



Midweek Advent Vespers

Wednesday, December 9, 2020; 6:30 PM

An Explanation of Advent: *Advent means "the coming or arrival of a notable person, thing, or event." This season, which marks the start of our church year, is meant to remind us that Christ our Savior is coming. It is a season of eager anticipation and hope. It is also a season of preparation as we prepare our hearts and minds for our Lord to come to us. During this season, the liturgical paraments and vestments in many churches will change to purple to recognize Advent as a time of preparation and repentance as well as a symbol of the royalty of the coming King. Other churches—including ours—change to blue, which is a symbol of anticipation and hope. We also follow the tradition of lighting special candles during this season to symbolize the coming of Christ who is the Light of the World. This is a tradition that dates back to the Lutheran church following the Reformation. However, the current form seen today was developed more recently. The wreath is made out of evergreens in the shape of a circle to represent eternal life. It consists of four candles placed on the wreath: three purple or blue candles to match the liturgical colors and one pink candle lit on the 3rd Sunday in Advent. This 3rd Sunday is known as Gaudete Sunday, meaning "rejoice" in Latin and comes from Philippians 4:4. Lighting this 3rd candle, Christians were to relax the fast that they had undertaken in this penitential season to rejoice that the promised Messiah is coming soon. Our Advent wreath also has a 5th candle. Placed in the center is the Christ candle, which is lit during the time of Christmas, symbolizing that Christ, the light of the world, has entered the darkness. Our prayer for you is that this season of preparation is a time of increased self-examination and devotion. It is a season to come and hear God's Word and to receive His Sacrament. Join with your fellow Christians as you prepare your heart for His coming!*

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School, E.L.S.

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

Welcome! 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 front of you in the hymnbook rack and also on our “Welcome” table). We invite you to come and worship with us again soon.

Order of Service: Vespers (p. 120)

~Prelude — *Preservice music & opportunity for prayer*

*(See “Prayers for Worship”
—ELH p. 40)*

~Opening Hymn 101, vv. 1, 4, 5 *The King Shall Come*

1. *The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.*

4. *O brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes
And we shall see His face.*

5. *The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings.*

~Confession of Sin — *Admitting our sinfulness to God*

(ELH p. 120)

P: Dearly beloved! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts, and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.

C: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done.

Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Your holy name.

P: The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

~**Versicles** — *Opening prayers*

(ELH p. 120)

P: O Lord, open my lips.

C: ♪ And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

C: ♪ Make haste to help me, O Lord. 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. Alleluia!

~**Psalmody** — *Psalm 80:1-7*

(ELH p. 121)

P: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock; You who dwell between the cherubim, shine forth!

C: Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up Your strength, and come and save us!

P: Restore us, O God; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!

C: O LORD God of hosts, how long will You be angry against the prayer of Your people?

P: You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in great measure.

C: You have made us a strife to our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.

P: Restore us, O God of hosts; cause Your face to shine, and we shall be saved!

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.

~**Scripture Lesson**

Luke 1: 39-56 In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why am I so favored that the mother of my

Lord should come to me? In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!”

Then Mary said,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,
because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,
because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is
his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

He has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent
away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever.

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her home.

~Responsory

(ELH p. 122)

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: ♪ Thanks be to You, O Lord!

~Chief Hymn 90 *Savior of the Nations, Come*

*1. Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.*

*2. Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's Offspring, pure and fresh.*

*3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
Of the Virgin undefiled!
Though by all the world disowned,
Still to be in heav'n enthroned.*

*4. From the Father forth He came
And returneth to the same,
Captive leading death and hell—
High the song of triumph swell!*

*5. Thou the Father's only Son,
Hast o'er sin the vict'ry won.
Boundless shall Thy kingdom be;
When shall we its glories see?*

*6. Brightly doth Thy manger shine,
Glorious is its light divine.
Let not sin o'ercloud this light;
Ever be our faith thus bright.*

*7. Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally.*

~Sermon Text

1 Samuel 12:22-24 For the sake of his great name, the Lord will not forsake his people, because the Lord was pleased to make you his own people for himself. As for me, it is unthinkable that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you. Instead I will instruct you in the way that is good and right. Above all, fear the Lord, and serve him in truth, with all your heart, considering the great things he has done for you.

~Sermon Theme

"A Preview of Christ: Samuel the Priest"

~Special Music Soloist Daniel Neubauer

“Comfort Ye My People” & “Every Valley Shall Be Exalted”

(Handel’s Messiah)

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness;

prepare ye the way of the Lord;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

(Isaiah 40:1-3)

*Ev’ry valley shall be exalted, and ev’ry mountain and hill made low;
the crooked straight and the rough places plain.*

(Isaiah 40:4)

~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.

~Collect — Evening prayer

(ELH p. 125-126, #2)

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; Ps 103:2)

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: ♪ Thanks be to God.

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

(ELH p. 127; 2 Cor 13:14)

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.**

~**Closing Hymn 569 , vv. 1, 2, 5, 6** *Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow*

1. *Now rest beneath night's shadow
The woodland, field, and meadow;
The world in slumber lies.
But thou, my heart, awake thee,
To prayer and song betake thee;
Let praise to thy Creator rise.*

2. *The radiant sun hath vanished,
His golden rays are banished
By night, the foe of day;
But Christ, the Sun of gladness,
Dispelling all my sadness,
Within my heart holds constant
sway.*

5. *Lord Jesus, who dost love me,
O spread Thy wings above me
And shield me from alarm!
Though evil would assail me,
Thy mercy will not fail me;
I rest in Thy protecting arm.*

6. *My loved ones, rest securely,
For God this night will surely
From peril guard your heads.
Sweet slumbers may He send you
And bid His hosts attend you
And through the night watch o'er your
beds.*

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

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

Liturgist/Preacher: Pastor Luke Ulrich

Organist: Elisabeth Urtel

Soloist: Daniel Neubauer

Accompanist: John Baumann

Preservice Music: Noah Gernander & Benjamin Faugstad

Join Us for These Special Worship Services: *2020 Schedule*

Wednesday, **December 9** (Midweek Advent)
6:30 PM – *A Preview of Christ: Samuel the Priest*
(1 Samuel 12:22-24); Pastor Luke Ulrich

Wednesday, **December 16** (Midweek Advent)
6:30 PM – *Service of Lessons & Carols*

Thursday, **December 24**, Christmas Eve
Office Closed
4:00 PM – Christmas Eve Service
5:30 PM – Christmas Eve Service
7:00 PM – Candlelight Service

Friday, **December 25**, Christmas Day
Office Closed
8:30 AM – Divine Service, w/HC
10:00 AM – Divine Service, w/HC

Thursday, **December 31**, New Year's Eve
Office Closed
6:30 PM – New Year's Eve Service, w/HC

Friday, **January 1**, New Year's Day
Office Closed

