



The Olive Branch

November 22, 2023

Sunday Readings

November 26, 2023

Reign of Christ, year A

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

December 3, 2026

First Sunday in Advent, year B

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

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

Accent on Worship *Cantor David Cherwien*

The Last Day of the Year

This coming Sunday we celebrate the Reign of Christ. It marks the last Sunday in the church year, Series A in the three-year lectionary. According to *Sundays and Seasons* (a planning resource used by many of us): "The gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds."

I thought of two small chorale preludes included in Bach's "Orgelbüchlein" (Little Organ Book), simple organ settings of chorales for the church year. One of them is "The Old Year Has Passed Away." In this setting Bach uses a motive which descends by 5 half-steps. This motive was often meant to depict grief. This very short chorale prelude includes TWELVE statements of the motive (each representing a month?). Bach's twist, however, is that six of them descend, but the other six ascend. As if to say we mourn, but we look forward to the coming year. The very next chorale is "In Thee Is Gladness." As if to say we greet the new year with gladness and joy.

I tend to think back to where we've come since the year we're bringing to a close began in Advent of 2022. How did that journey go - was it deep and meaningful? What were our liturgies like? What did we observe? What music did we do? What can we do better?

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Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

What's happened in the world in the past 12 months is quite something as well. I personally have been through an enormous amount of change. And at the same time there is much that is the same. Is that good or bad?

Like Bach, we can also look to what we're beginning on December 3, 2023, Advent 1, when we switch to series B in the lectionary. We'll change the songs of the "Ordinary" (Kyrie, Gospel Acclamation, Great Thanksgiving). Are you going to do anything differently this coming year liturgically? Maybe commit to mid-week services on Wednesdays in Advent and Lent? What are you going to observe in your home? Anything in Advent? We're pretty good at Christmas, but what about the other seasons like Epiphany, Lent and Easter?

I also think of the trajectory of the whole year: Advent darkness and anticipation, the coming of Christ at Christmas, the coming of light at Epiphany, the mini-ordinary time after Epiphany as Christ grows in us (really short this year), Lent, Holy Week, Easter season leading to Pentecost, the much longer ordinary time as we grow in Christ, another autumn/harvest, All Saints, and back to the Reign of Christ. We are lucky in the northern hemisphere as nature reflects these seasons so well: dark of Advent, growing light in Christmas/Epiphany, starkness, and the hibernation of winter in Lent, Spring for Easter, green growth of Summer. All metaphors for our faith.

The liturgical year invites us to enter into the Christ cycle in a way that invigorates us to do what we say at the end of each liturgy: "Go in peace to love and serve as Christ."

- Cantor David Cherwien

National Lutheran Choir Annual Christmas Festival

New Hope: Finding light in unexpected places

In Christ's birth we see, hear, and feel a sense of renewal as Christmas connects us to the roots of our faith. Join the National Lutheran Choir at the magnificent Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis for the beloved Christmas Festival tradition! Carols, readings, and music from brass, oboe, harp, and organ will sound throughout the Basilica to ring in another Christmas.

In Person Concerts at the Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis

Friday, December 8 - 4:30pm

Saturday, December 9 - 1:30pm and 8:00pm

Adults and Seniors: \$35 | Students: Pay what you can | 18 and Under: Free

Discounts for groups of 10+! Call the NLC office at 612-722-2301 for more information.

Livestream

Saturday, December 9th - 1:30pm CT Free to all | Visit [NLCA.com](https://www.nlca.com) to watch!

For tickets and more information, visit [NLCA.com](https://www.nlca.com).

Calendar

Wednesday, November 22

10:00 am Staff meeting

No Choirs or Confirmation this evening.

Thursday, November 23 - Thanksgiving Day

Church offices closed

10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

Friday, November 24

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Sunday, November 26 - Reign of Christ

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, November 27

Noon Bible Study

5:30 pm Family Music Time (online)

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

Tuesday, November 28

Noon Bible Study

Wednesday, November 29

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

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist This Thursday, November 23 10:00 a.m.

All are welcome.

The offering received at the Thanksgiving Eucharist will be donated the Community Emergency Services and Sabathani food shelves.

Gifts of food and other necessities are also welcome to be brought forward during the offering.

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

For their December 9 meeting, the group will read *Pachinko*, by Min Jin Lee, and for January 13, they will read *Lost Colony: The Hennessee Island Murders*, by Steve Berg.

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](#).

2024 Pledges

Pledges for 2024 were received at the morning Eucharists this past Sunday, November 19.

If you wish to pledge but forgot your card or were not able to attend church that day, it's not too late to submit your pledge of support for the coming year.

You may bring or mail your card in at any time through December. If you have lost track of your card, contact the church office and we will be happy to mail you another.

Thanks for your generous support of Mount Olive!

Advent Approaches

Advent begins next Sunday, December 3.

Midweek Evening Prayer will be prayed each Wednesday evening during Advent (Dec. 6, 13, and 20), at 7:00 pm.

All are welcome.

Conspiracy vs. The Bible: Monday/Thursday Bible Study Continues

This month, Vicar Mildahl is leading 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 are offered each week: 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 if you have any questions!

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

Music & Fine Arts Advent Procession *Sunday, December 3, 4:00 pm*

All are invited to this annual service of lessons and carols for Advent.

Save the Date!

Friday, December 29, 7:00 p.m.: Grown-Up Movie Night at Mount Olive.

Start your New Year's celebration with a movie with Mount Olive friends. Movie title to be announced soon.

LSS Refugee Services Accessible Housing Needs

Every once in a while, Lutheran Social Services reaches out with a very specific request to assist the refugee families we serve. For this request, however, they are not seeking donations (though they still love those!) or volunteers (always looking for more!). Instead, they are seeking housing connections. They have nearly exhausted all of their known leads, and have two families who each need a very specific arrangement. Here are the details of what they're looking for:

- Move in date: ASAP
- 6 month to 1 year lease
- 3-4 bedroom homes/apartments
- Must be able to accommodate a family of 7-8 people
- Metro area (near bus line, easy to access groceries/pharmacy/etc.)
- Wheelchair Accessible (at least for one bedroom, and common living spaces)
- Ideally not over \$2000/month
- Property owner willing to work with a refugee family – they don't have credit or rental history, but come with an LSS guarantee of payment for the first several months. We also provide income verification.

If you have any connections, please send them to Lynn Mullin: Lynn.Mullin@lssmn.org , Em Antin: Em.Antin@lssmn.org , or Margaret Yapp: Margaret.Yapp@lssmn.org . We are seeing an increase of people arriving who require accessible housing options, and would love to have a list of folks with spaces that meet those requirements so we can get them into their first Minnesota home as quickly as possible!

Thank you so much for your continued support of newly-arrived refugees!

Thanks to the Cleaning Crew!

Many thanks to Beth Gaede, Jan Harbaugh, Bonnie McLellan, Joy Obadiaru, Cynthia Prosek, and Lynn Ruff, who cleaned our chancel, transepts, and narthex, and polished the brass candelabra and fittings in preparation for our Advent and Christmas liturgies.

November Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month

Restorative Justice Community Action

Restorative Justice Community Action (RJCA) provides a community-based alternative to criminal prosecution with the mission of fostering individual growth while strengthening communities through restorative justice practices. With a restorative and race equity lens, RJCA leverages the voice of community to transform the criminal legal system, public safety, and eliminate racial disparities. The indigenous roots of restorative justice focus on transformation of people, relationships, and community. In honoring these roots, RJCA humanizes conflict and supports community in finding shared solutions.

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 Restorative Justice Community Action, please visit their website at www.rjca-inc.org or contact Cynthia Prosek, RJCA Executive Director and Mount Olive Member.

Sunday's Adult Forum

November 26: "My favorite parts of the Bible that aren't in the Lectionary," presented by Vicar Lauren Mildahl.

Starting with a quick introduction to the Revised Common Lectionary and then presenting a top ten list (if she has that many!) of parts of the Bible that have been especially meaningful or important to her, but which we don't ever hear on a Sunday morning in the Revised Common Lectionary.

December 3, 10 and 17: "Credo," a three-part study presented by Pastor Crippen.

This series will look at the way we declare our faith publicly in creeds in worship, how we are bound (or not) to those creeds, and what it means for our worship life and our life in the world. We'll also consider the three ecumenical creeds that our confessions and constitution claim are our heritage and part of our foundation, at their strengths and weaknesses, and consider their use in our liturgy. Additionally, we'll explore the growing field of alternate creeds.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharists:

8:00 & 10:45 am

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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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