



New Year's Eve

Thursday, December 31, 2020; 6:30 PM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School, Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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

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).*

I. The Service of Preparation

~Hymn 82, v. 1, 3, 5 With the Lord Begin Thy Task

<i>1. With the Lord begin thy task; Jesus will direct it. For His aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it. Ev'ry morn with Jesus rise, And, when day is ended, In His name then close thine eyes; Be to Him commended.</i>	<i>All thy trust do thou repose In the mighty Master, Who in wisdom truly knows How to stem disaster.</i>
<i>3. With thy Savior at thy side Foes need not alarm thee; In His promises confide And no ill can harm thee.</i>	<i>5. Thus, Lord Jesus, ev'ry task Be to Thee commended; May Thy will be done, I ask, Until life is ended. Jesus, in Thy name begun Be the day's endeavor; Grant that it may well be done To Thy praise forever.</i>

~Confession of Sin — *Admitting our sinfulness to God* (ELH pp. 41ff, form II)

P: Let us confess our sins to God and pray: We poor sinners confess to You, O God, not only that we have been conceived and born in sin, but also that throughout life we have often and in many ways offended You, our Lord and Maker, in thought, word and deed, so that You could with perfect justice reject and condemn us for all eternity.

Therefore we come before You with sorrow of heart, in dread and terror of Your holy justice and of everlasting death. Our sins are a grievous foe, which we should hate in every way as long as we live.

O merciful God, You still grant us in this hour to be reminded of Your fatherly goodness. According to the promise of Your Word we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, and implore You, dearest Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your only-begotten Son, our Brother, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised again for our justification: Forgive us all our sins through faith, which the Holy Spirit increases in our hearts to full assurance.

C: We therefore pray You, O Lord, through Your servant to declare to us the forgiveness of all our sins. We poor sinners are willing to forgive all who have offended against us. We earnestly desire to grow in true godliness. Help us, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

~**Kyrie Eleison** — *“Lord, Have Mercy”* (ELH p. 42ff)

C: ♪ O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us. O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us. O God the Holy Ghost, true Comforter, have mercy upon us.

~**Absolution** — *God’s declaration of forgiveness* (ELH p. 43, Form I; Mk 16:16, Jn 1:12)

P: Lift up your hearts unto God! Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only 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 will be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all. Amen.

~**Gloria in Excelsis Deo** — *“Glory to God in the Highest”* (ELH p. 44ff; Luke 2:14, John 1:29)

P: Glory be to God in the highest

C: ♪ And on earth peace, good will toward men. All glory be to God on high Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended; God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall dwell on earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!

~**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. 149 #17)

P: Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, from whom comes down every good and perfect gift: We give You thanks for all Your benefits, temporal and spiritual, bestowed upon us in the year past, and we beseech You of Your goodness, grant us a favorable and joyful year, defend us from all dangers and adversities, and send upon us the fullness of Your blessing; 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.

II. The Service of The Word

~Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 63:7-9 I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the Lord and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which He has bestowed on them according to His mercies, according to the multitude of His lovingkindnesses. For He said, “Surely they are My people, children who will not lie.” So He became their Savior. In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel of His Presence saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bore them and carried them all the days of old.

~Epistle Lesson

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 5:10 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you do not grieve in the same way as the others, who have no hope. Indeed, if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then in the same way we also believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus. In fact, we tell you this by the word of the Lord: We who are alive and left until the coming of the Lord will certainly not go on ahead of those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore, encourage one another with these words. ... He died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him.

~Holy Gospel Lesson

(ELH p. 46)

Luke 13:6-9 He also spoke this parable: “A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, ‘Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?’ But he answered and said to him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.’”

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

~Nicene Creed — *Confession of faith*

(ELH p. 47)

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.

~Hymn 153, vv. 1, 4, *The People That in Darkness Sat*

*1. The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who
long
In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.*

*4. To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulders ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n,
All pow'r in earth and heav'n.*

~Sermon Text

Isaiah 9:2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.

~Sermon

Into the Darkness and Toward the Light

~Hymn 153, vv. 5, 7, *His Name Shall Be the Prince of Peace*

*5. His name shall be the Prince of
Peace,
The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored,
The God by all adored.*

*7. Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray.
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.*

~Prayers & Special Petitions

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.*

~Prayer Before Holy Communion

(ELH p. 40)

P: We do not presume to come to Your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under Your table. But You are the Lord who desires always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the Body of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink His Blood, that we may evermore dwell in Him and He in us. Amen.

~Lord's Prayer

(ELH p. 53)

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. 54)

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.”

~**Agnus Dei** — “*Lamb of God*”

(*ELH p. 55; 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 is invited to sing the following hymns:)*

Hymn 165, vv. 1-5 *Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord*

*1. Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who hath truly kept His word
And the sinners' Help and Friend
Now at last to us doth send.*

*2. What the fathers most desired,
What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many a year,
Stands fulfilled in glory here.*

*3. Abram's promised great Reward,
Zion's Helper, Jacob's Lord—
Him of twofold race behold—
Truly came, as long foretold.*

*4. Welcome, O my Savior, now!
Hail! My Portion, Lord, art Thou.
Here, too, in my heart, I pray.
O prepare Thyself a way!*

*5. King of glory, enter in;
Cleanse it from the filth of sin,
As Thou hast so often done;
It belongs to Thee alone.*

Hymn 324, vv. 1-3, 12-14 O Jesus, at Your Altar Now

1. *O Jesus, at Your altar now
In penitence and faith I bow
Before God's precious Paschal Lamb,
Who bears the world's great sin and
shame.*

2. *My heart to You I gladly bring,
So sorely wounded by my sin,
And healing find in that great tide
That flows from out Your wounded
side.*

3. *Today I am my Savior's guest;
My soul, consider this great feast;
He bids you now to sit at meat
With Him—and of Himself to eat.*

12. *This feast which You in truth
prepared
As our salvation's firmest guard,
Is now my hope, refreshing me,
My life's desire eternally.*

13. *On this blest table e'er shall be
Your body/blood once shed for me;
Therefore I cast the world aside
And in Your saving grace abide.*

14. *Until You wholly me translate
To be with You in heav'nly state,
Where honor shall my life attend
And joy in You shall never end.*

Hymn 165, vv. 6, 8, 9 As Thy Coming Was in Peace

6. *As Thy coming was in peace,
Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me
That was ever found in Thee.*

8. *Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to Thee in faith,
Safely kept through life and death,*

9. *And when Thou dost come again
As a glorious King to reign,
I with joy may see Thy face,
Freely ransomed by Thy grace.*

Hymn 219 Lord, as Thou Wilt, Deal Thou with Me

1. *Lord, as Thou wilt, deal Thou with
me;
No other wish I cherish.
In life and death I cling to Thee;
O do not let me perish!
Let not Thy grace from me depart
And grant an ever patient heart
To bear what Thou dost send me.*

2. *Grant honor, truth, and purity,
And love Thy Word to ponder;
From all false doctrine keep me free.
Bestow, both here and yonder,
What serves my everlasting bliss;
Preserve me from unrighteousness
Throughout my earthly journey.*

3. *When, at Thy summons, I must
leave
This vale of sin and sadness,
Give me Thy grace, Lord, not to
grieve,*

*But to depart with gladness.
To Thee my spirit I commend;
O Lord, grant me a blessed end
Through Jesus Christ, my Savior.*

~**Dismissal** — *Assurance of blessing for those who have communed* (ELH p. 56)

P: Our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ, who has now bestowed upon you His holy body and blood, whereby He has made full satisfaction for all your sins, strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto everlasting life. Peace be with you. Amen.

~**Hymn 327, v. 1 O Lord, We Praise Thee**

*1. O Lord, we praise Thee,
Bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish.
O Lord, have mercy!
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need:
O Lord, have mercy!*

~**Collect of Thanksgiving** (ELH p. 56)

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank You, Lord God Almighty, that You have refreshed us with these Your salutary gifts; and we beseech You of Your mercy, to strengthen us through the same in faith toward You, and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: ♪ Amen.

~**Benediction** — *Final blessing for God's people* (ELH p. 56ff; 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.

~**Hymn 597, vv. 3, 4 Grant Us Thy Peace, Lord**

*3. Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
Turn Thou for us its darkness into light.
From harm and danger keep Thy children free;
For dark and light are both alike to Thee.*

*4. Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our Balm in sorrow and our Stay in strife.
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.*

Preacher/Liturgist: Pastor John Petersen

Organist: John Baumann
