



# The Olive Branch

October 18, 2023

## Sunday Readings

**October 22, 2023**

*21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*Lect. 29 A*

Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalms 96:1-9 [10-13]

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

**October 29, 2023**

*Reformation Sunday*

*22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*Lect. 30 A*

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Psalms 1

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

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

## Accent on Worship

*Pastor Joseph Crippen*

### *Serving God*

There's an amazing thing in our first reading Sunday, but only if you know what you're looking for. The GOD-WHO-IS names Cyrus, the ruler of the Achaemenid Persian Empire, as "anointed." That is, in Hebrew, Messiah. Cyrus is God's anointed to restore Israel, though Cyrus doesn't know Israel's God.

Historically, Cyrus did defeat the Babylonian Empire, and allowed the Jewish exiles to go home and rebuild. God's people had their exile ended by a foreign ruler, whom they believed God anointed for this role.

That's amazing. Not that God might inspire anyone, but that a people who believed themselves God's chosen people opened their imagination and saw a foreign emperor as a servant of God.

Imagine that God cares about what's happening in this world and inspires people – from leaders to everyday folks – to make a difference. To help those who are suffering, to restore those who've lost their homes, to make it possible for oppressed people to live. Today's political climate, the wars in Israel and Palestine and Ukraine and around the world, the fear of rising authoritarianism in this country, all can lead to despair.

Or, we can sing a new song (Sunday's psalm says) to a God who deeply cares about this world. We can ask to be empowered, as God's anointed ourselves, to do God's work. We can ask God to do again as of old, and inspire people all over the world to a path of wholeness and healing for all. Isaiah shows us that's a legitimate hope and prayer. So let us pray.

## Coming Events!

***Octoberfest! Sunday, October 29, after second Liturgy.***

Come to the semi-annual meeting and stay for Octoberfest! Call the office to sign up to provide food and/or help with set up or clean up, or use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3tz7h6yj>.

***Sorry, the Lefse-making event is FULL.***

***Family Movie Event: Sunday, November 12, 2 p.m. in the Chapel Lounge***

Enjoy some popcorn and watch "Book of Life." This is a film appropriate for kids aged 6-12, rated PG. The movie is free of charge, but a freewill donation will be received to cover the cost of the license.

***Minneapolis Institute of Arts Tour! Sunday, November 12, 2:30 p.m.***

Join Bill Wilson, friend of Mount Olive and MIA docent, for a tour of MIA's collection that highlights those works in which the artist has used space to cause us to look in awe and wonder. The tour is free, but a donation to MIA is encouraged. Limited to 20 people. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/3edphyrk>, or call the church office.

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## A Note of Thanks

We are immensely grateful for and humbled by the support you, the Mount Olive community, has shown us at the death of our mother and grandmother, Eunice. Thank you so much for the expressions of sympathy, cards, memorials, hugs, offers of help and support, as well as your welcome of Mom's and our non-Mount Olive family, neighbors and friends, have all been a blessing through this time. We especially thank everyone who helped with the visitation, funeral and luncheon - staff, worship assistants, cooks, setup and cleanup crews, and more.

- Linda, Leah, Louise, Jesse, and Julie Hafemeister

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## The National Lutheran Choir Begins a New Season

Join the NLC for the inaugural season with new artistic director, Jennaya Robison! The season will begin with All Saints concerts (Nov. 3rd and 5th), where we will commemorate those who have passed as well as celebrate the new life of those who have been born.

***All Saints: New Life***

November 3, 2023 - 7:30 pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (St. Paul, MN)

November 5, 2023 - 4:00 pm at Normandale Lutheran Church (Edina, MN)

## Calendar

### Wednesday, October 18

- 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 19

- 6:00 pm Bible Study  
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, October 20

- Noon Bible Study  
7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Saturday, October 21

- 9:00 am Gardening Day  
9:00 am CPR Training  
3:00 pm Early Music Minnesota Concert

### Sunday, October 22 - Twenty-first 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 23

- 5:30 pm Family Music Time (online)  
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A. group)

### Tuesday, October 24

- Noon Bible Study

### Wednesday, October 25

- 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

## 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.

**Childcare will be provided.**

All voting members are encouraged to attend. Plan to stay after the meeting for Oktoberfest!

## 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. For the December 9 meeting, they will discuss *Pachinko*, by Min Jin Lee.

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](#).

## Conspiracy vs. The Bible:

### Monday/Thursday Bible Study Begins Nov. 6

Next month, Vicar Lauren will lead a six-session Bible Study looking closely at common elements of modern American conspiracy theories that are drawn from a Christian worldview, such as the Devil, the end times, Jewish people, and Christian nationalism. We'll be comparing the conspiracy theory versions of these ideas with what the Bible actually says and discussing how faithful believers ought to respond and speak the truth in love.

Two identical sessions will be offered each week starting Monday, November 6th: Mondays at noon (note the change, not Fridays) and Thursdays at 6pm. You are welcome to join in person or via Zoom. Monday participants, feel free to bring your lunch. Thursday nights will include a light supper. Contact [vicar@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:vicar@mountolivechurch.org) if you have any questions!

## *On Earth As In Heaven: Thursday-Friday Bible Study (Zoom, too!)*

The Bible study "On Earth As In Heaven," a deep look at the reign of God as Jesus proclaimed, it continues takes place this Thursday and Friday.

Thursday night is from 6:00 p.m. to about 7:30 p.m., and will include our usual light supper when we begin. **If anyone is able to bring supper this Thursday, please let Pr. Crippen know.** For Friday, which meets from 12:00 noon to about 1:30 p.m., feel free to bring your lunch along. All are welcome to this study opportunity!

[Click here](#) to join the Zoom meeting for either the Thursday or Friday sessions.

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## 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 **this Saturday, October 21 at 3:00 pm.** The following week, a Harpsichord recital by Jeffrey Grossman will be offered **next Saturday, October 28, also at 3:00 pm.**

All of their concerts will take place at Mount Olive. We are 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.

For more information, visit [www.earlymusicmn.org](http://www.earlymusicmn.org)



## Upcoming Adult Forums

**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.

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## Afghanistan Needs Our Help

Following the initial strong earthquake in western Afghanistan in October 7, an additional 6.3 earthquake struck the same region on Sunday. Many thousands of people were killed in the first quake, and the region has had numerous quakes in the last two weeks.

Your Global Ministry Committee has researched how to help people in this Taliban controlled country. Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières) is the only NGO allowed to operate, and they have a hospital in Herat, the hardest hit area. The Committee is sending funds to Doctors Without Borders and encourages you to do the same. If you wish to donate through Mount Olive, please make sure that the donation is clearly marked for Afghanistan Earthquake. If you wish to donate directly [here is the link to use](#).

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## Names of the Departed Saints Invited

As a part of our All Saints liturgy on Sunday, Nov. 5, worshippers are invited to submit the names of loved ones close to them who have died in the past year, since last All Saints Sunday, who weren't members of Mount Olive. (Members of the parish who have died are always named.)

For those who attend worship in the coming weeks, a book is located at the entrance to the nave where you can write these names. You may also contact the church office with the names. These other names submitted will be included in the prayers of intercession.

Please keep this to just those who have died this past year, so we can have a more manageable list.

## 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 though 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>

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## Global Ministry Update

What are we to think, or do, in response to the Israel-Hamas war. Certainly, we must pray, and try not to lose hope that someday peace will come to this long-troubled region of the world. The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, the ELCA's presiding bishop, on October 13 wrote: "As Lutherans, we are accustomed to holding tension between two truths. Thus, the ELCA denounces the egregious acts of Hamas, acts that have led to unspeakable loss of life and hope. At the same time the ELCA denounces the indiscriminate retaliation of Israel against the Palestinian people, both Christian and Muslim."

The Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb is a co-founder of Bright Stars of Bethlehem, a nonprofit—and one of our Global Ministry partners—that supports health, education, and cultural and spiritual development to promote peace in the region. He wrote on October 10, that Western media use a "settler colonial rhetoric . . . without talking about the root causes." The Palestinian fighters, Raheb said, "were born under siege in the largest open-air prison in the world. For decades, they waited for justice, for freedom, for a life in dignity, but all in vain."

Let's pray that God will raise up new leaders, in the "holy land" and around the globe—be they Christian, Jewish, Islamic, or agnostic—who will find paths to lasting peace.

- Your Global Ministry Committee

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## 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**

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Web: [www.mountolivechurch.org](http://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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