



The Olive Branch

September 5, 2018

Accent on Worship

Vicar Matta Ghaly

The Power of Naming: What have you been called?

I have been spending time with the Syrophenician woman who approaches Jesus

to ask healing for her daughter. Jesus calls her a dog. He insults this desperate mother who is already risking a lot as a gentile woman making a request to a Galilean Jewish man. Impressed by her clever wit, quick retort and persistence in response to his slur, Jesus gives in and heals her daughter.

For those of us who have been called names related to our national origin, race, color, gender or sexuality, this text is very triggering and uncomfortable. Myself, I have been called sand-ni**er, camel jockey and terrorist, among other names. I have been called sissy and fag. I have been called all these things by complete strangers who I don't know and have not harmed. I have been called some of these things by people I knew and loved. While it may be shocking or uncomfortable for you to read these insults, especially coming from me as your vicar, they are part of my unchosen reality, of my walking in the world and simply existing. They are also part of my trauma, yet I rarely speak about being called such names or utter them out loud. I am afraid of speaking them, afraid of their power and impact. I am embarrassed at the indignity and loss of personhood, ashamed that I was bullied as an adult while walking down the street. I want to protect whatever pride I have left from a higher dose of vulnerability, uninvited sympathy or disbelief.

As I remembered these experiences while wrestling with the text, I also re-discovered the healing power of openly naming that which we have been called, and we have all been called something. Naming again and again dismantles the power of these words and their impact on our whole selves. When they lose their meaning and power, we then begin to fully embrace and live into our identities as beloved children of God and heirs of God's reign.

Could Jesus be naming what everyone around him was thinking about this woman? Was he insulting her out of his own prejudice or calling out the racism of his companions? Is he disempowering the insult and setting her free from the indignity before healing her daughter too? Is it a liberating kind of moment? There are all sorts of both/and answers and commentaries but more importantly for this moment, I wonder what have you been called? How much of it continues to reside within you and wound you? What needs to be named? What could be disempowered and dismantled so that you may be free to be who God called you to be?

The following story - part of the lectionary reading - is of a deaf man with an impediment in speech. While the narrative is full of ableism, the act of healing is a powerful and beautiful moment. Jesus looks up to heaven, sighs, and tells him "Ephphatha" in Aramaic or "Be opened." Immediately, the man's ears are opened, his tongue is released and he speaks plainly.

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Sunday Readings

September 9, 2018

**16th Sunday after
Pentecost**

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalm 125

James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

September 16, 2018

**17th Sunday after
Pentecost**

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalm 19

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

Choirs For Our Young Are Expanding!

Dear Elders of our Youngers -

I'm very excited to share with you what our plans are for choir opportunities for our younger ones!

I am working toward having two choirs starting this fall - both rehearsing 6:00-6:45 pm on Wednesdays, preceded by a light child-friendly supper at 5:30. We're hoping to begin on Wednesday, September 19, until December 5, then January 9 until April 28.

Children's Choir: K-2nd grade. This group will operate with a more activities-based fashion, less dependent on reading. The pace of the 45 minute time would be smaller units of these activities, with more movement and physical learning activities. They will sing in the 10:45 service twice in fall, and twice in winter/spring. This will be led by a new leader, being sought right now.

Youth Choir: 3rd grade and up. This will be much more reading-music centered, challenging their growth as a choir, singing in harmony/parts, and learning a greater volume of music. They will sing in the 10:45 service approximately once a month. I will lead this group.

While the "K" and "2" sound like strict parameters, they do not need to be. At the younger end of that spectrum there may be 4 year-olds whose attention span may tolerate that of a first grader. Similarly, there may be a 2nd grader whose reading ability is advanced enough to maintain interest with the Youth Choir. Not sure? Give me a call and we can work on that together.

Above I said, "working toward." What that means is that we are in the process of looking for a director for the younger group who has some experience with these kinds of activities and teaching style.

I will certainly sound the bell (so to speak) once we are 100% set. In the meantime, I just wanted to be sure the opportunity was on your schedule screen. If you have any questions or thoughts, please don't hesitate to share them with me!

- Cantor David Cherwien

It's a Birthday Celebration!

Melba Smrcka will celebrate her 100th birthday this Sunday! Her family is celebrating with a post-liturgy lunch at Mount Olive, and everyone is invited!

Melba's 100th birthday party will be this Sunday, September 9, following the second liturgy.

Regular Sunday Worship Schedule Returns

Beginning **this Sunday, September 9**, we will return to our regular Sunday schedule of two Sunday liturgies, at 8:00 and 10:45 a.m. Godly Play and Adult Forum resume, too, at 9:30 a.m.

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

Could naming what we have been called be an opening of our traumatized bodies? of ears that fear hearing these insults yet again? of tongues that won't tell the story and name the trauma out of embarrassment and shame?

Could speaking plainly the words we have been called heal the multi-generational and systematic patterns of racism, sexism, and homo-and-trans hatred that collectively wound us?

- Vicar Matta Ghaly, CSJC

Calendar

Wednesday, September 5

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Neighborhood Ministries Committee meeting
6:30 pm Cantorei Potluck and first rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, September 7

- 4-8 pm Funeral Visitation for Ken Siess

Saturday, September 8

- 8:30 am Book Discussion Group (meeting in the Library)
10:00 am Funeral Visitation for Ken Siess
11:00 am *Funeral Eucharist: Kenneth Siess*

Sunday, September 9 - 16th Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist***, followed by coffee & conversation
9:30 am Sunday Church School / Adult Forum
10:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee & conversation
Noon Birthday celebration (all are invited!)

Monday, September 10

- 5:00 pm Columbarium Committee meeting
7:00 pm Vestry meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, September 11

- Noon Bible Study
4:00 pm Diaper Depot open
7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, September 12

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Cantorei Potluck and First Rehearsal of the New Season – TONIGHT!

Cantorei rehearsals resume this evening, September 5. We will begin with a potluck supper at 6:30 pm, followed by an overview and brief rehearsal of music for the liturgy on Sunday, Sept. 9. (We will sing Faure's "Cantique de Jean Racine" that day). Bring a dish to share!

Interested in singing in Cantorei this year? Come on along!

- Cantor David Cherwien

Rest In Peace: Kenneth Siess

The funeral Eucharist for our brother in Christ, Ken Siess, will be held at Mount Olive this **Saturday, September 8, at 11:00 a.m.** Visitation will be held at Mount Olive on Friday, Sept. 7, from 4:30-8 pm, and also one hour before the liturgy, starting at 10:00 a.m.

Upcoming Adult Forums: Sunday Mornings at 9:30, Between Liturgies

September 2, 2018: Bread for the World Letter-writing (after single 10:00 liturgy)

September 9, 2018: Meet Vicar Matta Ghaly, CSJC

September 16, 2018: "Speaking of God: A Hymnwriter's Perspective," presented by Susan Palo Cherwien

**Holy Cross Day
Friday, September 14
Holy Eucharist
at 7:00 pm
All are welcome.**

News From the Neighborhood

Grant Approval for Longer Table Lending

The Minneapolis Area Synod has approved a Ministry Imagination Grant of \$10,000 for Longer Table Lending - a new ministry of Mount Olive. There were 26 applications representing 30 congregations with total requests of over \$482,000. Of those applications, 18 were approved with total funding of \$181,860. This grant gets us farther along our path towards providing emergency no-interest loans up to \$500 to help members of our parish and neighborhood so that they are not trapped by the high interest of payday loans.

The LTL team is just steps away from making loans. We have a job description for an administrator ready, a meeting for website development, a new logo, QuickBooks is up and running, and just a few final check marks to make before we are operational. Thank you to everyone who has encouraged and supported this new venture. We're on our way!

If you are interested and able to make a contribution to this ministry, make your check out to Mount Olive and write on the front of your blue church missions envelope "Longer Table Lending." This will help us build up our pool of money for these loans.

Book Discussion

In order to accommodate members who wish to attend the funeral liturgy for Ken Siess, on September 8, the Mount Olive Book Group will meet **from 8:30-10:00 in the church library** for the September discussion of *Moscow Nights* by Nigel Cliff.

The group will resume its normal schedule on October 13 at 10:00 for a discussion of *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

Opportunity to Host German Visitors

Twelve to fourteen German people from the Lutheran Churches in Leipzig, Germany will visit the Twin Cities from October 5-15. They are members of the church council from the churches of Pr. Helge Voigt, a friend of Mount Olive. The planning group assisting them for this trip is in need of assistance from area churches. We need people to host 1-2 people for their stay, and/or provide transportation, and/or have them in your home for a meal or an afternoon or evening entertainment. Many of them speak some English, but if you speak even a little German, that will be helpful, but not required. If you can provide hospitality for this group of our neighbors from across the globe, please contact Lora Dundek at 651/645-6636 or email her at lhdundek@usfamily.net. Any help you can give will be appreciated!

James H. Cone *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* Additional Resources

Related Websites:

The Equal Justice Initiative: <https://eji.org/>

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People: <https://www.naacp.org/>

Southern Poverty Law Center: <https://www.splcenter.org/>

Implicit Bias: <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/>

Teaching Tolerance (SPLC project):

<https://www.tolerance.org/professional-development/test-yourself-for-hidden-bias>

Restorative Justice Community Action: <https://www.rjca-inc.org/>

Minnesota Council of Churches:

<http://www.mnchurches.org/justice/RacialJustice.html>

Related Books:

Carol Anderson - *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*

Ta-Nehisi Coates - *Between the World and Me*

Martha Nussbaum - *The Monarchy of Fear: A Philosopher Looks At Our Political Crisis*

Bryan Stevenson - *Just Mercy*

Ronald T. Takaki - *A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America*

Rise for Climate, Jobs & Justice

On September 8, people around the country will join to celebrate accomplishments and challenge ourselves to do better. You can be part of the action!

What should we do next? On **Saturday, September 8, from noon-4 p.m. at East Phillips Community Center, 2307 - 17th Ave. S.** Organizations representing our state's best in racial, economics and climate justice are coming together for this afternoon summit of learning, inspiration, action and creativity--children's activities included.

The Shape of Discipleship: Thursday Bible Study Begins Sept. 20

The first Thursday Bible study series of this year begins on Thursday, Sept. 20, and continues until October 25. (We may need to tweak the time on Oct. 4 to be able to celebrate St. Francis and to bless animals at 7:00 p.m., but we'll discuss that together.) Meeting in the Chapel Lounge from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Pr. Crippen will lead a study on the spiritual disciplines, classic patterns of life that have shaped Christians for centuries. As usual, there will be a light supper when we begin. If anyone wishes to provide the first meal, please let Pr. Crippen know. All are welcome to this study opportunity!

New Members to be Received Sept. 30

Mount Olive will receive new members on Sunday, September 30, at the 10:45 liturgy. If you are interested in becoming a member of Mount Olive, please speak to Pr. Crippen or contact the church office.

2018-2019 Mount Olive Music and Fine Arts Series

The 2018-19 series once again includes quite a variety of musical/artistic experiences, to be sure! A glance at the schedule below gives evidence to a wonderful series of events bringing beauty and art into a world in desperate need.

Mount Olive offers these events to the greater community free of charge and you are invited to be a part of that effort through your financial support. A committee representative will be in the Narthex to receive pledges and donations on September 15 and 22 before and after Holy Eucharist.

Sunday, October 7, 4:00 pm

Music for Trumpet and Organ

Charles Lazarus, Trumpet and David Cherwien, Organ

Sunday, November 11, 4:00 PM

Cembalo and Viol da Gambe

Tami Morse, Cembalo and Tulio Rondon, Viol de Gambe

Sunday, December 2, 4:00 PM

Advent Procession Service

Mount Olive Cantorei, David Cherwien, organist and director

Sunday, January 27, 2019, 4:00 PM

Organ Recital

Monica Czausz, Organist

Sunday, March 10, 2019, 4:00 PM

Lent Procession Service

Mount Olive Cantorei, David Cherwien, organist

Friday, May 10, 2018, 7:30 PM

Hymn Festival Celebrating Manz' 100th Birthday

Mount Olive Cantorei, David Cherwien, organist and director

June 1-2, 2019: Thirteenth Annual Bach Tage

Saturday, June 1, 2019, 4:00 PM

Bach - Three Ways - This concert will feature Tami Morse, Tulio Rondón, and David Cherwien in music for solo harpsichord, cello, and organ.

Sunday, June 2, 2019, 4:00 PM

Evening Prayer with Bach Cantatas - Bach Tage Conference participants, the Bach-Tage orchestra and vocal soloists are led by Kathy Saltzman Romey, Professor at The University of Minnesota and conductor of The Minnesota Chorale. Cantor David Cherwien is organist for the service. Cantatas include BWV 37, *Wer da gläubet und getauft wird* ("Those who believe and are baptized"), and BWV 44, *Sie werden euch in den Bann tun* ("They shall decree you are banished")

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

**Summer Sunday Eucharist:
8:00 and 10:45 a.m.**

Contact Us

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Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Matta Ghaly*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach
and Ministry – *Anna Scott*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *James Wilkes*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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- **September Book Group Meeting – Note change of time and location!**
- **Please note: There will be no *Olive Branch* next week, Sept. 12. The next issue will be published Sept. 19.**