

The Olive Branch

March 14, 2018



Accent on Worship *Vicar Jessica Christy*

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour."

Scholars sometimes talk about Jesus approaching his crucifixion with greater confidence in the Gospel of John than in the other Gospels. By John's telling, Christ doesn't grieve in the garden, doesn't cry out in despair on the Cross. But here, we get to see a rare flash of his fear. Jesus has just entered Jerusalem and is explaining his coming death to a curious crowd. He tells them that his death will be fruitful, like a grain of wheat that enters the earth so that it can bear fruit. He tells them that he will be raised, and so will bring all people together in new life. In the next moment, he demonstrates that he can

call on his Father's voice at any time. And yet he is troubled. For all the composure that he will show in the face of death, he knows what's coming, and he knows it won't be easy. He even ponders the possibility that he could ask the Father to find a different way, then rejects the idea; this is why he has come, and this is what he must do. He needs to be lifted up on the Cross before he can be lifted from the grave, and so lift all things with him.

I love Jesus' very human instinct when he imagines praying to be spared the coming ordeal. It's what we pray every week: "save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil." And yet we constantly find ourselves in situations of uncertainty, pain, and death. Suffering is not a good thing, and we should never wish to be hurt, or to see each other hurting – but sometimes we are called to face an hour of trouble, even when it would be easier to run away. Sometimes we need to follow the way of Christ and enter into his sacrificial love in order to sow seeds of new life. This can be a scary call, and like Jesus, we're allowed to be scared. But as Jesus promises, wherever we go, he will be with us, drawing us to him and raising us to eternal life.

Sunday Readings

March 18, 2018

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

March 25, 2018

Sunday of the Passion

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1 – 15:47

Sunday Adult Forum

This Sunday, March 18: "To Taste the Kingdom: Celebrating the Liturgy of God's Table," presented by Fr. Jan Michael Joncas

Rev. Jan Michael Joncas is University Artist-in-Residence in the Center for Catholic Studies at University of St. Thomas, St. Paul. He has graduate degrees from the Pontifical Liturgical Institute in Rome and from Notre Dame. He writes and lectures on the conciliar documents of Vatican II, including on the *Pray Tell* blog, and has written many fine hymns used across the Church in the United States and Canada.

Next Sunday, March 25, Palm/Passion Sunday: No forum

Healthcare Directives Refresher Course Rescheduled

- Date: Saturday, April 14
- Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Place: Mount Olive Lutheran Church
- Presenters: Heather Joy Halen, Kathy Thurston

Topics to be addressed will include review of preparation of Health Care Directives, what POLST is, how to choose a health care agent, how to have the conversation of end-of-life issues with family/friends, and other questions/concerns raised by attendees.

All are welcome and while registration is not necessary, it will be helpful to know in advance how many will be in attendance so enough handouts can be prepared. Let Marilyn Gebauer know your plans. Phone: 612-306-8872, or by email: gebauevm@bitstream.net.

Paschal Garden

Volunteers will be on hand for two more Sundays, March 18 and 25, before, between, and following the liturgies to receive your donations to purchase Easter flowers for this year's Paschal Garden.

Lenten Devotional Booklet Available

The Grain of Wheat: A Lenten Journey for 2018, the Year of Mark, by Susan Palo Cherwien, is a Lenten devotional guide which is available for use this Lenten season. Hard copies of the booklet are available at church, near the coat room. It is also available as a daily blog online at www.grainofwheat2018.blogspot.com.

Book Discussion

For their April 14 meeting, the Book Discussion Group will discuss, two books: *The Stranger* by Albert Camus and *The Meursault Investigation* by Kamel Daoud. For May 12 they will read *Hillbilly Elegy*, by J.D. Vance.

The Book Discussion Group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the West Assembly area.

All readers welcome!

Restorative Justice Adult Forum Video

The video from the Restorative Justice Adult forum on January 14 is on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/BI79Awwk1pM>.

Calendar

Wednesday, March 14

9:00 am Staff Meeting
Noon *Midweek Lenten Eucharist*
1:00 pm Soup Luncheon
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsal / Soup Supper
7:00 pm *Midweek Lenten Vespers*
7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, March 17

9:30 am Confirmation
10:00 am Music & Fine Arts Committee meeting
11:00 am Diaper Depot open
Noon Community Meal

Sunday, March 18 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship
9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and fellowship

Monday, March 19

4-6 pm National Lutheran Choir Board meeting
6:30 pm Reconciling Works committee meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, March 20

Noon Bible Study
1-3 pm CoAM Advisory Committee meeting
4:00 pm Diaper Depot open

Norwegian Women's Choir Concert

Saturday, March 24, 4:00 pm

The Women's Choral Society of the University of Oslo (Norway) will present a concert at Mount Olive on Saturday, March 24, at 4:00 pm.

This choir is the official women's choir at the University of Oslo, and was founded in 1895. It is the oldest academic women's choir in the world. Their repertoire includes Norwegian folk music in new as well as traditional arrangements, and newly-written music, with great harmonies and exciting dissonances.

Volunteers are needed to help with set up and clean up for the reception. If you can help, please contact Cantor Cherwien.

All are welcome! Bring a friend!

Wednesdays in Lent

✦ **Holy Eucharist at Noon, followed by soup luncheon**

✦ **Evening Prayer at 7 pm, preceded by soup supper at 6 pm.**

Easter Carry-In Brunch

There will be a Carry-In (potluck) Brunch on Easter morning, April 1, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Bring a favorite brunch item to share between the liturgies.

New Members to be Received April 8

New members will be received at the second liturgy on Sunday, April 8.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in joining Mount Olive, please contact the church office or speak with Pastor Crippen.

News From the Neighborhood

Anna Scott, Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach and Ministry

Invitation to March for our Lives - March 24, 11:00 am

There is a group of Mount Olive folks planning to participate in the upcoming "March for Our Lives" at the State Capitol, joining students and allies as they fight for an America that is free from gun violence. If you are interested in joining at the capitol, please contact Anna Scott at: neighborhood@mountolivechurch.org or call 612-827-5919 to get connected with more information to coordinate rides and a meeting location. More information about the march can be found on: marchforourlivesmsp.weebly.com/

Needs of the Neighborhood

Very frequently in my conversations with neighbors, they express something specific that they need that would be helpful in their lives. Knowing that we are all connected, I'll be putting those needs here and on the kiosk to see if anyone can help with these needs. Because I'd like to avoid becoming a full donation center, please try to respond to the specific items on the list or check with me before bringing in items not on the list. All donated items can be put in my office (ask staff) or marked and put in the bins by the upstairs kitchen. Any gift cards or financial donations can go to the office directly (to Anna's mailbox) or put in the offering in an envelope marked "needs of the neighborhood." Thank you. Gracias. Mahadsanid.

Baby items: There is a mother who is due with her 3rd child - a daughter - soon and needs help with baby items. They are currently homeless and working towards housing. Or if anyone is able to watch two children ages 2 and 5 when the baby arrives she would sure be grateful!

For baby & mom: Simple clothing items (girl), bottles & drying rack (any size), baby hygiene (diaper cream, shampoo, lotion, brush), swaddles and blankets, snack and a water bottle for mom, dish soap & laundry detergent, gift cards for other needs (Target, Cub, Walmart).

For a neighbor: There is a young woman who is hoping to get a small, portable, battery operated radio she can carry with her. If you have one you are willing to part with please let me know. She would be delighted!

For a neighbor: There is a woman who is having trouble walking and is looking for a walker. If someone has one they no longer need, she would be glad to put it to use!

March is Minnesota FoodShare Month!

Help Squash Hunger!

Donate to the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign for Community Emergency Service (CES)

Throughout the month of March, Mount Olive will collect food, hygiene items, and monetary gifts to help our neighbors who face hunger. Boxes will be out in the main assembly areas from March 5 - March 26. **Monetary donations are especially helpful!**

* Please don't give expired items or use this opportunity to clean out your cupboards :)

Can you help bring our collected items to Community Emergency Services? Please contact Anna Scott to help haul over our stash and get a tour of CES!

Anna Helgen to Be Ordained March 17 (Saturday!)

We rejoice at the Church's call to one of our own! Former vicar Anna Helgen has been called as associate pastor to Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. She invites all at Mount Olive to be with her as she is set apart to this ministry in the Church. Her ordination is scheduled for Saturday, March 17, at 2:00 p.m., at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 4801 France Ave. S., Minneapolis. There will be a light reception following.

Anna also wrote this in her invitation to Mount Olive:

"If you like to sing, I invite you to join the pop-up choir (directed by Ralph Johnson and accompanied by my uncle John Helgen). Rehearsal is from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. A light lunch is provided for choir participants. Please let me know by Saturday, March 10, if you'd like to sing in the choir so I can email you the music ahead of time (and so we have an accurate count for lunch!). My email address is ahelgen@mtolivet.org.

Thank you for your many years of support and encouragement. It will be a special day to share with the great cloud of witnesses!"

- Anna

Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) - Free Tour – “Stories of the Faithful,” led by Bill Wilson, Mia Docent - Places Still Available

There are still a few places left for the tour "Stories of the Faithful" at the Minneapolis Institute of Art on Saturday, March 24, at 10:30 am. The 60-minute tour includes works centered on the lives of Jesus and John the Baptist. The maximum number for the tour is 15. The group will lunch at Christos following the tour to continue conversation on the works viewed. The tour and admission to the museum are free, although Mia always welcomes donations. If you wish to attend, please contact Susan Cherwien at susan.cherwien@gmail.com as soon as possible to reserve a place. Please include a contact phone number in your email, and whether you are also interested in lunch. If more than 15 people are interested, Bill has expressed a willingness to schedule a second tour.

Chancel Dusting and Polishing Day

The Altar Guild will host a chancel-cleaning event on Saturday, March 24, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please join our crew – for an hour, for the morning. The more hands, the faster we'll finish! Come help prepare our worship space for Holy Week and Easter. Questions? Contact Beth Gaede – bethgaede@comcast.com.

“Before Bach’s Birthday” Concert

The Twin Cities chapter of the American Guild of Organists (TCAGO) presents its annual “(Before) Bach’s Birthday Bash,” which will take place all day on Saturday, March 17, four days before Johann Sebastian Bach’s actual 333rd Birthday (3/21/1685). Musicians will give free hour-long performances in five venues in Saint Paul, and this year it all starts at Olivet!

Mount Olive member Mark Spitzack will be featured in this concert on Classical MPR at 9 a.m. this Saturday, March 17. Mark will play the Dobson Organ, Opus 4, built by **Mount Olive member Lynn Dobson**.

The concert can also be viewed and heard live at Olivet Congregational Church, 1850 Iglehart Avenue in St. Paul, also at 9 a.m. on March 17.

Save the date! Come to the church, or tune in for the Olivet hour of this annual celebration!

Holy Week at Mount Olive

Sunday, March 25: *Sunday of the Passion*
+ Holy Eucharist, 8 & 10:45 am

Mon.-Wed., March 26-28: *Monday-Wednesday in Holy Week*
+ Daily Prayer at Noon, in the side chapel of the nave, near the columbarium

Thursday, March 29: *Maundy Thursday*
+ Holy Eucharist, Noon
+ Holy Eucharist, with Washing of Feet, 7:00 pm

Friday, March 30: *Good Friday*
+ Stations of the Cross, Noon
+ Adoration of the Cross, 7 pm

Saturday, March 31: *Holy Saturday*
+ The Easter Vigil, 8:30 pm, followed by a festive reception

Sunday, April 1: *The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day*
+ Festival Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:45 am
+ Easter Carry-in brunch at 9:30 am

World Storytelling Day, March 20 & 24, 7 pm

“Wise Fools: Wisdom on the Folly of War”

Landmark Center, St. Paul

Every year, since 2003, World Storytelling Day events take place on or around March 20 in more than 25 countries. Storytelling is often thought of as fairytales, fables, and oral history, but it is also commonly used to foster peace and understanding, community building, healing, and in advocacy work. Each year a global theme complements the principal concept behind WSD, “If I can hear your story, it's harder for me to hate you.” This year’s global theme is “Wise Fools.”

In the evening’s stories, the global theme will be interpreted through the lens of “Wisdom on the Folly of War” and will frequently feature those who speak truth from the heart even in the face of popular opposition.

For additional information, see the poster on the kiosk at church, or speak with Al Bostelmann (Al will be one of the storytellers).

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist: 8:00 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

Phone: 612/827-5919

On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Jessica Christy*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach
and Ministry – *Anna Scott*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *James Wilkes*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

Caring for Creation

Sunday, April 15, 5-7 pm

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, 5025 Knox Ave. S., Minneapolis

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church invites the community to attend this dinner event with Paul Douglas, well-known and respected meteorologist with more than 35 years of TV and radio experience in the Twin Cities area. Paul will discuss *Caring for Creation*, a book he co-authored with Pastor Mitch Hescox.

Connecting the dots between science and faith, Paul will show how Christians can take the lead in caring for God's creation in ways that reflect our beliefs. He will also share ways to nurture and wisely steward the resources God has given us.

Cost: \$10. To register, visit www.mtolivet.org.