



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Friday, December 24, 2021, 7PM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School, ELS

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Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich | Vicar Jacob Kempfert | 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

(ELH, p. 120)

~**Hymn 128, vv. 1-3, 8** *Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising*

~Exhortation

P: Dear friends in Christ! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to give Him thanks and praise for the gift of His Son, our meek and righteous King, who, by His death became our Savior from sin and eternal death. By His Holy Spirit may He enlighten, govern and direct us that we may ever remain faithful to this righteous King and Savior, and not be offended by His humble form and despised Word, but, firmly believing in Him, obtain eternal salvation and the fullness of joy in heaven. To this end may God the Father grant us His grace, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

~**Collect** — *The Congregation’s Prayer of the Day*

(ELH p. 125; p. 148, #9)

P: Let us pray: O God, as You once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant, we beseech You, that we who have known the mysteries of that Light here on earth may come to the fullness of Its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

~**Psalmody Hymn 138** *Joy to the World*

(based on Ps. 98)

~Old Testament Lesson

(EHV)

Micah 5:2-4 But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel. His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity. Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child. Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel. He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.

~Responsory Hymn 153 vv. 4, 5 *To Us a Child of Hope Is Born*

~Epistle Lesson

(EHV)

Titus 3:4-7 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared, he saved us—not by righteous works that we did ourselves, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs in keeping with the hope of eternal life.

~Responsory Hymn 144, vv. 3-5 *Now Welcome! From Thy Heav'nly Home*

~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.

~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 116 vv. 1, 4 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

~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.)

~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.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Ceremony

This part of our Christmas Eve service symbolizes how our Lord Jesus has entered into our world as a "light shining in the darkness" (John 1:5). The child born and announced in the midst of a dark Bethlehem night is the great "Light of the World" who brings His light of salvation to us (John 8:12). As the light is taken from the Christ-Candle in our Advent wreath, it is spread around our altar symbolizing how Christ and His light is spread to others—bringing us out of the darkness of sin and into God's light and presence. This wonderful light of Christ also now enters into our hearts with His forgiveness and salvation as we receive His Word and Sacraments.

~**Responsory** —

(Taken from Isaiah 59 & 60)

P: We hope for light, but look, there is only darkness.

C: We hope for bright light, but we walk around in the darkest gloom.

P: Yes, our rebellious deeds are many before You;

C: And our sins testify against us.

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is dawning upon you.

C: The Lord will dawn upon you, and His glory will be seen over you.

P: The sun will never again be your light by day, and the moon will not shine to provide brightness for you;

C: For the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your splendor.

P: Your sun will never again set, and your moon will not wane,

C: Because the Lord will be your everlasting light.

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.

~**Lighting of the Candles & Organ Voluntary**

Candlelight will be taken from the center "Christ Candle" in the Advent wreath. Ushers will then light the candles of those sitting next to the aisle. Please pass the candlelight from your candle to the person next to you, symbolizing how one's own faith in Christ is passed on to one's neighbor, providing light for them and for the others around them. Once all the candles are lit, the Sanctuary lights will be dimmed for the remainder of the service.

(Please be careful to not drip hot wax! Do not tip a lit candle.)

~Hymn 140, *Silent Night*

1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!

3. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

4. Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

~**Collect** — *The Congregation's Prayer*

(ELH p. 126-7)

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; 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 137 O Little Town of Bethlehem

**1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.**

**2. For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to all on earth.**

**3. How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.**

**4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!**

~Postlude

*Officiant: Pastor Luke Ulrich
Organist: Cassie Johnson
Cover Artwork: Don Moldstad*

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 Season Services

A Savior - Born FOR YOU!

- 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.)*

