

## ADVENT 3

Sunday, December 13, 2020, 8:30 & 10:45AM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod

1123 Marsh Street, Mankato, MN 56001 | (507) 345-4966 | mtolive@mtolivelutheran.org  
Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich | Principal Adam Pavelchik

**Explanation of the Week:** *The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord" (Is 40:1-8). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah's coming through repentance, for "all flesh is grass." Now He asks from prison, "Are you the Coming One?" (Mt 11:2-10). Jesus' works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord's hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The stewards of the mysteries of God (1 Cor 4:1-5) still deliver Christ's overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God's people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. God's Gospel is shared with us through Jesus so that through Him we "are not consumed" by His anger (Malachi 3:1-6). Instead, we have reason to rejoice and be glad!*

**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 worshipping 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. 147, #6)*

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, You gave Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to become Man and to come into the world that He might destroy the works of the devil, deliver us poor offenders from sin and death, and give us everlasting life: We beseech You so to rule and govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that we may seek no other refuge than His Word, and thus avoid the sin to which we are by nature inclined, in order that we may always be found among the faithful followers of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and by faith in Him obtain 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.

### **~Opening Hymn 105, vv. 1-3 *Rise, Children of the Kingdom***

*1. Rise, children of the kingdom!  
The King is drawing nigh.  
Arise, and hail with gladness  
The Ruler from on high.  
Ye Christians, hasten forth!  
Your praise and homage bring Him  
And glad Hosannas sing Him;  
Naught else your love is worth.*

*2. Arise, ye drooping mourners!  
The King is very near.  
Away with grief and sorrow,  
For lo! your help is here.  
Behold, in many a place—  
O blessed consolation—  
We find Him, our salvation,  
In His pure means of grace.*

*3. Arise, ye much afflicted!  
The King is not afar.  
Rejoice, ye long dejected!  
Behold the Morning Star.  
The Lord will give you joy,  
Though troubles now distress you,  
With comfort He will bless you,  
E'en death He will destroy.*

~**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.**

~**Confessional Verse** — **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!*

~**Absolution** — *God's declaration of forgiveness*

(ELH p. 43, II; Mk. 16:16)

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. 147, #5)

P: Lord, we beseech You, give ear to our prayers, and enlighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father 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

**Malachi 3:1-6** Look! I am sending my messenger! He will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord, whom you are seeking, will come to his temple! The Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight, will surely come, says the Lord of Armies.

But who can endure the day when he comes? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire, like launderers bleach! He will be seated like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and like silver. They will belong to the Lord and bring him an offering in righteousness.

Judah and Jerusalem's offerings will be pleasing to the Lord as they were in the days of old, in years long ago.

I will approach you to judge you. I will be quick to give testimony against those who practice occult arts, those who commit adultery, those who swear false oaths, those who cheat workers out of their wages, those who wrong a widow and a fatherless child, those who turn away a resident alien—all those who do not fear me, says the Lord of Armies.

Certainly I, the Lord, do not change. That is why you, sons of Jacob, have not come to an end.

### ~Special Music "*On Jordan's Bank The Herald's Cry*"

*(ELH Hymn 106, vv. 1, 4, 5)*

1. *On Jordan's bank the herald's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings.*

4. *To heal the sick stretch out Thine hand  
And bid the fallen sinner stand;  
Once more upon Thy people shine  
And fill the world with love divine.*

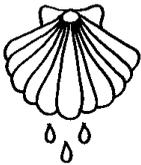
5. *All praise, eternal Son, to Thee,  
Whose advent set Thy people free:  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Ghost, forevermore.*

## ~Epistle Lesson

**1 Corinthians 4:1-5** This is the way a person should think of us: as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. In this connection, moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. But it is a trivial matter to me if I am evaluated by you or by a day in a human court. Why, I do not even evaluate myself. I do not in fact know of anything against myself, but I am not justified by this; rather, the one who evaluates me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing ahead of time, until the Lord comes. He will bring to light whatever is hidden in darkness and also reveal the intentions of hearts. Then there will be praise for each person from God.

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## The Order of Holy Baptism (2<sup>nd</sup> Service)



*(Holy Baptism has the power to work the new life of faith in the hearts of sinners. This regenerative washing "with water through the Word" is intended for all people, since all — including infants and children — are members of a sinful human race and are in need of God's grace and forgiveness. Jesus has also commanded that "all nations" be baptized. Confession of sins and Absolution are a return to, and a renewal of, one's Baptism. Matt. 28:19, John 3:5, Eph. 5:26, Titus 3:5, Acts 2:38-39)*

## ~Baptism of Winter Lucille Saidler

*(ELH p. 133ff)*

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## ~Apostles' Creed — Confession of faith

*(ELH p. 46)*

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.**

**~Chief Hymn 102, vv. 1, 2 *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People***

1. *“Comfort, comfort ye My people,  
Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God.  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
Mourning ‘neath their sorrows’ load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover  
And her warfare now is over.”*

2. *Yea, her sins our God will pardon,  
Blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserved His anger  
He no more will see or heed.  
She hath suffered many a day  
Now her griefs have passed away.  
God will change her pining sadness  
Into ever-springing gladness.*

**~Sermon Text**

**Luke 3:2b-6** During the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went into the whole region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Just as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
“Prepare the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight.  
Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low.  
The crooked will become straight, and the rough ways smooth.  
And everyone will see the salvation of God.”

**~Sermon Message**

*“The Forerunner’s Message Still Comes To Us Today”*

**~Hymn 102, vv. 3, 4 *Hark the Herald’s Voice Is Crying***

3. *Hark the herald’s voice is crying  
In the desert far and near,  
Bidding all men to repentance  
Since the Kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet Him  
And the hills bow down to greet Him.*

4. *Make ye straight what long was crooked;  
Make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble  
As befits His holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
Now o’er earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token  
That His Word is never broken.*

## ~Prayer of the Church

(ELH p. 48-49)

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.**

~**Hymn 90, v. 7 Praise to God the Father Sing**

*7. Praise to God the Father sing,  
Praise to God the Son, our King,  
Praise to God the Spirit be  
Ever and eternally.*

~**Collect**

*(ELH p. 58-59, III)*

P: Lord God, our heavenly Father, we thank You, that of Your great mercy You have given us Your holy and blessed Word, by which You also among us gather Your Christian Church. We humbly entreat You, grant us Your Holy Spirit, that we receive Your Word with thankful hearts, and live according to it, and ever increase in Christian faith, and hope, and love, and at last obtain eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, 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. 59; 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, vv. 4 O Come, Thou Rod of Jesse's Stem**

*4. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse's stem;  
From ev'ry foe deliver them  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**~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.

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

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

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*Liturgist/Preacher: Pastor Luke Ulrich  
Organist: 1<sup>st</sup> Service: John Baumann  
Organist: 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Mark DeGarmeaux  
Monday Service: Kristin Matzke  
Preservice & Special Music: Greta Bloedel & Benjamin Faugstad*  
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**LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE/LORD'S SUPPER ATTENDANCE:**

**Wednesday:** 102

**Sunday:** 8:30am, 139/119; 10:45am, 117/80

**Monday:** 28/20

**SERVING OUR LORD THIS WEEK:**

**Greeters:** 1<sup>st</sup> Service: Ryan & Sheila Ruschmeyer and Joyce Petersen;

2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Paul & Mary Jane Tweit and John Bungum

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

**Altar Guild:** Heidi Graham; Sharon Madson

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**Weekly Financial Update:**

**Given Last Week:** \$24,560.99 (includes text & on-line giving)

**Fiscal Year To Date Deficit** (as of 10/31/20): \$16,900

*Philippians 4:19-20 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

**Catch Mt. Olive Worship Services Online at [www.mtolivelutheran.org](http://www.mtolivelutheran.org)**

**OR**

**TV on local cable channels 181 (Spectrum) and 7 & 507 (Consolidated Communications) on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM and Thursdays at 11:30 AM.**

*To give your offering online, go to [www.mtolivelutheran.org](http://www.mtolivelutheran.org) and click on the link "DONATE ONLINE".*

*Or TEXT 833-726-3742 along with the amount you wish to donate. Or Mail your offering to the church office.*

*Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

**WEEK AT A GLANCE: *December 13, 2020 – December 20, 2020***

<b>Sunday,</b> December 13	8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM	Divine Service SS/BIC/Bible Class/Sr. Youth Divine Service
<b>Mon.,</b> Dec. 14	9:30AM 5:30PM 6:30PM 6:30PM	Area Pastors' Conference @Peace Board of Parish Ed & Youth Divine Service Church Council
<b>Tues.,</b> Dec. 15	6:30PM	Jesus Cares Ministry
<b>Wed,</b> Dec. 16	8:05AM 9AM 4PM 6:30PM	CDS Chapel Bible Study Confirmation Classes Advent Service (Lessons & Carols) **If preferred, bring your own Hymnal **
<b>Thurs.,</b> Dec. 17		
<b>Fri.,</b> Dec. 18	11:15AM	<b>CDS Early Dismissal</b>
<b>Sat,</b> Dec. 19		
<b>Sunday,</b> December 20	8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM 3PM	Divine Service with Holy Communion SS/BIC/Bible Class/Sr. Youth Divine Service with Holy Communion Virtual Children's Christmas Service

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Flowers on the altar** today are given to God's glory by Nathan & Heidi Graham.

**Baptized today at 2<sup>nd</sup> service:** Winter Lucille Saidler, infant daughter of Adam & Nicole Saidler, was born December 2, 2020 at Mayo Clinic Health Systems-Mankato. Her sponsors are Lars & Angie Johnson. May she ever grow in Christ and be blessed therein.

**Our Midweek Advent service on Wednesday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>** will consist of readings and hymn singing. Please note that the hymns will be sung from the Hymnary and **not printed in the bulletin**. You are welcome to bring your own Hymnary from home. Also, please come by 6:20pm to hear special preservice music by Ben Faugstad & Marissa Thompson.

**From the Evangelism Committee & Crafter's Group:** A BIG THANK YOU to all who have given of your time and talents to make chemo hats for the Mayo Andreas Cancer Center patients. The hats are very much appreciated by the patients and staff. If you are willing and able, please continue to make hats for them.

*1 Peter 4:10 Serve one another, each according to the gift he has received, as good stewards of the many forms of God's grace.*

**SAVE your POP TABS!** After School Care is collecting pop tabs and will donate them at the end of the school year to Ronald McDonald House Charities. RMHC , a childrens charity located near top children's hospitals, allows parents who are far from home to stay close to their child and benefit from the comforts of home without incurring any hotel or food costs.

**Singing for Christmas Eve and Day** - We will be gathering a small ensemble of singers again for Christmas Eve (4/5:30) and Christmas Day (8:30/10). If you are interested in participating for one or both days, please come! Rehearsals will be Wednesday, Dec. 9 and 16 at 7:30 p.m., and Wednesday, Dec. 23 at 7 p.m. For more details, please contact Elisabeth at elisabeth.urtel@blc.edu or 612-272-2420.

**Instrumentalists for Christmas Day** - If you would like to be part of an instrumental ensemble with the choir for Christmas Day, we are looking for strings or C instruments. We will meet Wednesday, Dec. 23 to rehearse with the singers, and plan for another rehearsal before then. For more details, please contact Elisabeth at elisabeth.urtel@blc.edu or 612-272-2420.



**New2You Interior Painting Project:** Looking for donations to cover the paint expenses, which would be \$300.00 for the entire store. A professional painter will do the painting. Please contact the store if you'd like to donate for the project. 507-385-1455 ask for Jen or Christine.

### **Special offering to ELS and Christian Education:**

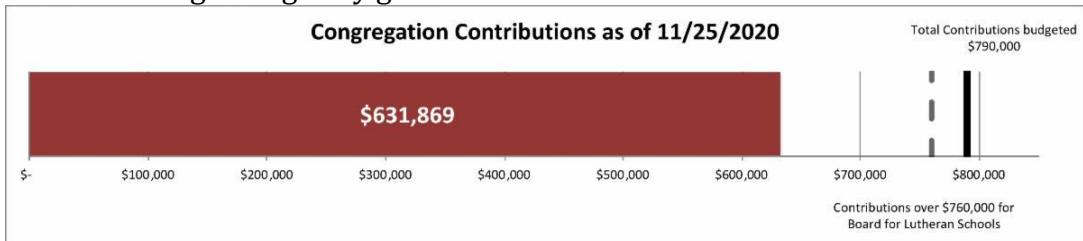
Special offering envelopes have been distributed in the bulletins today. The following message explains the purpose of this special appeal on behalf of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and its efforts for Christian Education. May God bless us as we serve Him!

“Our delegates and pastors at 2019 convention set a base budget of \$760,000 for gifts from congregations to our ELS missions and ministries for 2020. In addition, the convention earmarked all gifts over this amount to help provide funding to the Board for Lutheran Schools. \$790,000 is our total goal for congregational offerings. Please note the envelope provided for this special offering to the ELS and its missions. Write the check to our church and please include your envelope number and place it in the collection plate today or over the next couple of weeks. As you do, please consider that our Lord’s grace extends to us so we are able to ‘overflow in every good work’ 2 Cor. 9:8. May our gift be in accord with our Lord’s abundant blessings to us.”

~Dan Basel, ELS Giving Counselor

### **Note From Our Synod Business Administrator:**

Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft reports that through November 25, 2020, we have received \$631,869 toward our \$790,000 congregational contribution portion of the budget. This means that through the month of December we are hoping that our congregations are able to contribute \$158,131 to enable us to meet our projected expenditures for the year. Congregations will be allowed to remit their gifts for 2020 up until January 9, 2021. Congregations have been sent special year-end envelopes to be used in the next couple weeks to encourage budgetary gifts.



## **Bethany Lutheran College**

**Job Postings:** Bethany Lutheran College is actively searching for an additional Business Professor and a Computer Systems Specialist in the IT department. More information on these jobs can be found at [www.blc.edu/jobs](http://www.blc.edu/jobs)

## **Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School**

### **MVLHS Director of Mission Advancement Position Open**

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School seeks a WELS or ELS male to serve as Director of Mission Advancement. Interested individuals should contact MVL Principal, Dr. Tim Plath, for more information at 507-354-6851 or [tplath@mvlhs.org](mailto:tplath@mvlhs.org).

### **MVL Sacred Christmas Concert - December 23**

MVL's Sacred Christmas concert will be livestreamed on Wednesday, December 23 at 5pm and at 7pm. Both concerts will include the same musical groups and the same selections. Please join us online at [www.mvl.org](http://www.mvl.org)