



Christmas Day

Friday, December 25, 2020; 8:30AM & 10AM

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 |



I. The Service of Preparation

(We prepare ourselves for worshiping 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 Hymn 133, vv. 1, 4 O Come, All Ye Faithful**

*1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come... ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;*

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

*3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
(Refrain)*

~**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. 60-62, 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.

~**Gloria Patri** — *“Glory to the Father”*

(ELH p. 62)

C: 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.

~**Introit** — *Entrance Psalm*

(ELH p. 62; Isaiah 9:6)

P: Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,

C: The government shall be upon His shoulder.

P: His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P: Oh, sing to the Lord a new song,

C: For He has done marvelous things.

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.

P: Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,

C: And government shall be upon His shoulder.

P: His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

C: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

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

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

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

~**Gloria in Excelsis Deo**— “*Glory to God in the Highest*”

(ELH p. 64-66; Lk 2:14; Jn 1:29)

P: Glory be to God on high:

C: ♪ And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You, for Your great glory. O Lord God, heav’nly King, God the Father almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. You take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For You only are holy. You only are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

~**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. 148 #10)

P: Grant, we beseech You, almighty God, that the new birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free who are held in the old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ, 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.)

~**Epistle Lesson**

Hebrews 1:1-12 In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

The Son became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say:

You are my Son. Today I have begotten you?

And again:

I will be his Father, and he will be my Son.
And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said:
Let all God's angels worship him.
About the angels he says:
He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire.
But about the Son he says:
God, your throne is forever and ever,
and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy
beyond your companions.
And he says:
In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundation of the earth,
and the heavens are the works of your hands.
They will perish, but you remain.
They will all become old like a garment.
You will roll them up like a robe,
and they will be changed like a garment.
But you are the same,
and your years will never end.

~Senior Choir "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"

(Sally DeFord)

*It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
"Peace on earth, good will to men
From heaven's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.*

*Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world,
O'er its sad and lowly plain
They bend on hov'ring wing
And ever o'er its babel sounds*

*The blessed angels sing.
For lo! the days are hast'ning on
By prophets seen of old
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold
When the heav'ns and earth shall own
The Prince of Peace, their King,
And all the world send back the song
Which now the angels sing!*

~Holy Gospel Lesson

P: The Holy Gospel for Christmas Day is written in the 1st chapter of the Gospel according to St. John, beginning at the 1st verse.

C: ♪ Glory be to You, O Lord!

John 1:1-14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

C: ♪ Praise be to You, O Christ!

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

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the Resurrection of the dead and the Life of the world to come. Amen.

~Chief Hymn 148, vv. 1, 6, 7, 8 *Praise God the Lord*

*1. Praise God the Lord, ye sons of men,
Before His highest throne;
Today He opens heav'n again
And gives us His own Son,
And gives us His own Son.*

*6. A wondrous change which He does make!
He takes our flesh and blood,
And He conceals for sinners' sake
His majesty of God,
His majesty of God.*

*7. He serves that I a lord may be;
A great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus' love do more for me
To help me in my need,
To help me in my need?*

*8. For us He opens wide the door
Of paradise today;
The angel guards the gate no more.
To God our thanks we pay,
To God our thanks we pay.*

~**Exordium** — *Festival day exhortation*

~**Hymn 142 Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn**

*Rejoice, rejoice this happy morn!
A Savior unto us is born,
The Christ, the Lord of glory.
His lowly birth in Bethlehem
The angels from on high proclaim
And sing redemption's story.
My soul,
Extol
God's great favor;
Bless Him ever
For salvation.
Give Him praise and adoration!*

~**Old Testament Lesson & Sermon Text**

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

~**Sermon Message**

"TO US a Child is Born"

~**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.

~**Christmas Day Prayer**

III. The Service of Holy Communion



(Following Christ's command, we receive His grace to us in the special meal He instituted for the forgiveness of our sins. Here, He feeds with His true body and His true blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. This is the same body which was born of the Virgin Mary, and the same blood which dripped down the wooden cross. This part of the liturgy is one of the oldest parts, dating back to at least the third century AD.)

Questions and prayers to assist in preparing for the Lord's Supper are found in the black hymnal, pp. 38-40.

Guests & Visitors: *We practice "Close" or "Closed Communion". We do this out of love and concern for you. We want to make sure that those who take this holy meal receive it as a blessing and not to their harm as Scripture warns. We also understand that those who come forward to take communion are professing a unity of faith with our congregation and are in full agreement with the teachings and doctrines of Mount Olive Lutheran Church and of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Therefore, we ask those who have not taken Holy Communion with us before to Speak with a pastor before communing. Thank you.*

~Preface

(ELH p. 72 ff.; 2 Tim 4:22, Col 3:1, Ps 136)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: ♪ We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: ♪ It is good and right so to do.

~The Preface for Christmastide

(ELH p. 73- 75)

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory, that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

~Sanctus — "Holy"

(ELH p. 76)

C: ♪ Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

~Lord's Prayer

(ELH p. 77-78; 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.

~Words of Institution

(ELH p. 78; Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25)

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

~The Pax Domini — "The Peace of the Lord"

(ELH p. 79; Jn 20:19)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: ♪ Amen.

~Agnus Dei — "Lamb of God"

(ELH p. 79ff; Jn 1:29)

C: ♪ O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God. You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen.

~Distribution

(Communicants come forward at the direction of the ushers. During the Distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:)

~Hymn 146 When Christmas Morn is Dawning

*1. When Christmas morn is dawning,
I wish that I could be
There by the manger cradle
God's Son, newborn, to see.
There by the manger cradle
God's Son, newborn, to see.*

*2. How kind of You, my Savior,
To come to us on earth.
O may we not by sinning
Despise Your lowly birth.
O may we not by sinning
Despise Your lowly birth.*

*3. We need You, O Lord Jesus,
To be our dearest Friend.
Your love will guard and guide us
And keep us to life's end.
Your love will guard and guide us
And keep us to life's end.*

~Hymn 113 A Great and Mighty Wonder

*1. A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The Virgin bears the Infant
With virgin honor pure!
(Refrain)*

*4. Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The Infant born in Beth'lem,
The Savior and the Lord.
(Refrain)*

*2. The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky.
(Refrain)*

*5. And idol forms shall perish,
And error shall decay,
And Christ shall wield His scepter,
Our Lord and God for aye.
(Refrain)*

*3. While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, ye vales and mountains,
Ye oceans, clap your hands.
(Refrain)*

*Refrain:
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"*

~Hymn 116 Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
(Refrain)

2. Shepherds why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
(Refrain)

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
(Refrain)

4. See, within a manger laid,
Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth,
Lend your voices, lend your aid
To proclaim the Savior's birth!
(Refrain)

Refrain:
Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

~Dismissal — *Assurance of blessing for those who have communed* (ELH p. 81)

P: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, and His precious blood strengthen and preserve you in the true faith to everlasting life. Depart in peace. Amen.

~Nunc Dimittis — *"Now I Depart"* (ELH p. 81-82; 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.**

~Collect of Thanksgiving (ELH p. 83, II)

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup;

C: ♪ **We proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.**

P: Let us pray: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in lovingkindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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.**

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

(ELH p. 84)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And with your spirit.**

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

(ELH p. 84; 2 Cor. 13:14)

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: ♪ **Thanks be to God.**

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

(ELH p. 84; 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 126 God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen**

1. *God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ, our Savior,
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray.
(Refrain)*

2. *From God, our heavn'ly Father,
A blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name.
(Refrain)*

3. *"Fear not" then said the angel,
"Let nothing you affright;
This day is born the Savior,
A Babe of glorious might.
See, death and hell and Satan
This child shall put to flight."
(Refrain)*

4. *Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
In Christian faith and charity
Each other now embrace,
This holy tide of Christmas
Reveals to us God's grace.
(Refrain)*

Refrain:

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;

O tidings of comfort and joy.

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

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

Liturgist/Preacher: Pastor Luke Ulrich
Organist: 1st Service: John Baumann
Organist: 2nd Service: Mark DeGarmeaux
Choir Director: Elisabeth Urtel
Trombone Accompanist 2nd Service: Hannah Zibrowski,
Daniel Neubauer, & Ben Faugstad



**The Poinsettias displayed on and around the altar have been donated
by our members in memory/honor of the following:**

Members

Mercedes Hansen
Art & Terri Westphal
Brenda Garbers
Elli & Joe Fisher
Paul & Mary Jane Tweit
Rev. Ted & Diane Gullixson, Mark & Paul
Audrey Spear
John & Kari Sehloff
Bob & Ruth Heidenreich
Tom & Joni Bode
Mark & Michelle Graham
Bill & Suzanne Bohning
Phil & Jean Jurgenson
Dottie Kunkel
Greg & Janet Costello
Bruce Gratz
Peggy Harstad
Mark & Sharon Madson
Antonino Guerrero Jr.
Craig & Lisa Brown
Chad & Sally Sorensen

In Memory/Honor of

Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Ruth Wilde Gullixson Webber
Stella & Raymond Richter
Loved Ones
Our Parents
Loved Ones
Our Fathers
Our Grandchildren
Luella Jurgenson
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
David Gratz
Mark O. Harstad
Our Parents
Loved Ones
Bea Brown
Loved Ones