

First Sunday of Christmas, year B

December 27, 2020 + Mount Olive Lutheran Church



Focus on the Season: First Sunday of Christmas, year B

With Simeon and Anna, the church proclaims that salvation has come to the people of God in Christ Jesus. “The splendor of the Lord is over heaven and earth” – Christ is present in the world for all people in all conditions of life. Today, Dec. 27, is also the celebration of the feast day of St. John the Evangelist.

Keep this document open on the screen, to aid in your worship today. The links are embedded in this pdf, so you don't have to return to the email. You can also print these pages and use the links in the email.



Centering and Gathering

Light your candle. [Start the video by clicking here](#); it will continue through the Postlude.

PRELUDE: “Lauft, ihr Hirten all zugleich” (Run, ye shepherds to the light)

Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806)

Mount Olive Cantorei and Chamber orchestra; Rachel Crippen, soprano; recorded Christmas Eve, 2019.

HYMN: ELW 273, “All My Heart Again Rejoices”

Sung at Mount Olive on Christmas Eve, 2012.

Word

GREETING

☞ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☞ **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW 289, “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Sung at Mount Olive on Christmas Day, 2019.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3; reader – Jim Bargmann, lector

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

62 ¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

² The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

PSALMODY: *ELW 267, "Joy to the World"*

Sung at Mount Olive on Christmas Day, 2019.

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7; reader – Paul Nixdorf, assisting minister

Paul writes: ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶ And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *ELW 286, "Your Little Ones, Dear Lord" stanzas 1 and 2*

Sung at Mount Olive on Christmas Day, 2016.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Joseph and Mary brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." ³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 286, “Your Little Ones, Dear Lord” stanzas 3 and 4
Sung at Mount Olive on Christmas Day, 2016.

SERMON **Time** Pastor Joseph Crippen
Silence for reflection.

HYMN: ELW 299, “Cold December Flies Away”
Sung at Mount Olive on the First Sunday of Christmas, year B, December 31, 2017.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*Our Assisting Minister for today, Paul Nixdorf, has prepared intercessory prayers for us to pray this morning. As our prayers rise up from all over the metro area and beyond, once more we are joined together in Christ. (Our weekly prayer list is on the last page.) Response: **Hear our prayer.***

PEACE *Please greet one another with Christ’s peace.*

OFFERING

There are ways to continue to give of your gifts to our shared work at Mount Olive during this time apart. *The Olive Branch* has suggested ways both electronic and by mail. See:
<https://www.mountolivechurch.org/resources/olive-branch-newsletter/>

HYMN AT THE OFFERING: ELW 294, “In the Bleak Midwinter”
Sung at Mount Olive on Christmas Day, 2019.

Sending

LORD’S PRAYER *Pray the Lord’s Prayer together.*

BLESSING *Response: **Amen***

HYMN: ELW 440, “In Peace and Joy I Now Depart”
Sung at Mount Olive on the Second Sunday of Christmas, year A, January 5, 2020.

DISMISSAL *The assisting minister leads the dismissal.*

☒ Go in peace. Share the Good News!

☑ **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE: Trumpet Voluntary: *Vivace* William Boyce (1711-1779)
Laura Thelander and Arthur Murray, trumpets; recorded Christmas Day, 2016.



In Our Prayers

- Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: James Wilkes; Charlotte Erlandson; JoAnn Norheim; Mary Lee; Elizabeth Beissel, Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Leanna Kloempken; Kandi Jo Nelson; Jerry Ostlund; Pariann Schenk; Christine Walberg; Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Jodi Royce, daughter of Julia Adams and daughter-in-law of Evelyn Royce; Kjell Thompson, relative of Nancy Anderson;

Tommie and Susie Hunter, Danna Nelson, Jacques, friends of Jim Bargmann; Tom McCarr, friend of Keith Bartz; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Randy Caverly and Nancy Stelling, nephew and friend of Marcia & Dan Burow; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; Klarrisa Ramirez, friend of Gretchen Campbell-Johnson; Greg Eklund, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Susan Bary, friend of Judy Graves; Dolores & David G. Gutierrez, Sr., Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr., parents and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong), friend of Eunice Hafemeister; Lynn Kernkamp, friend of Peggy Hoeft; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; Craig Cunningham, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; Donald Johnson, father of Nicholas Johnson; Nicole Sanders, Ann Clark, James Alexander, and Susan Douglass, daughter, friends, and relative of Mary Rose Kaliher; Danielle Pitzen, friend of Ellen Kormanik; Barbara Dahl, sister of Carla Manuel; Dani Olson, Harper Linqvist, Steve Camper, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Janet Freeburg, friend of Lisa Nordeen; Michael Waechter, friend of Rod & Connie Olson; Kathleen Austad, sister of Jerry Ostlund; Jay Heffern, friend of Gary Pagel; Jerry Baack and Todd Erickson, friends of Jean & Doug Parish; Melissa Suchor, niece of Mike Rader; Rudd Rayfield, Jolie Meshbesh Hassler, Katelyn Bowden, Cindy Williams, father and friends of Robin Rayfield; Doug Erhard, nephew of Evelyn Royce; Leila Jeffers, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim Sneer; Carrie, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; Norlene Bateman, aunt of Ted Thompson; Jennifer Kobylinski, cousin of Kathy Thurston; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez; Andrew Weichman, Levi Boswell, son and nephew of Grace Wiechman; BJ Wilkes, Joshua Wilkes, LaTrell Wilkes and Julius Underwood, and Lonnell Wilkes, son, nephews, grandson and brother of James Wilkes; Sandra Dycus, Becky Groska, Diane Ristrom, Cathy Reid, Karen Swanson, Patrick Clark, Annie Hose-Ryan, Marcia Van Gorden, friends of Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Anne-Marie Lundberg, cousin of Eric Zander; Judy & John Bonnes, Tommie & Susie Hunter; Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive.

- **For those celebrating their baptism anniversaries this week:** Mark Farnan, Allen Dundek, Joyce Larson, Mary Lee, Caroline Menard, David Bonk, Julie Erlandson, Jack Kruger, Mark Lofstrom, Greg Murphy, JoAnn Norheim, Amy Reddy, Paul Schadewald, Jason Schlude, Paul Sundquist, Dan Wade, and Robert Wick.
- **Prayers for all in the health care system here and around the world** who put their lives at risk to care for those infected with COVID 19 and caring for all others who are ill as well.
- **Our continual prayers are offered for peace:** We pray for all of the world's governments, leaders and peoples, especially for those who work overseas toward peace: Solveig & Philip, daughter and son-in-law of Karen Johnson; and Tyson Crosby, relative of the Crosby family.

- **We remember the saints who have gone before us:**

December 26: St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr – Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

December 27: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist – The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

December 28: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs – This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

January 1: *Name of Jesus* – By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

January 2: *Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872* – A nineteenth-century German Lutheran pastor, Loehe worked to enliven the church with the eucharist at its center, from which would flow evangelism and social ministry. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and the Ukraine.