday School/Bible Study |
| | 10:45AM | Divine Worship w/Holy Communion |
| | 2PM | Adult Pickleball |
| | 7:30PM | Coed Recreational Volleyball |

ANNOUNCEMENTS—Mt. Olive Lutheran Church & School

Flowers on the altar today are given to God's glory by Greg & Janet Costello in honor of their mothers and their March birthdays.

Join us on Wednesday, **March 15**, for a meal beginning at 5 pm, followed by our midweek Lenten worship service at 6:30pm.

Would your group like to serve a meal before the March 29 Lenten Service? If interested, please contact the church office.

You can help with ELS Outreach! The ELS is creating a series of videos to connect with un-churched and de-churched people in our ELS church communities. You can help by sharing your stories and thoughts on your pastors, past and present. Who is a Pastor? What does a Pastor do? Why is it important to have a Pastor? Time slots are still available on Wednesday, **March 15**, for you to share your thoughts on video. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex.

Mt. Olive is sponsoring a Diaper Drive from March 12 to April 5 to benefit Options for Women, a local crisis pregnancy center. Donations can be placed outside each classroom and in boxes in the Youth Room Hallway.

Help us deliver Easter Dinner to The Reach, a drop-in center for homeless/at risk youth in the Mankato area. Sign-up sheets are available in the narthex.

Easter Flower Baskets: If you would like to contribute towards Easter flower basket arrangements, please use the sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. Indicate if your donation is in honor or memory of someone. Suggested donation is \$20; however, any amount is acceptable. Insert checks made payable to Mt. Olive Lutheran Church into the provided envelope and place it in the church office Flower Box. Last day to order is Sunday, **March 26**. These Easter plants will be displayed in large baskets, individual plants will be available to take home the week after Easter.



Mt. Olive members donated 47 lb. of food to the ECHO Food Shelf during the month of February. Thank you for your generosity.

WELS Youth Night is Sunday, **March 26**, from 6:00-8:15pm at The Beacon ministry center in Mankato MN. All teens in 9th-12th grade are invited; sign up in advance using the QR code on the poster on the narthex bulletin board.

Bethany Lutheran College Organ Concerts:

Sunday, **March 19**, at 5pm in Trinity Chapel: Jake Marzinske will play music of Bach, Buxtehude, Pachelbel, and others.

Sunday, **March 26**, at 7pm in Trinity Chapel: Kaleb Schmidt will play music of Bach, Buxtehude, Bender, and others.

Minnesota Valley Lutheran Events:

MVL Open House, March 14. Tours begin at 6:30pm, followed by a presentation by MVL Principal Dr. Tim Plath at 7pm. School applications and course registration for the 2023-24 school year will be available.

MVL Jeans & Dreams Booster Club Auction, April 1, at Turner Hall in New Ulm. Doors and cash bar open at 5 pm; dinner begins at 5:30pm (free-will donation). Check the poster in the narthex for more details.

Registration for MVL Summer Camps is now open. To sign up or obtain more information, go to <https://mvl.org/summer-camps/>. Sign-up deadline is April 28.

**Coming March 29 – April 4
Mt. Olive School Gym**

I:55 BOOK FAIRS
Where Faith Matters



We will be using I:55 Book Fairs as our source of books for our upcoming Book Fair. I:55 Book Fairs exists to glorify the name of Jesus Christ. This core value permeates every aspect of their business from the products they select to the services they offer. In today's culture, it is difficult for parents and educators to protect students from unwanted knowledge. For this reason, I:55 screens their products through the filter of faith. I:55 Book Fairs works with schools, churches, and organizations throughout the US. They seek partners with a common purpose of business and ministry. "I:55 " stands for Isaiah, Chapter 55; you are encouraged to read it.



LENTEN SERIES

MIDWEEK #3 - WEDS., MARCH 15 - PSALM 35

Vespers Service: 6:30p | Preacher: Pr. Jonathon Bourman

MIDWEEK #4 - WEDS., MARCH 22 - PSALM 109

Vespers Service: 6:30p | Preacher: Pr. Ken Mellon

MIDWEEK #5 - WEDS., MARCH 29 - PSALM 69

Vespers Service: 6:30p | Preacher: Pr. Matthew Moldstad

(Join us before our Wednesday Evening Services for meals provided by the various groups of our congregation. Lenten meals are served from 5pm to 6:15pm)



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.