



Midweek Advent Vespers

Wednesday, December 2, 2020; 6:30 PM

An Explanation of Advent: *Advent means "the coming or arrival of a notable person, thing, or event." This season, which marks the start of our church year, is meant to remind us that Christ our Savior is coming. It is a season of eager anticipation and hope. It is also a season of preparation as we prepare our hearts and minds for our Lord to come to us. During this season, the liturgical paraments and vestments in many churches will change to purple to recognize Advent as a time of preparation and repentance as well as a symbol of the royalty of the coming King. Other churches—including ours—change to blue, which is a symbol of anticipation and hope. We also follow the tradition of lighting special candles during this season to symbolize the coming of Christ who is the Light of the World. This is a tradition that dates back to the Lutheran church following the Reformation. However, the current form seen today was developed more recently. The wreath is made out of evergreens in the shape of a circle to represent eternal life. It consists of four candles placed on the wreath: three purple or blue candles to match the liturgical colors and one pink candle lit on the 3rd Sunday in Advent. This 3rd Sunday is known as Gaudete Sunday, meaning "rejoice" in Latin and comes from Philippians 4:4. Lighting this 3rd candle, Christians were to relax the fast that they had undertaken in this penitential season to rejoice that the promised Messiah is coming soon. Our Advent wreath also has a 5th candle. Placed in the center is the Christ candle, which is lit during the time of Christmas, symbolizing that Christ, the light of the world, has entered the darkness. Our prayer for you is that this season of preparation is a time of increased self-examination and devotion. It is a season to come and hear God's Word and to receive His Sacrament. Join with your fellow Christians as you prepare your heart for His coming!*

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School, E.L.S.

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Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich | Principal Adam Pavelchik

Welcome! 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 (found in front of you in the hymnbook rack and also on our “Welcome” table). We invite you to come and worship with us again soon.

Order of Service: Vespers (p. 120)

~Prelude — *Preservice music & opportunity for prayer*

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

~Opening Hymn 12 Come, Thou Almighty King

1. *Come, Thou almighty King;
Help us Thy name to sing;
Help us to praise.
Father all glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.*

2. *Jesus, our Lord, descend;
From all our foes defend,
Nor let us fall;
Let Thine almighty aid
Our sure defense be made:
Our souls on Thee be stayed;
Lord, hear our call.*

3. *Come, Thou Incarnate Word;
Gird on Thy mighty sword;
Our pray'r attend.
Come and Thy people bless,
And give Thy Word success;
Spirit of Holiness,
On us descend.*

4. *Come, holy Comforter;
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art;
Now rule in ev'ry heart;
And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.*

5. *To the great One in Three
Eternal praises be
Hence evermore!
His sov'reign majesty
May we in glory see
And to eternity
Love and adore.*

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

(ELH p. 120)

P: Dearly beloved! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts, and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.

C: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Your holy name.

P: The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

~**Versicles** — *Opening prayers*

(ELH p. 120)

P: O Lord, open my lips.

C: ♪ And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

C: ♪ Make haste to help me, O Lord. 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. Alleluia!

~**Men's Choir "Psalm 24"**

(CW p. 73)

Refrain: Let the Lord enter; he is the King of Glory.

*Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.*

*Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty,
the Lord mighty in battle.*

*Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,
That the King of glory may come in.*

*Who is he, this King of glory?
The Lord Almighty – he is the King of glory.*

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

Refrain: Let the Lord enter; he is the King of Glory.

~Scripture 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.

~Responsory

(ELH p. 122)

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: ♪ **Thanks be to You, O Lord!**

~Chief Hymn 289, vv. 1, 5 *Join All the Glorious Names*

*1. Join all the glorious names
Of wisdom, love, and pow'r,
That ever mortals knew,
That angels ever bore:
All are too weak to speak His worth,
Too frail to set my Savior forth!*

*5. Jesus, my great High Priest,
Offered His blood and died;
My guilty conscience seeks
No Sacrifice beside.
His pow'rful blood did once atone;
And now it pleads before the throne.*

~Sermon Text

Judges 13:2-7, 24 Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children. And the Angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean. For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."

So the woman came and told her husband, saying, "A Man of God came to me, and His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; but I did not ask Him where He was from, and He did not tell me His name. And He said to me, 'Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. Now drink no wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.'"

So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him.

~Sermon Theme

"A Preview of Christ: Samson the Judge"

1. *We learn from Samson's similarities to Jesus.*
2. *And, we learn also from his dis-similarities to Jesus.*

~Men's Choir **"Hail Hosanna! David's Son"** (arr. Hoppe)

1. *Hail Hosanna! David's Son Enters Zion's festive portal.
Come, prepare an honor-throne, Glorify the Lord Immortal.
Strew with palms His hallowed way, To His name sweet homage pay.*
2. *Hail Hosanna! Come, dear Lord, Come, Thy Zion longs to meet Thee.
All prepared thru Thy blest Word, Thy redeemed with joy now greet Thee.
At Thy feet we long to bow, Enter, welcome Savior, now.*
3. *Hail Hosanna! Precious Guest! Thou hast chosen us forever
Members of Thy kingdom blest, Let it be our hearts' endeavor
E'er to bow before Thy throne; Reign in us, and reign alone.*

~**Kyrie** — *“Lord, Have Mercy”*

(ELH p. 124)

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

~**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.**

~**Collect** — *Evening prayer*

(ELH p. 125-126, #2)

P: Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us in the end of the day, in the end of our life, and in the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair when death shall come. Abide with us and with all the faithful through time and eternity.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

~**Benedicamus** — *Call for blessing*

(ELH p. 127; Ps 103:2)

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: ♪ **Thanks be to God.**

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

(ELH p. 127; 2 Cor 13:14)

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 565** *All Praise to Thee, My God This Night*

1. All praise to Thee, my God, this night
For all the blessings of the light.
Keep me, O keep me, King of kings,
Beneath Thine own almighty wings.
Forgive me, Lord, for Thy dear Son
The ill that I this day have done,
That with the world, myself and Thee
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

2. Teach me to live that I may dread
The grave as little as my bed.
Teach me to die that so I may
Rise glorious at the awe-full Day.
O may my soul on Thee repose,
And may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,
Sleep that shall me more vig’rous make
To serve my God when I awake!

*3. When in the night I sleepless lie,
My soul with heav'nly thought supply;
Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
No pow'rs of darkness me distress.
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

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

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

*Liturgist/Preacher: Pastor John Petersen
Organist: Elisabeth Urtel
Men's Choir Director: Carl Bloedel*

Join Us for These Special Worship Services: *2020 Schedule*

Wednesday, **December 2** (Midweek Advent)
6:30 PM – *A Preview of Christ: Samson the Judge*
(Judges 13:2-7, 24); Pastor John Petersen

Wednesday, **December 9** (Midweek Advent)
6:30 PM – *A Preview of Christ: Samuel the Priest*
(1 Samuel 12:22-24); Pastor Luke Ulrich

Wednesday, **December 16** (Midweek Advent)
6:30 PM – *Service of Lessons & Carols*

Thursday, **December 24**, Christmas Eve
Office Closed
4:00 PM – Christmas Eve Service
5:30 PM – Christmas Eve Service
7:00 PM – Candlelight Service

Friday, **December 25**, Christmas Day
Office Closed
8:30 AM – Divine Service, w/HC
10:00 AM – Divine Service, w/HC

Thursday, **December 31**, New Year's Eve
Office Closed
6:30 PM – New Year's Eve Service, w/HC

Friday, **January 1**, New Year's Day
Office Closed

