



Accent on Worship

Cantor David Cherwien

Holy, holy, holy

We have returned to what some of you call “our summer liturgy” – which includes the Bach setting of the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) and a sung setting of the Lord’s Prayer by Alexander Kedrov.

SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, August 29

14th Sunday after

Pentecost, Lect. 22 B

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Psalm 15

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sunday, September 5

15th Sunday after

Pentecost, Lect. 23 B

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Psalm 146

James 2:1-17

Mark 7:24-37

Sunday Worship

9:00 am – Eucharist

11:00 am – Eucharist

(Livestreamed)

The melody of the Sanctus was new to me when it was included in Holy Communion, Setting 2 of the *Lutheran Book of Worship*. It was also included in the *Service Book and Hymnal* (not used by Mount Olive), LBW’s primary predecessor hymnal. Most of the music of LBW’s Setting Two was made up of melodies composed by Ronnie Nelson – a church musician at Westwood Lutheran Church, St Louis Park. In 1978 when LBW was released, I had assumed (rather naively) that he had also composed this melody of the Sanctus.

But later I discovered that Bach had composed a setting of this same melody, which made me wonder about the origins of this tune. Bach’s setting, (BWV 325) was based on a Plainsong chant tune, dated ca. 1100. I believe that “date” is derived from the presence of a melody extremely similar in the book *Liber Usualis*, an 11th c. book of Gregorian chants. (Sanctus XVII)

A number of years ago, I did a research project which included research on this tune – and discovered that it might be even of older origin than that of 11th c. Gregorian chant.

It may be helpful to first recall that the first Christians were practicing Jews, and that their worship life was in fact Jewish. It is out of this context that Christianity developed its particular ritual path, combining elements of Jewish worship such as the Word and prayer service of the Synagogue, and meal (Passover or Sabbath Meal) which became the Mass for Christians.

One portion of texts in the liturgies of Jewish services is the Kedusha. Kedusha (sanctification) refers to any extensive Thrice-Holy of synagogue liturgy, based on Isaiah 6:3. This became the Sanctus for Christians, the song sung by “The church on earth, and the hosts of Heaven” preceding the Holy Eucharist – the Meal of the Altar.

So the question came up for me: what of the music itself? We know that Jewish texts and practices were transformed by the Early Christians – could not the same happen with the music itself too?

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WEEKLY CALENDAR

Wed., August 25

11 am – Staff meeting

Thurs., August 267 pm – Narcotics
Anonymous**Sat., August 28**9am -Gardening Day
11am – Boldly into the
Future Information mtng.**Sun., August 29*****Pentecost 14***9 & 11 am – Holy
Eucharist, followed by
coffee and fellowshipNoon – Boldly into the
Future Information mtng.**Tues., August 31**

Noon – Bible Study

*In the
presence of God.
Being the
presence of God.*

Sunday Morning Schedule

There are now **two worship services on Sunday morning, at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.** In addition, the Congregational Life committee will sponsor coffee hour following each service. In order to continue COVID-related safety measures, we ask the following:

During these weeks, we will continue to request R.S.V.P responses for each worship in order to allow for physical distancing in the sanctuary. We will continue to require that you wear a well-fitting mask that covers your nose and mouth. Please do not move the pew ropes, to help with social distancing, and **please** leave the short pews for those with wheelchairs. During the coffee hour, please keep your mask on as much as possible when you aren't drinking your coffee. This is especially important to protect those who are not vaccinated, including children. The link to RSVP for worship is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/mountolive> .

This link will be live each Wednesday for the following Sunday.

Boldly into the Future Coffee and Conversation Meetings Continue

- Saturday, Aug. 28, at 11 a.m. at Mount Olive, and
- Sunday, Aug. 29, after the 11 a.m. liturgy

The discussion will cover:

- Our 2017 building improvements and their impact on our mission and our environmental footprint;
- Our current mortgage and how reducing our debt can favorably impact our operating budget and allow us to consider expanding or extending our mission; and
- Creative ways to give.



A Friendly Reminder on Seating

Please note that the four cut-out pews on the aisle in the nave are reserved for those in wheelchairs and those who may accompany them.

Seating is a little trickier with the social distancing ropes in the nave, but there is room for everyone (don't forget the transept galleries!). Please be mindful of the seat you choose and leave the spots right next to the cut-out open for those who may accompany people in a wheelchair.

Thanks.

Celebrating Two of our Sisters

Our Mount Olive community is very fortunate to have some very remarkable people! Two of those gentle and considerate people are Melba Smrcka and Carolyn Mowery, and each of them is about to celebrate a birthday (103 and 101, respectively). Are you amazed? They have amazing stories to tell.

Melba was born on a farm in Iowa. She met her husband, Ervin, during the war years (Ervin's military buddies called him Ski). Happily married, they moved to Richfield, Minnesota because the school system there was excellent, and both their daughter, Nancy, and their son, Jerry, were excellent students.

On a trip to Minneapolis, Melba met Pastor Schroedel's wife, Louise, who told her, "Your daughter should be in my Sunday School class!" And with that, the family now had a church home.

Melba has lived in her home for 61 years. For 27 of those years she worked on the sales floor at Dayton's. Melba also spent many years in the Mount Olive kitchen, cooking for numerous celebrations.

Carolyn was born in a small town, Russell, in Manitoba, Canada. She still has friends and family there.

As a young woman she worked at a resort on Lake Louise, collecting good tips from wealthy Americans. Her education has many layers, but her goal was to attain a degree in psychology, and this took her to the University of Chicago. While there, she met her husband John, who was studying in Indianapolis, which led to a 2-year romance, which included lots of miles of travel. Working toward her educational goal, Carolyn received a scholarship through the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's Wheat Ridge Foundation. Each month she received an extra \$50 (which she spent on treats!)

During the war years, Carolyn was in the U.S. Air Force. She learned to fly on a simulator, but never actually flew. One of the first women to join the Air Force, her education gave her the confidence to counsel chaplains during the war. She now volunteers at the V.A.

Carolyn loves to travel and has spent time in France and London. When she and John settled in Minneapolis, friends in both Canada and America told her to join Mount Olive, because Pastor Wedel was here. Being a member at Mount Olive has taught her patience and has given her a strong faith.

This Sunday, August 29, during coffee hour, we will celebrate the birthdays of these two women! Plan to come and bring your voice to sing a hearty "Happy Birthday!"

- Submitted by Carol Austermann

Missions Committee News

Join Relief Efforts

Your Missions Committee is designating \$1,000 each from your mission funds for disaster relief in Haiti and Afghanistan. If you would like to join you may do so by following the links below or by designating a specially marked check or blue mission envelope (Haiti--ELCA or Afghanistan--LIRS). We are supporting Haiti through the ELCA Disaster Relief Response: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response> and the Afghanistan refugees through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services: <https://www.lirs.org>.

Common Hope Keeps Kids Moving Forward

It is getting toward the end of the school year in Guatemala, and our partners at Common Hope have some good news to report. Executive Director Sheri Blindt just returned from her first visit to Guatemala in 16 months, and here's what she has to report: "***Less than 10% of Common Hope's students left school at the end of 2020.*** And, while preliminary estimates say as many as three times that number of students in Guatemala have or will drop out of school in 2021 - Common Hope students are bucking that trend. I applaud the efforts of our social workers and educational support teams in their success - and praise the students, themselves, for their perseverance, parents for their continued commitment to education, and sponsors for their unwavering support. I cannot emphasize enough the power of Common Hope's programs during this pandemic. ***The children and families we serve have access to much deeper resources as they navigate this pandemic because of you.***"

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Author Eric Werner in his book, *Sacred Bridge*, (Vol. II, New York, KTAV Publishing House, Inc., 1984) hypothesized that this was indeed what happened. In this book he compared the melody of the Gregorian Sanctus XVII in the *Liber Usualis* with the music of a Jewish Alenu of the High Holy days of Jewish worship. The similarities are striking, strongly suggesting that they are related, if not the same. The date of the Jewish Alenu melody is unknown, but clearly pre-dates the Gregorian Sanctus.

This could mean that this melody may even predate Christ. This Hebrew chant became the Gregorian Sanctus, carried forward as a chorale in the Lutheran Reformation era (as many chant-tunes did), ironed out into all quarter-notes and harmonized by Bach, and is now still included in modern hymnals. One quickly can conclude that of course this would happen. Melodies are carried forward, perhaps re-purposed or adjusted for a new context, but are a known part of the collective memory from the past as we forge into the future.

This gives me chills. We are literally singing tunes and texts that people of God have been singing for who knows how long – extremely likely from before the time of Christ. We are joining tunes with our cousins and ancestors of faith, and hopefully we will continue doing so into the future.

For me, this is why this tune is such an important one for us to sing, either as the current ELW's Setting Four, or as harmonized in the 18th century by J. S. Bach. It's difficult not to get deeply swept away in this moment when Bach's four-part harmonies of this ancient melody soar in our liturgies this summer. To me, this very effectively and literally does what is spoken just prior to our singing it: "With the church on earth, and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and sing the ever unending hymn: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth ..."

- Cantor David Chernien

Stewardship Update:

Faith-filled generosity abounds at Mount Olive. We are grateful for the gifts that have been shared this year. Here is an update on what giving has looked like so far this year and what we are projecting for year-end.

Total income through July was \$423,000, just 11% short of budget.

Thanks to several large and unexpected gifts as well as a grant from the State towards our environmental building projects, our offering totaled \$413,000 which is up 10% compared to the first seven months of 2020!

Year-to-date expenses are \$405,000, 12% under budget due to ongoing pandemic impacts, timing of certain expenditures, and staff disability leave.

Mount Olive's year-to-date surplus is approximately \$18,000.

Overall, we are in a good financial position with the full financial impacts of returning to in-person worship yet to be felt. Our giving history has been that we receive the majority of our gifts closer to year end. Barring unforeseen events, we are expecting to end the year in a strong financial position. This would not be possible without you, our Mount Olive community! Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

New Members to be Received September 19

Are you interested in becoming a member of Mount Olive congregation? If so, please plan to participate in a reception of new members at the **11 a.m. liturgy on September 19**, followed by refreshments at noon. Contact the church office or speak to Pastor Crippen or Vicar Bonneville for more information.

Even if you aren't sure about joining, there will be a get-acquainted session in early September, where you can get up close and personal with members of our staff and others to learn more about our ministries, our beliefs, and our values. Watch *The Olive Branch* for details of date and time.

Book Discussion

The Mount Olive Book Discussion group meets on the second Saturday of each month, beginning at 10:00 am. Beginning with their next meeting on August 14 (this Saturday) they will resume meeting at church.

For the September 11 meeting, the book will be *Main Street*, by Sinclair Lewis, and for October 9, the book will be *The Darling*, by Russell Banks

Tuesday Noon Bible Study: New Link!

Since Tuesday, June 22, the **Tuesday Noon Bible Study has been meeting in person again**, in the West Lounge. For those who are unable to come in person, we will continue to hold the meeting over Zoom as well. Please note that we are no longer using GoToMeeting.

The link for the Tuesday noon Bible study will continue to be the same every week.

To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, [click here](#).

Choirs This Fall

Cantorei

Cantorei will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 8, and return to every- Sunday participation beginning September 12.

Rehearsals will be in the Undercroft, where we can spread out, and the new air-handling system is very effective. Masks will also be worn until deemed unnecessary by the Vestry. We are also asking that all who sing with the choir this fall have completed their vaccination as to ensure that all who come can do so safely.

Contact Cantor David Cherwien if you have questions, or if you'd like to sing with the choir, and haven't before.

Children's Choir update

Family Music Time – Sunday, September 17, 10:15 a.m. Undercroft

This will be a one-time in-person gathering in the Undercroft. (Distancing and masks will be necessary). Meet Mari in person, the Children's Zoom Choir director, hear about "God's Children Sing", pick up materials, do a little singing and movement. Children should bring their grown-ups to this meeting. Siblings are also welcome.

Starting September 22, Zoom Choir using "God's Children Sing" will continue online on Wednesdays until vaccination is available for all children. Same time: 5:30-6:00 pm. This will be only for ages 4 to grade 2 (younger siblings would be welcome to evesdrop!). Materials will be provided for use during these sessions. Sign up will begin in early September.

Grades 3 and higher will begin in-person choir at the church once vaccination is available to those ages. Because there is such a high value in actually singing together which is not possible online, there will not be an online version offered for this group. Once vaccination is possible for these ages, we will launch a new in person Wednesday schedule for both groups.

Boldly into the Future Survey

If you have not yet completed the survey which was sent to all Mount Olive members and friends last week, please don't forget about it!

All are encouraged to complete the short survey as soon as possible and return it to church.

Thank you.



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Lutheran Church in America*

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Vicar – [Andrea Bonneville](#)

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