



Welcome to Worship at Mount Olive!

Mount Olive is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is a community in and of the city where all are welcome in every aspect of congregational life. We believe that worship is central to our life together, that our weekly gathering around Word and Sacrament strengthens us for our work as people of God in this and in every place.

An elevator to the lower and street levels can be found at the northwest corner of the education wing. Restrooms are located on the main floor and lower level. Turn right as you exit the narthex, then turn left. Restrooms are at the end of the hall, next to the elevator. Please ask an usher if you need assistance!

Mount Olive is equipped with a hearing assist loop. If you use a hearing aid equipped with a T-Coil, switch your device to T-Coil to access. If your aid does not have that option, small headsets are available. Ask an usher for assistance.

Helps for following the liturgy: Numbers marked with the word “page...” in small case are in the front portion of the hymnal at the bottom left and right corners of the page. Numbers marked with the word “HYMN...” are in the back portion of the hymnal in the upper left and right corners of the page. Note that the psalms are numbered as hymns 1-150.

Hymns 901-1100 are found in the purple hymnal supplement, *All Creation Sings*, and are indicated as “ACS HYMN ...”

Focus on the Season: The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

On this holy night we join with Christians throughout the world to celebrate the great mystery of our faith: God comes to us in human flesh, as one of us. Amid our broken night-filled world we proclaim that the Prince of Peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ’s body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24, 2021 ✠ 10:00 p.m.

Choral Prelude

(seated)

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Stanzas 1-3

Henry J. Gauntlett

*Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.
He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
And through all his wondrous childhood he would honor and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden in whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.*

– Cecil Frances Alexander

“As It Fell Upon A Night”

arr. Katherine K. Davis

*As it fell upon a night in the winter weather,
Angels bright in starry height began to sing together.
Shepherds sleeping on the plain woke to see the glory,
All amazed they stood and gazed and heard the angels’ story.
“Unto you a Child is born, in a manger lowly,
Humble he, yet born to be the King of Love most holy.
In a manger now he lies, ox and ass before him;
All the world at last shall come to worship and adore him.”
Though it be a winter night, Love is still appearing!
Through the sound of war and woe that song we still are hearing!
Happy angels from afar, cease singing never!
“In excelsis Gloria!” forever and ever.*

– English carol

“Pastorella”

Gregor Joseph Werner

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

Basque carol

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady.” Gloria!
“For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee;
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady.” Gloria!*

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head:
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria! - paraphrase Sabine Baring Gould

"Sing of Mary Pure and Lowly"

Sing of Mary meek and lowly, virgin-mother pure and mild,
Sing of God's own Son most holy, who became her little child.
Fairest child of fairest mother, God the Lord who came to earth,
Word made flesh, our very brother, takes our nature by his birth.
Sing of Jesus, son of Mary, in the home at Nazareth.
Toil and labor cannot weary love enduring unto death.
Constant was the love he gave her, though he went forth from her side,
Forth to preach, and heal, and suffer, till on Calvary he died.
Glory be to God the Father; Glory be to God the Son;
Glory be to God the Spirit; Glory to the Three in One.
From the heart of blessed Mary, from all saints the song ascends,
And the Church the strain reechoes unto earth's remotest ends.

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

arr. David Willcocks

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing;
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new;
saw the glory, heard the story - tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you! - tr. Edith M. Reed

"For Unto Us a Child is Born" from Messiah

G. F. Handel

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,
and the government shall be upon his shoulder;
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor,
the Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Pastorale from Messiah

G. F. Handel

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Stanzas 4 -6

Henry J. Gauntlett

*For he is our childhood’s pattern, day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew:
And he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.*

*And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav’n above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.*

*Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven, set at God’s right hand on high;
Where like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.* – Cecil Frances Alexander

The Entrance Liturgy

Please stand at the sound of the bell and face the cross as it is carried into the nave.

PROCLAMATION OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

AT THE PROCESSION

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

HYMN 283

Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony. The refrain is sung in English.

GREETING

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

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

The Liturgy of the Word



Break forth, O beau - teous heav'n - ly light, and ush - er in the morn - ing; ye
shep - herds, shrink not with af - fright, but hear the an - gel's warn - ing. This
child, now weak in in - fanc - y, our con - fi - dence and joy shall be, the
pow'r of Sa - tan break - ing, our peace e - ter - nal mak - ing.

Tune: *Brisch an, o schönes Morgenlicht*. Setting by J.S. Bach.
Text: Johann Rist, 1641, trans. by John Troutbeck, ca. 1885.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

(seated)

Response: **☩ Thanks be to God.**

CAROL: “Love Has Come”

HYMN 292

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

Response: **☩ Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN

(standing to face the cross as it is carried into the assembly)

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

HYMN 270

Stanzas 1 and 2 are sung before the reading.

Stanza 3 is sung following the reading.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

Response after the announcement: **☩ Glory to you, O Lord.**

Response after the conclusion: **☩ Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please remain standing until the invocation is pronounced.

SERMON

An Unsafe God

Pastor Crippen

Following the sermon, a brief silence is kept.

HYMN OF THE DAY

(standing)

“Peace Came to Earth”

HYMN 285

Stanza 1 – All

Stanza 2 – Treble voices; All at “Who could ...”

Stanza 3 – Low voices; All at “Who could...”

Stanza 4 – All

NICENE CREED

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(kneeling)

Response: **☩ hear our prayer.**

PEACE

(standing)

You are invited to share the peace with one another. Please consider bowing to each other as a sign of God's presence and an offering of Christ's peace, a long-standing practice at Mount Olive and in the greater Church.

The Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

AT THE OFFERING

(seated)

“Before the Marvel of This Night”

Carl Schalk

*Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow,
Then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:
Sing peace, sing gift of peace!*

*Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:
Sing bliss, sing endless bliss!*

*The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,
Now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above.
Sing love, sing God is love!*

PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS

(standing as the gifts are brought forward)

“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord”

HYMN 286

Stanza 1 – All

Stanza 3 – High voices

Stanza 2 – Low voices

Stanza 4 – All

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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Sanctus

“Holy, holy, holy Lord ...”

page 153

Eucharistic Prayer (Hippolytus, 3rd c.)

Response: ☩ Amen.

Lord's Prayer

page 163

“Our Father in heaven...”

AT THE COMMUNION

(seated)

All are welcome to God's Table of grace. Receive the bread, and then the wine by drinking from the first cup or dipping the bread in the second cup. The bread is gluten-free.

Please keep your mask on until you are ready to eat or drink, and put it back on right away.

If you are unable to come forward, please alert an usher, and the ministers will bring the meal to you.

“Lamb of God” page 154

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” HYMN 290
Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

“What Child Is This” HYMN 296

“I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve” HYMN 271
Stanzas 3 and 4 may be sung in harmony.

After all have communed:

COMMUNION BLESSING

(standing)

Response: **☩ Amen.**

PROCESSION OF CANDLELIGHT

“Silent Night, Holy Night!” HYMN 281

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Response: **☩ Amen.**

The Sending Liturgy

SOLEMN BENEDICTION

P Coming to us as fully human, the Son of God scattered the darkness of this world, and filled the earth with God's glory. The God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin and brighten your hearts with holiness.

☩ Amen

P God sent angels to the shepherds to herald the great joy of our Savior's birth. God fill you with joy and make you heralds of the Gospel.

☩ Amen

☐ When the Word became human, earth was joined to heaven. God give you peace and goodwill, and fellowship with the heavenly host.

☑ **Amen**

☐ The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

☑ **Amen**

HYMN AT THE RETIRING PROCESSION

“Joy to the World”

HYMN 267

DISMISSAL

☐ The light shines in the darkness,

☑ **and the darkness has not overcome it.**

☐ Go in peace. Share the good news!

☑ **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Partita on “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

John Eggert

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister & Preacher	Pastor Joseph Crippen
* Organist	Interim Cantor Dietrich Jessen
Sacristan	Brad Nelson
Assisting Minister	Vicar Andrea Bonneville
Crucifer	Kandi Jo Nelson
Lector	Art Halbardier
Acolytes	Eric Manuel, Steve Manuel
Bell Tree	Matt Crosby
Ushers	Andrew Andersen, Michael Lansing Brian Jacobs & George Ferguson
Altar Guild	Lynn Ruff
Strings:	Violins – Marc Levine, Benjamin Lenzmeier Viola – Emily Hagen 'Cello – Jane Cords-O'Hara Bass – Mark L. Kausch

** Cantor David Cherwien is on sabbatical leave until March 1, 2022.*

Christmas and Epiphany Worship at Mount Olive

Christmas Day: Saturday, December 25, 2021

Festival Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Christmas: Sunday, December 26, 2021

Holy Eucharist at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

The Name of Jesus: Saturday, January 1, 2022

Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Christmas: Sunday, January 2, 2022

Holy Eucharist at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

The Epiphany of Our Lord: Thursday, January 6, 2022

Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.

The Baptism of Our Lord: Sunday, January 9, 2022

Holy Eucharist at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.



Mount Olive Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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Musical, Liturgical, Welcoming + A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

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Staff

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Interim Cantor – Dietrich Jessen

Vicar – Andrea Bonneville

Administrative Assistant – Cha Posz

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry – Jim Bargmann