

The Olive Branch

March 27, 2019

Accent on Worship

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Prodigal

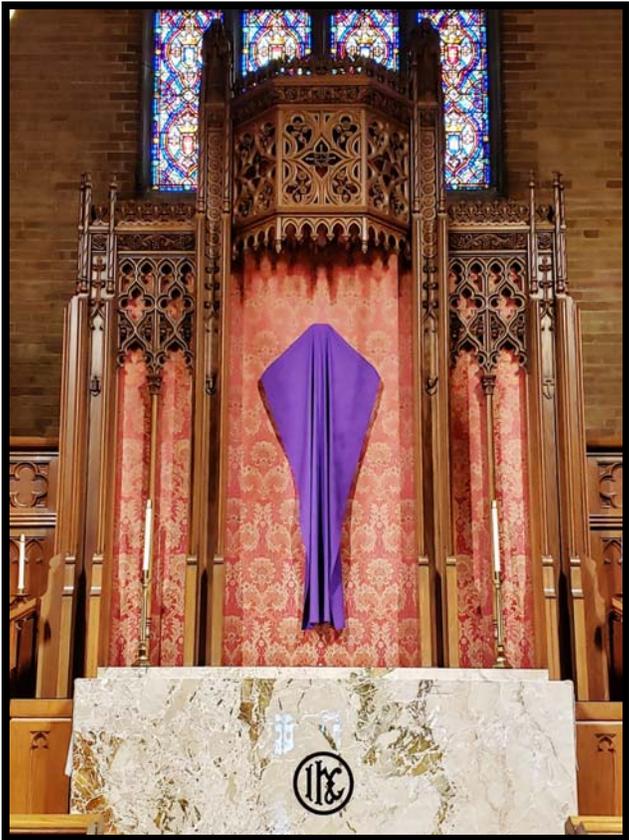
I teach our vicars never to begin a sermon with a definition. "Webster's says . . ." is a deadly way to begin proclaiming God's Word, and almost surely will cause the congregation to start losing interest.

Well. Sometimes there might be an exception. Because here's what we have next Sunday: the parable of the so-called "prodigal" son. Now, if you look for a definition of "prodigal" you get words like "wasteful, extravagant, spendthrift, irresponsible, self-indulgent." Given our Western moralist take on the younger son, one can easily see why he's been defined as "prodigal," a word, incidentally, Jesus doesn't use.

But keep looking. Here's the second set of definitional words for "prodigal": "having or giving something on a lavish scale, generous, lavish, liberal, unstinting, unsparing, bountiful." Now we're talking.

Because this is a parable about God's prodigality, God's extravagant, generous, lavish, liberal, unstinting, unsparing, bountiful grace. This is the story of a prodigal father, who reveals a Prodigal God.

When we moralize about the younger brother's wastefulness and depravity, we join the Pharisees and scribes who are grumbling over Jesus spending time with "tax collectors and sinners." When we see this parable for what it is, an astonishing hymn to the prodigality, the extravagance, of God's love, that's when we're really listening to Jesus.



Sunday Readings

March 31, 2019

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

April 7, 2019

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

Easter Parking

Just a reminder to members that there is another parking option available on Sundays in addition to the church lot across 31st St. Lots of spaces are available in the lot behind the Workforce Center on the southwest corner of Lake and Chicago. Several of us already park there, and it's very convenient. Please think about this option, especially for the upcoming Sundays around Easter, when we will have lots of guests at Mount Olive. The Workforce Center lot is available for public parking on Saturdays, Sundays and any legal holiday.

Sunday Adult Forums

Sunday, March 31: "Paul's Letter to the Galatians," part 2 of a 3-part series, presented by Pastor Crippen.

Sunday, April 7: "Paul's Letter to the Galatians," part 3

Lenten Prayers Available

Bread for the World offers another Lenten resource for your family. "Lenten Prayers for an End to Hunger" is a six-paneled table tent that can be placed on your dinner table or office desk. Each panel includes scripture readings, a prayer and suggested actions for each week. You may pick up your prayers on the table by the coat room or outside the main office. You might also want to take one to give to another family member or friend. Together we encourage each other to keep our Lenten disciplines.

Test Your Climate Knowledge

The Missions Committee would like to challenge you on your understanding and knowledge of our beautiful Earth. NASA Global Climate Change web site offers quizzes to help us learn about vital signs of the planet. One quiz each week will be offered here until Earth Day to assist you in growing your stewardship of the Earth and all living things. Click the following link to take this week's quiz, "Carbon." <https://climate.nasa.gov/quizzes/carbon-quiz/>

Help Needed!

Launderers Sought

For Christmas and Easter, we always try to have all the servants' albs in their best shape. The sacristan crew is looking for six people who would be willing to wash and iron four albs each before Holy Week, preferably somewhere in the time from April 7 after the second liturgy until Saturday, April 13. If you are willing to help, please call Tom Olsen at 952-240-3166.

Thank you!

Book Discussion

The Book Discussion Group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am in the West Assembly Area. All readers welcome!

For the April 12 meeting they will read, *Spirit Car*, by Diane Wilson. For the May 11 meeting, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, by James Joyce.

Midweek Lenten Worship Wednesdays during Lent

Holy Eucharist at Noon, followed by Soup luncheon
Evening Prayer at 7, preceded by Soup supper at 6 pm.

Paschal Garden

Volunteers will be on hand for three Sundays (March 31, April 7, and April 14) before, between, and following the liturgies to receive your donations to purchase Easter flowers for this year's Paschal Garden.

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, March 27

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

Saturday, March 30

- 9:00 am Confirmation
10:30 am Catechism
1-4 pm Community Conversations:
"Understanding Implicit Bias"

Sunday, March 31 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

Monday, April 1

- 7:00 pm LOL Board meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, April 2

- Noon Bible Study
4-6 pm Diaper Depot open
7:00 pm National Lutheran Choir rehearsal

Wednesday, April 3

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting
Noon *Midweek Lenten Eucharist*
1:00 pm Soup lunch
No Children's Choir rehearsals this evening
6:00 pm Soup Supper
6:00 pm Centering Prayer
7:00 pm *Lenten Vespers*
7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsal
8:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

March is Minnesota Food Share Month: One More Sunday

March is Minnesota Foodshare Month and Community Emergency Services is asking for our support. They want to gather a total of 40,000 pounds of food and raise \$125,000 during March. We can help! Bring food pantry items or hygiene supplies to drop off in our grocery cart and/or give a financial gift to help CES make purchases.

*Items suggested: Cooking oils, sugar and flour, toilet paper, hygiene products (deodorant, toothbrushes and paste), canned chicken, tuna & chili.

9.5% of Minnesotans live below the poverty level (U.S. Census Bureau).

Over 3,000,000 visits were made to MN food shelves each year, 2011-2017. Over 3.4 million visits in 2017 (*Hunger Solutions*).

An Invitation From Our Former Vicar

Dear Mount Olive Friends,

It was truly heartwarming to be back on March 3, 2019 to see and talk with so many of you! As you might have read in last week's Olive Branch, my ordination and installation is on Saturday, April 13, 2019, at 5:00 p.m., at House of Prayer in Richfield (7625 Chicago Ave. South). I've been called as their associate pastor.

I'm excited to announce that both Pastor Crippen and Cantor Cherwien have been busy working behind the scenes helping to plan this service and will be sharing their gifts on this most blessed day! I would be honored if you could attend.

All clergy are joyfully welcomed to vest and process. The color of the day is red. We'll be lining up at 4:50 p.m.

For all who like to sing, a "drop in" choir will rehearse at 3:30 p.m. the day of the service. I would love to hear Mount Olive voices!

Following the service, there will be an appetizer/dessert reception.

Thank you for being a part of my journey and sharing this joy with me.

- Kelly Sandin

Property Committee Announces a Party, and You're Invited!

OK. The headline was only to get your attention, a cheap trick to get you to read the following:

The weather is warming, the birds are singing, the snow is melting. . . revealing bare ground and the ugly accumulated litter from a long winter. We need to tend to our grounds to make them beautiful for Easter and the summer. Help is needed. Here is the plan:

Saturday, April 6, 10 am to noon - clean up litter, raking, tidying up. Free lunch provided for all who come . . . at the regular Community Meal.

During the week following, a contractor will apply pre-emergent weed treatment, and deliver mulch for all the beds.

Saturday, April 13, 9 am to noon - spreading mulch on beds, tidying up, other chores to be designated, depending on how many workers are available. Refreshments? Yes. Lunch? Sorry.

There is a contingency plan just in case, but let's have no mention of "b___ w_____r." Don't want to jinx the enterprise.

So the committee can stay in touch with willing helpers, please call or email the office to indicate which day you can come.

A big, big THANK YOU, in advance.

Unbreakable

The Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus stands with all who desire to build safe space for LGBTQ people. March 29-30 at 8 pm TCGMC will present a concert highlighting the stories of LGBTQ heroes called UNBREAKABLE at Ted Mann auditorium in Minneapolis.

Members of Mount Olive will receive a \$5 discount when ordering tickets with the promo code LGBTQFAITH at tcgmc.org or by calling the U of M box office at 612-624-2345.

Bach-Tage and You: A Bit of Clarity?

You've probably seen the brochures at church the past two Sundays. Is Bach-Tage for you? Yes, of course, if you can devote the time that weekend, and have the ability to learn the music on your own, in advance.

This is important. Coming to Bach-Tage prepared means the time in sessions with

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL BACH-TAGE

June 1&2, 2019

Bach - Three Ways

Saturday, June 1 - 4:00 pm

Tami Morse, Tulio Rondón, and David Cherwien perform solo selections for harpsichord, cello, and organ, demonstrating the diversity of Bach's genius.

Evening Prayer with Cantatas 37 and 44

Sunday June 2, 4:00 pm

This year *Bach-Tage* falls in the three days between the Feast of the Ascension and the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

The two cantatas for this year's *Bach-Tage* were composed and performed for these occasions in Leipzig in the year 1724.

Bach Tage Chorus, Orchestra and Soloists

Kathy Saltzman Romey, conductor Cantor David Cherwien, organist



BACH · TAGE
MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN
MINNEAPOLIS

Kathy Romey can be more valuable for everyone. There are helpful tools available to help with the note learning. Information about learning the music will come with the scores about four weeks in advance.

Registration Fees for members of the Mount Olive community? Since Bach-Tage is now supported by the annual budget, the \$75 registration fee for you is waived. Of course, Bach-Tage is costly to present, even with additional grants from the Mount Olive Foundation and Music and Fine Arts. Realizing the cost, many participants from Mount Olive send a check anyway, as a contribution to keep the program strong. Most registrants from outside the community also add an extra donation as well. As a result, the basic fee has not been raised for the past 13 years.

If you include a donation with your registration, the full amount is regarded a contribution, and will be recorded on your giving statement for the year.

The Olive Branch

A Note of Thanks

Dear Mount Olive Friends,

Thank you all so much for your love and support for William and all of us. It is no wonder he felt that Mount Olive was his home.

Thank you also for your cards. I would love to see you all again and thank you in person.

- Deb Rodock

Welcome, Isla!

We are delighted to welcome into the world and to our Mount Olive community Isla Joy Scott, born to Anna and Josh, and new sister to Rook. Isla arrived Friday, March 22, 2019, at 10:27 p.m., weighs 7 lbs. 6 oz., and is 21 inches long.

Anna says she's healthy, and so far she's been kind to her parents. A good start! We pray God's grace and blessings on Isla and her family as they begin this next part of their family's journey in God's love.

Carbon Footprint Update

After lying dormant under a layer of snow for much of February, our solar panels have come back to life and we have passed a milestone. Since installed in October of 2017, our array has produced over 25 MWh (mega-Watt hours) of electricity. The average home uses about 10 MWh per year. The recent milestone is in the measurement of the reduction in our carbon footprint. By not using fossil fuel to generate power, the carbon dioxide emissions we have avoided to date (about 20 tons) is equivalent to planting 1,000 trees. For more details, check out over on-line monitoring link on the Community->Climate Justice page on our web site.

Kingman Family Fire Relief

As most of you know, Anna Scott's parents and sister experience a devastating house fire a couple of weeks ago. They have lost everything in the house, but has asked that until insurance coverage is sorted out and they know what their future living arrangements are, we should hold off on any specific donation of items that they could use. Therefore, they are asking people to give through an online fund that has been set up in their name. To donate, go to www.gofundme.com, search for Scott and Heidi Kingman's page, and make your donation through the website. If you prefer, leave a donation marked "Kingman family" in the church office, and we'll see that it gets to the right place. If and when the Kingmans identify other needs, the congregation will be informed.

APRIL 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7pm – LOL Board meeting 7 pm – N.A.	2 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot open 7 pm – Missions Committee 7 pm – National Lutheran Choir rehearsal	3 9 am – Staff Mtng. Noon – Midweek Eucharist 1 pm – Soup Luncheon 5:30 – Neighborhood Min. Comm. mtng. 6 pm – Soup Supper (No Children’s Choir) 7 pm – Evening Prayer 7:30 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A	4	5 6 pm – N.A. social event 6-8 pm – Beating Guns Event	6 9am – Church clean-up day 9am - Confirmation 10am – Foundation Board mtng. 11am-1 pm – Diaper Depot open Noon – Community Meal 1-3 pm Prayer Shawl group meets at Blackeye Roasting Co.
7 – 5 th Sunday in Lent 8 am – Holy Eucharist 9:30 – Education Hour 10:45 – Holy Eucharist	8 7 pm – Vestry meeting 7 pm – N.A.	9 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot open 7 pm – National Lutheran Choir rehearsal	10 9 am – Staff Mtng. Noon – Midweek Eucharist 1 pm – Soup Luncheon 5:30 pm – Children’s Choir meal 6 pm – Soup Supper 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir rehearsal 7 pm – Evening Prayer 7:30 pm – Cantorei 8 pm – N.A.	11	12 7 pm - Recovery/Wellness Support group	13 9am – Church clean-up day 9am - Confirmation 10 am – Book Discussion
14 – Passion (Palm) Sunday 8 am – Holy Eucharist No Education Hour this day 10:45 – Holy Eucharist 6:45 pm – Mount Olive Serves Our Saviour’s Dinner	15 Noon – Daily Prayer 6:30 pm – Reconciling Works committee meeting 7pm – Internship Comm. 7 pm – N.A.	16 Noon – Daily Prayer, followed by Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot open 7 pm – National Lutheran Choir rehearsal	17 9 am – Staff Mtng. Noon – Daily Prayer 7 pm – Cantorei rehearsal 8 pm – N.A.	18 Noon – Maundy Thursday Eucharist Noon – Maundy Thursday Eucharist, with Washing of Feet	19 Noon – Stations of the Cross Noon – Adoration of the Cross	20 10 am – Easter Vigil rehearsal No Diaper Depot Noon – Community Meal 8:30 pm – The Easter Vigil, followed by reception in the Undercroft
21 – Resurrection of Our Lord 8 am – Festival Holy Eucharist 9:30 – Carry-in Easter Brunch No Education Hour this day 10:45 – Festival Holy Eucharist	22 7 pm – N.A.	23 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot open 7 pm – National Lutheran Choir rehearsal	24 10 am – Staff Mtng. 5:30 pm – Children’s Choir meal 6 pm – Soup Supper 6:00 pm – Children’s Choir rehearsal No Cantorei this evening 8 pm – N.A.	25	26 8am-5pm – Godly Play training event 7 pm - Recovery/Wellness Support group	27 9am – Confirmation 10:30 – Catechism retreat
28 – 2 nd Sunday of Easter 8 am – Eucharist 9:30 – Education Hour 10:45 – Eucharist Noon – Congregation Meeting	29 7 pm – N.A.	30 Noon – Bible Study 4-6 pm – Diaper Depot open 7 pm – National Lutheran Choir rehearsal				

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

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

Contact Us

Phone: 612-827-5919

On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Coordinator of Neighborhood
Outreach and Ministry – *Jim
Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

Sexton – *James Wilkes*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in
Christ congregation.*

Holy Week at Mount Olive

Sunday, April 14: *Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday*

+ Holy Eucharist, 8 & 10:45 am

Mon.-Wed., April 15-17: *Monday-Wednesday in Holy Week*

+ Daily Prayer at Noon, in the side chapel of the nave,
near the columbarium

Thursday, April 18: *Maundy Thursday*

+ Holy Eucharist, Noon

+ Holy Eucharist, with Washing of Feet, 7:00 pm

Friday, April 19: *Good Friday*

+ Stations of the Cross, Noon

+ Adoration of the Cross, 7 pm

Saturday, April 20: *Holy Saturday*

+ The Easter Vigil, 8:30 pm, followed by a festive reception in the Undercroft.

Sunday, April 21: *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