



The Olive Branch

October 4, 2023

Sunday Readings

October 8, 2023

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Lect. 27 A

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm 80:7-15

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46

October 15, 2023

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Lect. 28 A

Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalm 23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

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

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

Often while writing for this space, the Holy Spirit leads me to a particular phrase or sentence or story in the week's readings. Not so much this week. This week, I find myself drawn to a theme or a commonality in all four readings - that of tearing down and restoration.

In our First Reading, God speaks through Isaiah about a once beloved vineyard that not only failed to yield the expected grapes but gave only rotten grapes. The end of the reading, and the remainder of the chapter make the analogy clear - God's people not only failed to bring about true justice, but actually committed injustices within and outside of their community.

Our Psalm too, tells of the destruction of a vineyard, bookended by prayers for restoration:
"Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved...

Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted."

In our Second Reading, Paul tells of his supposedly perfect life as a Pharisee, a life that he came to see as "rubbish" following his encounter with Jesus.

Then finally, Matthew recounts a parable of Jesus where tenants entrusted to care for a vineyard selfishly kill not only the workers sent to care for the vineyard, but also the vineyard owner's own son. The parable ends with Jesus telling us that he is the rejected son, the rejected cornerstone, and yet though this rejection, God will do amazing things.

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Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

This theme, these commonalities in our readings this week lead me to a question. What things in my life need to be torn down so that God can bring about something new? Or what things in our community of faith at Mount Olive will God allow to be torn down so that something new can take its place? Or what about in our larger community? Racism - either structural or individual? Economic injustice? Housing injustice? What attitudes in our society need tearing down so that God might do a new thing? What in my life needs to be torn down to bring about a new thing?

These are hard questions. And questions that, if answered honestly, can lead to hard answers and even harder work. But it is God by the Holy Spirit that is doing the work, in and through us, and perhaps, we can join Paul in saying, "for [Jesus'] sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him."

- Jim Bargmann

Early Music Minnesota; Ensemble in Residence at Mount Olive

Early Music Minnesota, (formerly The "Baroque Room") begins a new residency at Mount Olive this month, with a chamber concert exploring 18th century German and Italian music, featuring Tulio Rondón on **Saturday, October 21 at 3:00 pm**. The following week, a Harpsichord recital by Jeffrey Grossman will be offered on **Saturday, October 28, also at 3:00 pm**.

This non-profit organization is founded by longtime friends of Mount Olive, Tami Morse, and Marc Levine - frequent guest musicians for Bach Tage, Christmas Eve, and various cantatas. Early Music Minnesota is committed to providing our communities opportunities to hear excellent performances and have access to invaluable instrumental and educational resources.

Mount Olive is invited to attend these concerts free of charge! Just mention that you are from the Mount Olive community at ticketing, and you will be admitted. If you would like to volunteer as host, contact Cantor Cherwien.

For more information, visit www.earlymusicmn.org

Calendar

Wednesday, October 4

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choirs supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
7:00 pm Y2 Confirmation
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Thursday, October 5

- 5:30 pm Feminine Divine inaugural meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, October 6

- Noon LSS Alumni gathering
7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, October 7

- 10:00 am Funeral Visitation
11:00 am *Funeral Eucharist: Eunice Hafemeister*

Sunday, October 8 - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee & conversation
9:30 am Education for all ages (Godly Play, Adult Forum)
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee & conversation

Monday, October 9

- 7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A. group)

Tuesday, October 10

- Noon Bible Study

Wednesday, October 11

- 10:00 am Staff meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choirs supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
7:00 pm Y2 Confirmation
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

No Thursday-Friday Bible Study October 5 and 6

The Thursday evening - Friday noon Bible study on the reign of God in our world and in our lives is not meeting this week. Pr. Crippen and Vicar Mildahl have a retreat for interns and supervisors Oct. 5 and 6.

The classes will resume with session 3 on Thursday, Oct. 12 and Friday, Oct. 13.

Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

The Tuesday Noon Bible Study is meeting in person, in the **East Assembly Room**. For those who are unable to come in person, we will continue to hold the meeting over Zoom as well.

The link for the Tuesday noon Bible study will be the same every week. To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, [click here](#).

Book Discussion

Book Discussion group will skip their October session to leave more time to read Fyodor Dostoevsky's great novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*, which they will discuss on November 11. Lately the group has been using Zoom to provide remote access to the sessions. If you would like to participate in the group, you can either attend the monthly sessions which meet at the church in person or join remotely via Zoom. To join from your computer, tablet, or smart phone, [click here](#).

Our Life Together

Save the Date

Sunday, November 12, 2:30 p.m.: Minneapolis Institute of Arts tour, led by Bill Wilson, friend of Mount Olive and MIA docent. This tour will focus on items in the MIA collection that showcase how artists use interior space that often causes us to look in awe and wonder. Included will be both large pieces and small chapel and private art. The tour is free, but a donation to MIA is encouraged.

Congregation Meeting to be Held October 29

The semi-annual Congregation Meeting of Mount Olive congregation will be held on **Sunday, October 29, following the second liturgy.**

The primary purpose of this meeting is to approve a budget for 2024. All voting members are encouraged to attend. Plan to stay after the meeting for Oktoberfest!

Oktoberfest!

Oktoberfest is coming up on **Sunday, October 29**, following the semi-annual meeting.

Please click the link below to sign up to help with food donations, and set-up and clean-up help.

[3rd Annual Oktoberfest!](#)

Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts presents *Ruth McKenzie and Friends* *Sunday, October 15, 4:00 pm*

Ruth McKenzie, Jim Anton, and Dean Magraw met twenty-five years ago while working on Ruth's theatrical concert inspired by a Finnish rune called *Kalevala: Dream of the Salmon Maiden*. Since then, they have been musical friends and collaborators.

On October 15 at 4:00 pm, they will present a concert of Kalevala favorites, American folk songs that tell stories as powerful as a Finnish rune, and instrumentalists that will delight and move your heart.

A reception will follow the concert.

“Year B” of *The Feminine Divine*

Organization Meeting October 5

I hope you will consider joining me and other Mount Olive sisters, brothers, and siblings for a joy-filled engagement with the Feminine Divine during the 2023-24 education year. We are finalizing readings and our schedule at an inaugural meeting Thursday, October 5, at 5:30 pm, in the lower level lounge at Mount Olive.

I am deeply grateful to the members of the “Year A” Feminine Divine 2022-23 group, who significantly enriched my experience of this community, and my life! Others asked if they could join or if I was offering it again in the future, so we will see if there is enough interest for Year B. Please join us as you are interested and moved by the Spirit! You no more need Year A to participate in Year B than you do for the lectionary.

This year, Year B, we will consider and contemplate the Feminine Divine as She manifests as Woman Wisdom in the Hebrew Scripture / Old Testament, as Shekinah (the Spirit of God that dwells within), and ChristoSophia from the tradition’s roots, alongside the Christian mystics. We will likely use three or so texts; scholarships are available. We will prepare individually and meet as a group to engage with the texts and ideas intellectually, and also emotionally and spiritually.

Please contact me to let me know of your interest! I facilitate the group and can be reached at teresa@wiserwilderleadership.com or text/call me at 612-275-7468 and feel free to leave a message. You may also contact David Engen, Mount Olive Director for Education, at education@mountolivechurch.org. Hope to see you October 5!

- Teresa Rothausen

Upcoming Adult Forums

October 8: “Climate Change and Jesus! Three Temptations: Energy in human history as viewed through the lens of Matthew 4:1-11,” part 2 of a 2-part series presented by Professor Fredric L. Quivik, retired professor of history at Michigan Tech, and presently serving as part of the Saint Paul Area Synod Care of Creation.

October 15: As is done every year, the vestry will present the Mount Olive budget proposal for the coming year. This will give you the opportunity to learn more regarding the financial needs in order to fulfill our mission.

October 22 and 29: The Rev. Dr. William Russell will present a 2-part series on the historical and theological impact of The Smalcald Articles. The Smalcald Articles or Schmalkald Articles, are a summary of Lutheran doctrine, written by Martin Luther in 1537 for a meeting of the Schmalkaldic League in preparation for an intended ecumenical Council of the Church. Dr. Russell has focused his study on the importance of this document in the formation of Lutheran theology.



Align Mpls Fundraiser

Align member organization, The Dignity Center, itself a part of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, does its work out of the former Walker family mansion located on the property of HUMC and that actual mansion will serve as the site for this fun event with snacks, mocktails, lawn games, tours, and opportunities to hear about the work of Align Mpls.

The website for reserving tickets for this event can be found at

<https://www.alignmpls.org/fundraiser>.

We still need a few individuals or families who are able to make desserts for this event. Ideally, we would have 7-8 more desserts from people at Mount

Olive. If you are able to prepare a dessert of some kind, please [email Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry Jim Bargmann](mailto:Jim.Bargmann@MountOlive.org) and I can share details with you.

- Jim Bargmann

October Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: *Central Lutheran Restoration Center*

Central Lutheran Restoration center is an integral part of the ministry at our sister congregation. The Restoration Center provides a welcoming place for people experiencing homelessness and economic insecurity. Those who come to the Restoration Center find a place of hospitality and welcome where they can find emergency rental assistance, employment services, clothing, meals, free-use computers, and basic health care services.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, but on top of that, we encourage any member who wishes to contribute over and above our budgeted amount to those partners doing work in their areas of passion and concern. You can do this using your offering envelopes or our online giving system. All additional contributions to our partner of the month will be distributed to the partner for the month in which the contribution is received.

For more information about the Central Lutheran Restoration Center, please visit their website at <https://www.centralmpls.org/community/restorationcenter>

In Our Prayers

Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Julia Adams; Anne Bartz; Elizabeth Beissel; Linda & Brad Holt; Leanna Kloempken; Steve Lenius; Carla Manuel; Jude Mostek; Rhoda Nelson; Renee Ollikain; Jerry Ostlund; Russ Pearson; Mike Rader; Robin Rayfield; Pariann Schenk; Rodney Schrank; Don Shifflet; David Tabis; James Wilkes; Rhonda Fish, friend of Andrew Andersen; Randy Stiegmann and Gerry Coleman, stepfather and friend of Jim Bargmann; Cassandra Thompson, friend of Al Bostelmann; Sara Brunette, daughter-in-law of CJ Brunette; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; Mattisyn, friend of Kat Campbell Johnson; Marilyn Volker, sister of Allen Dundek; Greg Eklund, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Jon Jrocki, friend of David Engen; Joyce Schoenfield, sister of Marilyn Gebauer; Bill Irwin and Dennis Fisher, brothers-in-law of John Gidmark; Joe & Brenda Patnaude, friends of Tom Graves & Ginny Agresti; Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong), friend of Eunice Hafemeister; Quentin Hamilton, friend of Judy Hinck; Ethan Holtmeier, grandson of Patsy & John Holtmeier; Steve Horsfield, friend of Mount Olive; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; the Klapushynski family (of Ukraine), friends of Jim & Judy Johnson; Ann Richards, friend of Carol Martinson; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Stan & Darlene Nelson, parents of Brad Nelson; Tim Gaudineer, relative of George & Marlys Oelfke; Jennie Kobylinski, niece of Dwight Penas & Kathy Thurston; Fred Prosek and family, relatives of Cynthia Prosek; Jolie Melana Meshbesh, friend of Robin Rayfield; John Seboldt, brother of Gayle & Ken Schulz; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim Sneer; Erik Sterner, relative of Martha and Kate Sterner; Pat McCabe, friend of Melissa Stone; Brylee Tabis, granddaughter of David & Shirley Tabis; Keith Van Ee, father of Tricia Van Ee Molbert; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez;

Eileen Weiss, mother-in-law of John Wall; Andrew Wiechman, son of Grace Wiechman; Pat Faunce, friend of Eric Zander; Conrad Kunz, friend of Eric Zander (*and Dennis Bidwell*); Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive.

In hospice care: Mary Lee.

At the death of: Eunice Hafemeister

About our prayer list ...

If you have submitted a name or names to be published on our prayer list, please review the list regularly, to make sure those for whom we are praying are still in need of our prayers. Contact the church office with any updates.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharists:

8:00 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

Phone: 612/827-5919

Fax: 612/827-4557

Web: www.mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *David Cherwien*

Vicar – *Lauren Mildahl*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Outreach
and Ministry – *Jim Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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- **Ensemble in Residence: Early Music Minnesota**