



NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

Friday, December 31, 2021, 6:30PM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School

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

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 tables at the back of worship area). We invite you to come and worship with us again soon.

Explanation of the Service: *Traditionally, the church has celebrated a festival day on January 1st, celebrating the “Circumcision and Naming of Jesus.” On this holy day, we observe how Jesus, at just eight days after His birth, was already at work as our substitute, fulfilling the requirements of God’s Law for us, shedding His blood for us. For this reason, our Savior’s name should be honored and proclaimed above all other names! We also take time to consider the great blessings that God has bestowed upon us in the past calendar year and to ask Him to be with us and to help us continue trusting in the substitutionary work of our Savior and that we might continue the honor and proclaim the name of Jesus, our Savior!*

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: 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. Amen.

~**Hymn 156 Jesus, Name of Wonderful Love**

~**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.

~**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.

~**Individual Absolution** — *God’s declaration of forgiveness to you*

(ELH p. 43, III)



(Our tradition at Mt. Olive is to incorporate Individual Absolution into our New Year’s Eve Service. The practice that we use, of Individual Absolution, comes from the Lutheran Hymnary of the Norwegian Synod (1913). Parishioners are invited to come forward to receive absolution with the laying on of hands from their pastor. We gather around God’s altar, bowing before the Lord with penitence—rejoicing to hear His proclamation that we are forgiven and at peace with Him. What great comfort this provides to us as we enter into a New Year!)

P: Upon this your confession, come forward to the altar of the Lord and receive the declaration of the forgiveness of all your sins.

(The communicants come forward and kneel at the altar rail as directed by the ushers.)

P: By the authority of God and of my holy office *(then, with the laying on of hands, saying to each one)* I declare to you the gracious forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(In dismissing the people the Pastor shall say:)

P: May He who has begun the good work in you perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Peace be with you. Amen.

~Absolution Hymns:

(During the Absolution, the congregation is invited to sing the following hymns:)

Hymn 160 O God, Our Help

Hymn 155 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

~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 #16)

P: O merciful and eternal God, heavenly Father, You caused Your Son to endure circumcision and to be made subject to the law that we might be redeemed from the curse of the law: We beseech You, grant us grace to become partakers of this redemption and thus 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.

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

(EHV)

1 Peter 1:22-25 Since you have purified your souls by obeying the truth, resulting in sincere brotherly love, love one another constantly from a pure heart. For you have been born again, not from perishable seed but from imperishable,

through the living and enduring word of God. For: All flesh is like grass, and all its glory is like a flower of the field. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures forever. And this is the word that was preached to you.

~Holy Gospel Lesson

(EHV)

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 4 vv. 1, 2 *In Jesus' Name*

~Old Testament Lesson & Sermon Text

(EHV)

Psalm 90 *A prayer of Moses, the man of God.*

¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

² Before the mountains were born,

- before you gave birth to the earth and the world,
from eternity to eternity you are God.
- ³ You grind people to dust,
and you say, "Return, children of Adam."
- ⁴ For a thousand years in your sight are like a day,
like yesterday that has gone by,
or like a watch in the night.
- ⁵ You sweep them away like a flood.
They are like sleep in the morning,
like grass which changes quickly.
- ⁶ In the morning it sprouts and grows.
By evening it is cut down, and it withers.
- ⁷ Surely, we are consumed by your anger,
and by your wrath we are terrified.
- ⁸ You have laid out our guilty deeds in front of you.
Our hidden sins are revealed in the light of your face.
- ⁹ For all our days pass away under your fury.
We finish our years like a sigh.
- ¹⁰ The days of our lives add up to seventy years,
or eighty years if we are strong.
Yet the best of them are trouble and sorrow,
for they disappear quickly, and we fly away.
- ¹¹ Who can understand the power of your anger?
But your fury is consistent with the fear that is owed to you.
- ¹² Teach us to number our days in such a way
that we bring a heart of wisdom.
- ¹³ Turn, O LORD! How long!
Change your mind toward your servants.
- ¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your mercy,
so that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.
- ¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
for as many years as we have seen trouble.
- ¹⁶ Let your deeds be seen by your servants
and your majesty by their children.
- ¹⁷ May the kindness of the Lord our God rest upon us.
Establish the work of our hands for us.
Yes, establish the work of our hands.

~Sermon

Our New Year Prayer: Establish the Work of Our Hands.

~Offering Hymn 4 v. 3 *In Jesus' Name*

~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.)

~Prayer of the Church for New Year's

(ELH p 149 #17)

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. Amen.

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.*

~Hymn of Preparation 324 vv. 1-6 *O Jesus, At Your Altar Now*

~Exhortation

(ELH p. 52)

P: Dear friends in Christ! In order that you may receive this holy Sacrament worthily, it is good that you consider what you must now believe and do. From the words of Christ: "This is My body, which is given for you; this is My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sin," you should believe that Jesus Christ is Himself present with His body and blood, as the words declare.

From Christ's words "For the remission of sins," you should believe that Jesus Christ bestows upon you His body and blood to confirm unto you the forgiveness of all your sins.

And finally, you should do as Christ commands you when He says "Take, eat; drink of it, all of you," and "This do in remembrance of Me."

If you believe these words of Christ, and do as He therein has commanded, then you have rightly examined yourselves and may worthily eat Christ's body and drink His blood for the forgiveness of all your sins.

You should also unite in giving thanks to Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for so great a gift, and should love one another with a pure heart, and thus with the whole Christian Church have comfort and joy in Christ our Lord. To this end may God the Father grant you His grace; through the same, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

~Lord's Prayer

(ELH p. 53; 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. 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 159 *To the Name of Salvation*

Hymn 161 *O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is*

~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, vv. 1, 2 *O Lord, We Praise Thee*

~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 134 *Let Us All with Gladsome Voice*

~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.

Preacher/Liturgist: Pastor Luke Ulrich

Organist: John Baumann
