



## CHRISTMAS 1

Sunday, December 27, 2020, 8:30 & 10:45 AM

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 (found in the hymnbook rack & Welcome table). We invite you to come and worship with us again soon.

**Explanation of the Week:** *A Rod has come forth from the stem of Jesse (Is 11:1-5), the Seed of David whose kingdom shall be established forever (2 Sam 7:1-16). In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son Jesus to redeem us from the judgment of the Law (Gal 4:1-7). Now He is presented in the temple in fulfillment of the Law and revealed to be “a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of the people of Israel” (Lk 2:22-40). As we receive God's Word and Sacraments, the “mystery of Godliness”—of what Christ has done to win our salvation (1 Tim 3:16)—is shared with us.*

**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 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 Prayer**

*(ELH p. 41; p. 148, #11)*

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks to You that of Your mercy and compassion You caused Your Son to become incarnate, and through Him redeemed us from sin and everlasting death: We beseech You, enlighten our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that we may ever be thankful for such grace, and comfort ourselves thereby in all tribulation and temptation, and at last 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 114, vv. 1, 2 *Angels From the Realms of Glory***

*1. Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation’s story  
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth:  
(Refrain)*

*2. Shepherds in the fields abiding,  
Watching o’er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light.  
(Refrain)*

*Refrain:*

*Come and worship, Come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

### **~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; Mt 11:28, Jn 3:16)*

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.

**Hymn 116, v. 3 *Come to Bethlehem***

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

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

**~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. 148, #12)*

P: Almighty and everlasting God, direct our actions according to Your gracious will, that in the name of Your beloved Son, we may be made to abound in good works; through the same, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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

**Isaiah 11:1-5** There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. His delight is in the fear of the Lord, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

### ~Epistle Lesson

**Galatians 4:1-7** What I am saying is this: As long as the heir is a young child, he is no different from a slave. Although he is owner of everything, he is still under guardians and managers until the day set by his father. So also, when we were younger children, we were enslaved under the basic principles of the world. But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

**C: ♪ God be praised for His glad tidings.**

~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 150, vv. 1, 2, 3 *In This Our Happy Christmastide***

*1. In this our happy Christmastide  
The joyful bells are ringing;  
To praise be all our pow'rs applied,  
God's grace and mercy singing;  
In Him by whom the world was made,  
Now in the lowly manger laid,  
Rejoice we in the spirit;  
Thy praise, O Savior, we will sound  
Unto the earth's remotest bound,  
That all the world shall hear it.*

*2. A little Son, the Virgin born,  
True God from everlasting  
To rescue us who were forlorn,  
His lot with us is casting:  
It moved His tender heart to see  
This world of sin and misery  
In condemnation lying;  
Therefore He came from realms above  
Down to our earth, drawn by His love,  
To soothe our grief and sighing.*

*3. Our thanks we offer Him today,  
Although a poor oblation,  
Alleluia! our joyful lay,  
Shall sound through ev'ry nation;  
Now in our camp the Ark we see,  
Therefore we shout the victory  
With joyful hearts un-fearing;  
We sing of peace, the peace profound,  
That hell shall tremble at the sound,  
Our Christmas anthem hearing.*

**~Gospel Lesson & Sermon Text**

***Luke 2:34-35*** Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Listen carefully, this child is appointed for the falling and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

**~Sermon Theme**

*"Jesus — Appointed for the Falling and Rising of Many"*

**~Hymn 150, vv. 4, 6, 7 *That God Has Laid His Anger By***

*4. That God has laid His anger by,  
He by His gift hath shown us;  
He gives His Son for us to die,  
In Him He now doth own us;  
These joyful tidings tell abroad,  
That Jesus Christ, the Son of God,  
From sin doth us deliver;  
Who then should not be glad today  
When Christ is born, the sinners' stay,  
Who is of grace the giver?*

*6. Although my joyful Christmas lay  
Is mingled with my sighing,  
The cross shall never take away  
My joy and praise undying;  
For when the heart is most opprest,  
The harp of joy is tuned the best,  
The better strains are ringing,  
The cross itself, at Jesus' will,  
Must aid my soul, that I may still  
In grief His praise be singing.*

*7. Alleluia! our strife is o'er,  
Who, then, should pine in sadness?  
Who now should grieve in anguish sore  
In these our days of gladness?  
Thou Church of God, O sing this morn:  
To us is Christ the Savior born,  
O joy that none can sever!  
Alleluia! sing thou my heart,  
Now Christ is mine, I can depart  
To be with Him forever.*

**~The 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 151 vv. 1, 4, 6 *Thou Light of Gentile Nations***

*1. Thou Light of Gentile nations,  
Thou Savior from above,  
Drawn by Thy Spirit's leading,  
We come with joy and love  
Into Thy holy temple  
And wait with earnest mind  
As Simeon once had waited  
His God and Lord to find.*

*4. Let us, O Lord, be faithful  
Like Simeon to the end,  
So that his prayer exultant  
May from our hearts ascend:  
"O Lord, now let Thy servant,  
Depart in peace, I pray,  
Since I have seen my Savior  
And here beheld His day."*

*6. Lord, here on earth Thou seemest  
At times to frown on me,  
And through my tears I often  
Can scarce distinguish Thee;  
But in the heav'nly mansions  
Shall nothing dim my sight;  
There shall I see Thy glory  
In never-changing light.*

**~Collect** — *In appreciation of God's gifts*

*(ELH p. 58, 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 134 *Let Us All With Gladsome Voice***

1. *Let us all with gladsome voice  
Praise the God of heaven,  
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,  
His own Son hath given.*

2. *To this vale of tears He comes,  
Here to serve in sadness,  
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes  
We may reign in gladness.*

3. *We are rich, for He was poor;  
Is not this a wonder?  
Therefore praise God evermore  
Here on earth and yonder.*

4. *O Lord Christ, our Savior dear,  
Be Thou ever near us.  
Grant us now a glad new year.  
Amen, Jesus, hear us!*

**~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: Cassie Johnson  
Organist: 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Elisabeth Urtel  
Monday Service: Lexi Fosburgh*

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**LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE/LORD'S SUPPER ATTENDANCE:**

**Wednesday:** 141

**Sunday:** 8:30am, 154/129; 10:45am, 125/77

**Monday:** 38/32

**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:** \$39,596.71 (includes text & on-line giving)

**Fiscal Year To Date Deficit** (as of 11/30/20): \$24,878

*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.*

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## WEEK AT A GLANCE: *December 27, 2020 – January 3, 2021*

<b>Sunday,</b> December 27	8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM	Divine Service <b>NO</b> SS/BIC/Bible Class/Sr. Youth Divine Service
<b>Mon.,</b> Dec. 28	6:30PM	Divine Service
<b>Tues,</b> Dec. 29		
<b>Wed,</b> Dec. 30	9AM 4PM	<b>NO</b> Bible Study <b>NO</b> Confirmation Classes
<b>Thurs.,</b> Dec. 31	6:30PM	<b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> New Year's Eve Worship with Holy Communion
<b>Fri.,</b> Jan. 1		<b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>
<b>Sat,</b> Jan. 2	9AM-4PM	Volunteers at New2You
<b>Sunday,</b> January 3	8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM	Divine Service with Holy Communion <b>NO</b> SS/BIC/Bible Class/Sr. Youth Divine Service with Holy Communion

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Please pick up your 2021 offering envelopes** from the table in the old narthex.

**Poinsettia Reminder:** For those who have donated poinsettias, please pick up your poinsettia after **December 31<sup>st</sup>**. Thank you.

**The 2021 Flower Calendar** is now available in the hallway next to the bulletin board. Please consider signing up to provide flowers to beautify our altar this coming year.

### **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**

#### **MVL Sacred Christmas Concert - Postponed to January 6**

MVL's sacred Christmas concert will be livestreamed on Wednesday, January 6 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)!

**MVLHS Director of Mission Advancement Position Open** MVLHS 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).



**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*