



## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sunday, January 3, 2021, 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 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:** *In fleeing from murderous Herod, our young Lord goes to Egypt (Mt 2:13-23), that the prophecy might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my Son" (Hos 11:1). Jesus brings to perfection what old Israel could not. He is the faithful Israel, the true embodiment of the people of God. Unlike Herod, He is the true king who has come to help—not hurt or murder—His people. He is one who comes with true concern for His people—one who comes in gentleness and concern. (Isaiah 42:1-4). Because of this, He offers His perfect and holy life in place of our own. He submits Himself to persecution and suffering in order to save us. Therefore, we should not think it strange when we who are in Christ experience trials because of the faith (1 Pet 4:12-19). Rather, we rejoice to share in Christ's sufferings, knowing that we will also share in His glory.*



(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 143, vv. 1, 5, 9 *The Happy Christmas Come Once More*

1. *The happy Christmas comes once more;  
The heav’nly Guest is at the door,  
The blessed words the shepherds thrill,  
The joyous tidings: Peace, goodwill.*

9. *Come, Jesus, glorious heav’nly Guest,  
Keep Thine own Christmas in our breast;  
Then David’s harp-string, hushed so long,  
Shall swell our jubilee of song.*

5. *No human glory, might, and gold,  
The lovely Infant’s form enfold;  
The manger and the swaddlings poor  
Are His, whom angels’ songs adore.*

~**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** – *Psalm 8:4-6*

P: O LORD, our Lord,

**C: how excellent is Your name in all the earth!**

P: What is man that You are mindful of him

**C: and the son of man that You visit him?**

P: For You have made him a little lower than the angels,

**C: and You have crowned him with glory and honor.**

P: You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands;

**C: You have put all things under his feet.**

**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 42:1-9** Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom I delight.

I am placing my Spirit on him.

He will announce a just verdict for the nations.

He will not cry out.

He will not raise his voice.

He will not make his voice heard in the street.

A bent reed he will not break,

and a dimly burning wick he will not snuff out.

He will faithfully bring forth a just verdict.

He will not burn out, and he will not be broken  
until he establishes justice on the earth.

The coastlands will wait for his law.

This is what the true God says,

the Lord who creates the heavens and stretches them out,

who spreads out the earth  
and everything that it produces,  
who gives breath to the people on it  
and life to those who walk on it.

I am the Lord.

I have called you in righteousness.

I will hold on to your hand,  
and I will guard you.

I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people,  
to be a light for the nations,  
to open the eyes of the blind,  
to bring the prisoners out from the dungeon,  
and to bring those who sit in darkness out of prison.

I am the Lord; that is my name.

I will not give my glory to another,  
nor my praise to idols.

Look, the former things have taken place,  
and I am declaring new things.

I am making them known to you before they spring forth.

### ~Holy Gospel Lesson

**Matthew 2:13-23** After the Wise Men were gone, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to Joseph in a dream. He said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, because Herod will search for the child in order to kill him." Joseph got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and left for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod. This happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son." When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Wise Men, he was furious. He issued orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding countryside, from two years old and under. This was in keeping with the exact time he had learned from the Wise Men. Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children,  
and she refused to be comforted,  
because they are no more.

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. The angel said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to kill the child are dead." Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus, Herod's son, had succeeded his father as ruler in Judea, he was afraid to go there. Since he had been warned in a dream, he went to the region of Galilee. When he arrived there, he settled in a city called Nazareth. So what was spoken through the prophets was fulfilled: "He will be called a Nazarene."

**~Hymn 144, vv. 3-5 *Now Welcome! From Thy Heav'nly Home***

*3. Now welcome! From Thy heav'nly home  
Thou to our vale of tears art come;  
Man hath no offering for Thee save  
The stable, manger, cross, and grave.*

*5. O draw us wholly to Thee, Lord,  
Do Thou to us Thy grace accord,  
True faith and love to us impart,  
That we may hold Thee in our heart.*

*4. Jesus, alas! how can it be  
So few bestow a thought on Thee  
Or on the love, so wondrous great,  
That drew Thee down to our estate?*

**~Epistle Lesson & Sermon Text**

***Ephesians 1:3-11*** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. He did this when He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ. He did this in accordance with the good purpose of His will, and for the praise of His glorious grace, which He has graciously given us in the one He loves. In Him we also have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in keeping with the riches of His grace, which He lavished on us in all wisdom and insight. He made known to us the mystery of His will in keeping with His good purpose, which He planned in Christ. This was to be carried out when the time had fully come, in order to bring all things together in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth. In Him we have also obtained an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in keeping with the purpose of His will.

**~Sermon Theme**

*Do You See the Big Picture?*

- 1. See what God chose to do in the past.*
- 2. See what He does in the present.*
- 3. See what this means for your future.*

## ~Prayers & Special Petitions

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### 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.*

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#### ~Preface

*(ELH p. 72 ff.; 2 Tim 4:22, Col 3:1, Ps 136)*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: ♪ And with your spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: ♪ We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C: ♪ It is good and right so to do.**

#### ~The Preface Christmastide

*(ELH p. 73- 75)*

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory, that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things which are not seen Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

#### ~Sanctus — "Holy"

*(ELH p. 76)*

**C: ♪ Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He,**

**blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**~Lord's Prayer**

*(ELH p. 77-78; 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. 78; Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25)*

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."

**~The Pax Domini — "The Peace of the Lord"**

*(ELH p. 79; Jn 20:19)*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: ♪ Amen.**

**~Agnus Dei — "Lamb of God"**

*(ELH p. 79ff; 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 sings the following hymns: )*

**~Hymn 162 vv. 1, 4 This Little Babe**

*1. This little Babe so few days old  
Is come to rifle Satan's fold;  
All hell doth at His presence quake,  
Though He Himself for cold doth shake;  
For in this weak unarméd wise  
The gates of hell He will surprise.*

*4. My soul with Christ join thou in fight;  
Stick to His tents, the place of might.  
Within His crib is surest ward;  
This little Babe will be thy Guard.  
If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy,  
Then flit not from this heav'nly Boy!*

## ~Hymn 175 *God Loves Me Dearly*

1. *God loves me dearly,  
Grants me salvation,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me.*

### **Refrain:**

***Therefore I'll say again:  
God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me.***

2. *I was in slav'ry,  
Sin, death, and darkness;  
God's love was working  
To make me free.*

### **(Refrain)**

3. *He sent forth Jesus,  
My dear Redeemer,  
He sent forth Jesus  
And set me free.*

### **(Refrain)**

4. *Jesus, my Savior,  
Himself did offer;  
Jesus, my Savior,  
Paid all I owed.*

### **(Refrain)**

5. *Now will I praise You,  
O Love Eternal;  
Now will I praise You  
All my life long.*

### **(Refrain)**

## ~Hymn 161 *O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger is My Paradise*

1. *O Jesus Christ,  
Thy manger is  
My paradise at which my soul reclineth.  
For there, O Lord,  
Doth lie the Word  
Made flesh for us—herein Thy grace forth  
shineth.*

2. *He whom the sea  
And wind obey  
Doth come to serve the sinner in great  
meekness.  
Thou, God's own Son,  
With us art one,  
Dost join us and our children in our weakness.*

3. *Thy light and grace  
Our guilt efface,  
Thy heav'nly riches all our loss retrieving.  
Immanuel,  
Thy birth doth quell  
The pow'r of hell and Satan's bold deceiving.*

4. *Thou Christian heart,  
Whoe'er thou art,  
Be of good cheer and let no sorrow move thee.  
For God's own Child,  
In mercy mild,  
Joins thee to Him—how greatly God must love  
thee!*

5. *Remember thou  
What glory now  
The Lord prepared thee for all earthly  
sadness.  
The angel host  
Can never boast  
Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.*

6. *The world may hold  
Her wealth and gold;  
But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true  
Treasure.  
To Him hold fast  
Until at last  
A crown be thine and honor in full measure.*

~**Dismissal** — *Assurance of blessing for those who have communed* (ELH p. 81)

P: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, and His precious blood strengthen and preserve you in the true faith to everlasting life. Depart in peace. Amen.

~**Nunc Dimittis** — *“Now I Depart”* (ELH p. 81-82; Lk 2:29-32)

**C: ♪ Lord, now You let Your servant depart in peace according to Your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. 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.**

~**Collect of Thanksgiving** (ELH p. 83, II)

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup;

**C: ♪ We proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.**

P: Let us pray: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in lovingkindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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.**

~**Salutation** — *The people’s blessing for the Pastor’s work* (ELH p. 84)

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: ♪ And with your spirit.**

~**Benedicimus** — *Call for blessing* (ELH p. 84; 2 Cor. 13:14)

P: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: ♪ Thanks be to God.**

~**Benediction** — *Final blessing for God’s people* (ELH p. 84; 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 144, vv. 6, 7, 8** *Keep us, Howe’er the World May Lure*

*6. Keep us, howe’er the world may lure,  
In our baptismal cov’nant pure;  
That ev’ry yearning thought may be  
Directed only unto Thee*

7. *Until at last we, too, proclaim,  
With all Thy saints, Thy glorious name;  
In Paradise our songs renew,  
And praise Thee as the angels do.*

8. *We gather round Thee, Jesus dear,  
So happy in Thy presence here;  
Grant us, our Savior, ev'ry one,  
To stand in heav'n before Thy throne.*

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

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

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*Officiant: Pastor John Petersen  
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:**

**Christmas Eve:** 340; **Christmas Day:** 142/89

**Sunday:** 8:30am, 81; 10:45am, 75

**Monday:** 28

**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:** \$22,735.70 (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 3, 2021 – January 10, 2021*

|                              |                             |                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday,</b><br>January 3  | 8:30AM<br>9:40AM<br>10:45AM | Divine Service with Holy Communion<br><b>NO</b> SS/BIC/Bible Class/Sr. Youth<br>Divine Service with Holy Communion |
| <b>Mon.,</b> Jan. 4          | 6:30PM<br>7PM               | Divine Service with Holy Communion<br>Board of Deacons                                                             |
| <b>Tues,</b> Jan. 5          | 6:30PM                      | Jesus Cares Ministry                                                                                               |
| <b>Wed,</b> Jan. 6           | 9AM<br>4PM<br>7PM           | Bible Study<br>Confirmation Classes<br>Board of Education                                                          |
| <b>Thurs.,</b> Jan. 7        |                             |                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Fri.,</b> Jan. 8          |                             |                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Sat,</b> Jan. 9           |                             |                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Sunday,</b><br>January 10 | 8:30AM<br>9:40AM<br>10:45AM | Divine Service<br>SS/BIC/Bible Class/Sr. Youth<br>Divine Service                                                   |

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Flowers on the altar** today are given to God's glory by Adam & Mandy Pavelchik in celebration of their 18<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.

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

**Poinsettia Reminder:** For those who have donated poinsettias, please take yours home with you 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**

#### **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).