



Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24, 2021; 4:30PM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School, ELS

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

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

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 Welcome table and in front of you in the pew). We invite you to come and worship with us again soon.

Order of Service, Vespers (p. 120)

~**Prelude** — *Mt. Olive Strings*

~**Hymn 125 *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing***

~**Confession of Sin**

(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**

(ELH pp. 120-121)

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

~Psalmody Hymn 138 *Joy to the World*

(based on Ps. 98)

~Old Testament Lesson

(EHV)

Isaiah 7:10-14 Moreover the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!"

Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

~Senior Choir: *City of David*

(Sally DeFord)

City of David; slumbering town; What is that anthem? What is that sound?

High o'er Judea, borne on the wings of heaven's love tonight?

City of David; Bethlehem fair; What is that song that rides on the air?

Glorias stream from legions above, with heaven's love alight.

City of David; City of kings; Rejoice for the tidings the angels bring!

The long night is ended, the darkness is past; the Light has come at last.

City of David; slumbering still, What is that glory bright o'er the hills?

Starlight descending, borne on the wings of heaven's love tonight?

City of David; awake and arise!

Follow the star that hallows the skies; Follow and find a beautiful Child with heaven's love alight!

City of David; City of kings; Rejoice for the tidings the angels bring!

The long night is ended, the darkness is past; the Light has come at last.

~Epistle Lesson

(EHV)

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

~Hymn 144 vv. 1, 3, 5-8 *Thy Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We*

~Holy Gospel Lesson

(EHV)

Luke 2:1-20 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Now let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

~ Chief Hymn 145 vv. 1, 2 *What Child Is This*

~Sermon Text

(EHV)

Luke 2:9-11 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord."

~Sermon

A Savior–Born FOR US

~Offering Hymn 127 *I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes*

~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.)

~Versicle

(ELH p. 122)

P: Let my prayers rise before You as incense:

C: ♪ **And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

~Nunc Dimittis — “Now I Depart”

(ELH p. 124; Lk. 2:29-32)

C: ♪ **Lord, now You let Your servant depart in peace according to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. 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.**

~Hymn 140 *Silent Night*

~Kyrie – “Lord”

(ELH p. 116-117)

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

~Lord’s Prayer

(ELH p. 117; 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 — *The congregation's prayer of the day* (ELH pp. 125-126, form 1)

P: Let us pray: O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works proceed, give Your servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments, and also that we, being defended by You from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

~Benedicamus — *Call for blessing* (ELH p. 127; 2 Cor. 13:14)

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: ♪ Thanks be to God.

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

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.

~Hymn 124 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Officiant: Pastor Luke Ulrich

Organist: John Baumann

Preservice Music: Strings Group

Choir Director: Carl Bloedel

Cover Artwork by Bill Bukowski

Poinsettia Arrangements



Flowers on the altar today are given to God's glory in memory of loved ones, by Elli & Joe Fisher, Mark & Michelle Graham, Ruth & Bob Heidenreich, Mark & Sharon Madson, Paul & Mary Jane Tweit, Art & Terri Westphal, Phyllis Kenning (Bud and Joe), Bill & Suzanne Bohning, Rev. Ted & Diane Gullixson (Ruth Gullixson Webber), Dottie Kunkle (Jim), Janet & Greg Costello, Andy & Laurie Overn, Antonio Guerrero Jr, Jeannette Koberg (Jerry), Brenda & Duane Garbers, Dan & Jane Birkholz (our parents), Keith & Claudia Eisberg, Audrey Spear (Stella & Raymond Richter), and Harlan Mehlop.



- CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - Friday, Dec. 24th
 - 4p - Mt. Olive Strings - Sacred Christmas Music
 - 4:30p Service
 - 7p CANDLELIGHT Service
- CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE - Saturday, Dec. 25th
 - 10a Christmas Festival Service w/ Holy Communion
- NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE - Friday, Dec. 31st
 - 6:30p Service w/ Individual Absolution & Holy Communion

Christmas Eve 4:30p & Christmas Day Service will be Live-Streamed at MtOliveLutheran.org & on our Facebook page.

(Be sure to "Like," "Follow," "Share," and "Comment" on our Social Media pages! We want to know that you are Connecting with us.)

