



## EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 10, 2021, 8:30 & 10:45 AM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School, ELS

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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 front of you in the hymnbook rack and the Welcome table). We invite you to come and worship with us again soon.

**Explanation of the Week:** *On the Festival of Epiphany, we celebrate the visit of the Gentile strangers from the East—the Magi—who came to worship the child, Jesus (Matt 2:1-12). The darkness of sin that had covered the entire earth is now lifted because of the great Light of the World—Christ—who has come (Isaiah 60:1-6)! St. Paul points us to the work that Jesus has carried out so that sinners who have faith in Jesus might be found “justified” (“declared righteous”) before God. He emphasizes that this applies to Jews and Gentiles alike (Rom 3:23-31). Jesus, the Son of God, has been revealed to be the Savior of the World!—a prominent theme on Epiphany Sunday and throughout the Epiphany season. This Savior comes to us still today as we receive His Word and Sacrament in the Divine Service.*





(Today we follow the order of worship known as “Matins.” “Matins”—from the Latin word for “morning”—is one of the main services the monks would sing together each day during the middle ages. The Lutheran church kept the Matins liturgy because its focus is on the reading and hearing of God’s Word.)

**~Opening Hymn 168, vv. 1, 2, 4 As With Gladness**

1. *As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led by Thee.*

2. *As with joyful steps they sped,  
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Thee, whom heav’n and earth adore,  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.*

4. *Holy Jesus, ev’ry day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.*

**~Confession of Sin** — *Admitting our guilt & receiving God’s forgiveness* (ELH p. 109)

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 sentences*

(*ELH p. 109ff; Ps 51:15, Ps 70:1*)

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.**

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

(*ELH p. 110*)

**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. Alleluia!**

~**Psalmody** –

(*1 Chron. 29:12; Ps. 72:1&11*)

P: Behold, the Lord, the Ruler, has come,

**C: and the kingdom and the power and the glory are in His hand.**

P: All kings shall fall down before Him,

**C: all nations shall serve Him.**

P: Give the King Your judgments, O God,

**C: and Your righteousness to the King’s Son.**

**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.**

~**Old Testament Lesson**

**Isaiah 60:1-6** Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord is dawning upon you.

Look, darkness covers the earth,  
and deep darkness covers the peoples,

but the Lord will dawn upon you,  
and his glory will be seen over you.

Nations will walk to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Look up. Look all around and see!

All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you.

Your sons will come from far away,

and people will carry your daughters on their side.

Then you will look and be radiant.

Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.

For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you.  
The wealth of the nations will come to you.  
Caravans of camels will cover your land,  
young camels from Midian and Ephah.  
All those from Sheba will come.  
They will carry gold and incense,  
and they will announce the good news of the praise of the Lord.

**~Special Music “The Wise Men From Persia”**

*(By Cornelius/Neubauer)*

*The Wise Men from Persia travelled far  
To Judah followed the guiding star  
And in Jerusalem, asked where he,  
The promised newborn king of the Jews may be.  
They saw a star shine for a King  
But not in a palace is this promised King  
God’s Word now sends them to David’s town  
A meek and humble child they found  
In faith they worshiped and bent the knee  
As Mary’s child in her lap they see.  
Their precious gifts they share with this king  
Gold, incense, myrrh are their offering.  
So certain that Jesus was a king  
They shared their treasures and worshiped Him.  
We need not go to Bethlehem  
To praise our Savior and our King  
Gold Incense Myrrh we cannot bring  
Offer your hearts to the infant king. Offer your heart.*

**~Epistle Lesson**

**Romans 3:23-31** because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God publicly displayed as the atonement seat through faith in his blood. God did this to demonstrate his justice, since, in his divine restraint, he had left the sins that were committed earlier unpunished. He did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so that he would be both just and the one who justifies the person who has faith in Jesus.

What happens to boasting then? It has been eliminated. By what principle—by the principle of works? No, but by the principle of faith. For we conclude that a person is justified by faith without the works of the law. Or is he only the God of the Jews? Is he

not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, also of the Gentiles, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised person by faith and the uncircumcised person through the very same faith. So are we doing away with the law by this faith? Absolutely not! Instead, we are upholding the law.

### **~Hymn 145 *What Child Is This***

*1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

*2. Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

*3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The Virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

### **~Holy Gospel Lesson & Sermon Text**

**Matthew 2:1-12** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. He gathered together all the people's chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel."

Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him."

After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

**~Sermon Theme**

*“What Do The Wise Men Teach Us about True Worship?”*

**~Hymn 167, vv. 1, 5, 6 *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star***

*1. How lovely shines the Morning Star!  
The nations see and hail afar  
The light in Judah shining.  
Thou David's Son of Jacob's race,  
My Bridegroom and my King of Grace,  
For Thee my heart is pining.  
Lowly,  
Holy,  
Great and glorious,  
Thou victorious  
Prince of graces,  
Filling all the heav'nly places.*

*5. Thou, mighty Father, in Thy Son  
Didst love me ere Thou hadst begun  
This ancient world's foundation.  
Thy Son hath made a friend of me,  
And when in spirit Him I see,  
I joy in tribulation.  
What bliss  
Is this!  
He that liveth  
To me giveth  
Life forever;  
Nothing me from Him can sever.*

*6. Lift up the voice and strike the string,  
Let all glad sounds of music ring  
In God's high praises blended.  
Christ will be with me all the way,  
Today, tomorrow, every day,  
Till trav'ling days be ended.  
Sing out,  
Ring out  
Triumph glorious,  
O victorious,  
Chosen nation;  
Praise the God of your salvation.*

**~Apostles' Creed** — *Confession of faith*

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.**

**~Kyrie** — *Lord, Have Mercy"*

*(ELH p. 116)*

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

**~Lord's Prayer**

*(ELH p. 117; 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.**

**~Prayers & Special Petitions**

**~Collect** — *The congregation's prayer of the day*

*(ELH p. 118; p. 149, #19)*

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, You have given us the light of Your Holy Word, the guiding star that leads us to the Christ-child: Send, we beseech You, Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive this light and make use of it for our salvation, and that we, like the wise men, when they were seeking the star, may not be afraid because of any hardship or peril, but put all our trust in Your only-begotten Son as our only Savior, devote our earthly possessions to the advancement of Your kingdom, and in all things serve Him, Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

**C: ♪ Amen.**

**~Benedicimus** — *Call for blessing*

*(ELH p. 119)*

P: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: ♪ Thanks be to God.**

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

(ELH p. 119)

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 163, vv. 1, 3, 4** *O Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly*

1. *O rejoice, ye Christians, loudly,  
For our joy hath now begun;  
Wondrous things our God hath done.  
Tell abroad His goodness proudly,  
Who our race hath honored thus,  
That He deigns to dwell with us.  
(Refrain)*

3. *Lord, how shall I thank Thee rightly?  
I acknowledge that by Thee  
I am saved eternally.  
Let me not forget it lightly  
But to Thee at all times cleave,  
And my heart true peace receive.  
(Refrain)*

4. *Jesus, guard and guide Thy members;  
Fill Thy brethren with Thy grace;  
Hear their prayers in ev'ry place.  
Brighten now faith's glowing embers;  
Grant all Christians, far and near,  
Holy peace, and godly cheer!  
(Refrain)*

*Refrain:  
Joy, O joy, beyond all gladness,  
Christ hath done away with sadness!  
Hence, all sorrow and repining,  
For the Sun of Grace is shining!*

~**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: Dennis Marzolf  
Organist: 2<sup>nd</sup> Service: John Baumann  
Monday Organist: Lexi Fosburgh  
Special Music: Daniel Neubauer  
Accompanist: Cassie Johnson*

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

**New Years Eve:** 86/60; **Live Online Viewing:** 35

**Sunday:** 8:30am, 103/75; 10:45am, 90/57; **Live Online Viewing:** 55

**Monday:** 32/23

**SERVING OUR LORD THIS WEEK:**

**Greeters:** 1<sup>st</sup> Service: Keith Anderson and Mark & Vivian Smith

2<sup>nd</sup> Service: Connie Meyer

**Offering Counters:** Steve Lussky; Jon Pfeffer

**Altar Guild:** Connie Gullixson; Connie Meyer

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**Weekly Financial Update:**

**Given Last Week:** \$35,119.68 (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: *January 10, 2021 – January 17, 2021***

<b>Sunday,</b> January 10	8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM	Divine Service SS/BIC/Bible Class/Sr. Youth Divine Service
<b>Mon.,</b> Jan. 11	9:30AM 10AM 6:30PM 6:30PM	Area Pastors' Conference @ Peace Veterans Bible Study Divine Service Church Council
<b>Tues,</b> Jan. 12	6:30PM	PTF Executive Committee
<b>Wed,</b> Jan. 13	8:05AM 9AM 4PM	CDS Chapel Bible Study Confirmation Classes
<b>Thurs.,</b> Jan. 14		
<b>Fri.,</b> Jan. 15		
<b>Sat,</b> Jan. 16		
<b>Sunday,</b> January 17	8:30AM 9:40AM 10:45AM	Divine Service with Holy Communion 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.

**Please Pick Up Your Poinsettia Today**

**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**

**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).

