

# The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023  
10:00 p.m.

Mount Olive Lutheran  
Church  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

# *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...” in caps 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.

## *Focus on the Season: Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve*

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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. In the middle of 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

Saturday, December 24, 2023 † 10:00 p.m.

## Choral Prelude

(seated)

### “Once in Royal David’s City”

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 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.* – Cecil Frances Alexander

### “Still, Still, Still”

Robert Hobby

*Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.  
For all is hushed, the world is sleeping, Holy Star its vigil keeping.  
Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep, ‘tis the eve of our Savior’s birth.  
The night is peaceful all around you, close your eyes, let sleep surround you.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep, ‘tis the eve of our Savior’s birth.  
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.  
While guardian angels without number watch you as you sweetly slumber.  
Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.*

### “On Christmas Night”

arr. Paul O. Manz

*On Christmas night all Christian sing to hear the news the angels bring;  
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King’s birth.  
Then why should we on earth be sad, since our redeemer made us glad,  
When from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?  
All out of darkness we have light which made the angel sing this night.  
Glory to God and peace in heaven, peace on earth and goodwill. Amen.*

### “Weinachts Konzert” (Christmas Concerto)

Giuseppe Torelli

*Grave/Vivace – Largo – Vivace*

## “To Bethlehem Two Strangers Came”

Robert Hobby

*To Bethlehem two strangers came to find a lodging place.  
The night was cold, their bodies worn, but none would give them space.  
Earth had no room for them that night. Earth had no space to spare.  
They walk again on city streets where people pass them by.  
They hold out empty hands but hear this answer to their cry:  
There is no room for you tonight. We have no space to spare.  
In stricken lands across the sea, in pockets of the poor,  
The people knock on neighbors' hearts but find no open door.  
There is no room for them tonight. Earth has no space to spare.  
O Christ, whose parents sought in vain a room to give you birth,  
In these, the poor, you seek again a welcome on the earth.  
Will there be room for you tonight? Will we have space to spare?  
Lord, open wide all hearts kept closed by selfishness and fear  
Until no doors are shut to those in whom you still draw near.  
Lord, help us welcome you tonight! Let love make space to share!* - Herman Stuempfle

## “Pastorale” from *Christmas Concerto*

Arcangelo Corelli

## “A Christmas Carol”

Charles Ives

*Little Star of Bethlehem! Do we see thee now?  
Do we see thee shining o'er the tall trees?  
Little Child of Bethlehem! Do we hear thee in our hearts?  
Hear the angels singing: “Peace on earth good will to all! Noel!”  
  
O'er the cradle of a King, hear the angels sing:  
In excelsis Gloria, Gloria!  
From his Father's home on high, Lo! for us he came to die;  
Hear the angels sing: “Venite adoremus Dominum.”*

## The Entrance Liturgy

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*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*

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HYMN "Break Forth, O Beauteous, Heavenly Light" *(Sung by all in harmony)*

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

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, and the second system covers the second line. The music is written in a style suitable for a choir or a group of people singing in harmony.

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: *Brich 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

**Living in the Fields**

*Following the sermon, a brief silence is kept.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

*(standing)*

“In a Far-Off Place”

*Stanza 2 is sung by the choir.*



1. In a far - off place, Je - sus comes to — earth.  
 2. For the poor in heart, Je - sus comes to — earth.  
 3. In our deep - est night, Je - sus comes to — earth.



Sheep and cat - tle grace the site. As the an - gel songs be - gin,  
 Hum - ble shep - herds start the news. For each home - less in - fant born,  
 Ra - diant star to light our way. Sum - mer's heat or win - ter's chill,



Like the whis - per of the wind, Na - ture's hope a - wakes a - gain;  
 For the meek and those who mourn, for the wear - y and the worn,  
 With a warm and lov - ing will, To a world that needs him still,



Je - - - - - sus comes

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953  
©2009 GIA Publications, Inc.

Tune: PEACEFUL NIGHT  
David Cherwien

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*(kneeling)*

Response: **☩ hear our prayer.**

PEACE

*(standing)*

*You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.*

# The Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

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## AT THE OFFERING

### “A Cradle Song”

(seated)  
David Hurd

*Sweet dreams form a shade o'er my lovely infant's head:  
Sweet dreams of pleasant streams by happy, silent moony beams.*

*Sleep, happy child, all creation slept and smiled;  
Sleep, happy sleep, while o'er thee thy mother weep.*

*Sweet babe, in thy face holy image can I trace.  
Sweet babe, once like thee, thy Maker lay and wept for me.*

*Wept for me, for thee, for all, when he was an infant small.  
Thou his image ever see, heavenly face that smiles on thee.*

*Smiles on thee, on me, on all, who became an infant small.*

*Infant smiles are his own smiles; heaven and earth to peace beguiles.* – William Blake

## 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



**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts. **C**We lift them to the Lord.



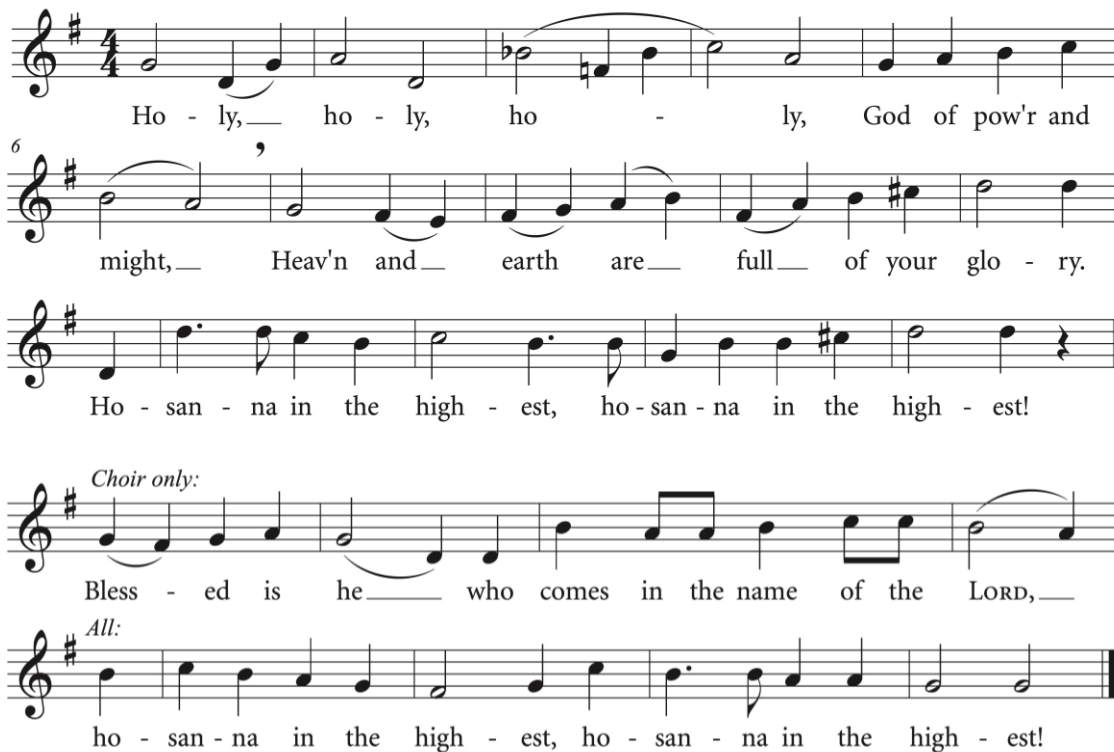
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give God thanks and praise.



## Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God of pow'r and  
might, Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

*Choir only:*  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the LORD,  
*All:*  
ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Based on *ADESTE FIDELES*, by David Cherwien. ©2023. Used by permission.

Eucharistic Prayer (attributed to Hippolytus, 3<sup>rd</sup> c.)

Response: ☩ Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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"Our Father in heaven..." (chanted by all)

AT THE COMMUNION

(seated)

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.

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

"Jesus, Lamb of God"

HYMN 199

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>“O Little Town of Bethlehem”<br/> <i>Stanza 1 – All</i><br/> <i>Stanza 2 – All, in harmony</i><br/> <i>Stanza 3 – Treble voices; All at “No ear may hear his coming ...”</i><br/> <i>Stanza 4 – All</i></p> | HYMN 279   |
| <p>“The First Noel”<br/> <i>Refrain – All</i><br/> <i>Stanza 1 – All</i><br/> <i>Stanza 2 – Treble voices</i><br/> <i>Stanza 3 – All, in harmony</i></p>   | <p>HYMN 300<br/> <i>Stanza 4 – Low voices</i><br/> <i>Stanza 5 – All</i></p> |
| <p>“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”<br/> <i>Stanza 1 and 3 may be sung in harmony.</i></p>  | HYMN 282   |

*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*

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### SOLEMN BENEDICTION

☐ Coming to us as fully human, the Son of God scattered the shadows of this world, and filled the earth with God’s beauty. The God of infinite goodness scatter the shadows 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.

**C Amen**

**P** When God’s Word took on human flesh, earth was joined to heaven. God give you peace and goodwill, and fellowship with the heavenly host.

**C Amen**

**P** The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

**C Amen**

#### HYMN AT THE RETIRING PROCESSION

“Joy to the World”

HYMN 267

*Stanzas 2 and 3 may be sung in harmony.*

#### DISMISSAL

**A** The light shines in the darkness, **C** and the darkness has not overcome it.

**A** Go in peace. Share the good news! **C Thanks be to God!**

#### POSTLUDE

“In Dulci Jubilo”

J.S. Bach

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## *Christmas and Epiphany Worship at Mount Olive*

**Christmas Day: Monday, December 25, 2023**

Festival Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

**First Sunday of Christmas, December 31, 2023**

Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

**The Name of Jesus: Monday, January 1, 2024**

Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

**The Epiphany of Our Lord: Saturday, January 6, 2024**

Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.

**The Baptism of Our Lord: Sunday, January 7, 2024**

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

## Worship Leaders

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|--|--|
| <b>Presiding Minister &amp; Preacher</b> | Pastor Joseph Crippen  |
| <b>Organist</b>                          | Cantor David Cherwien  |
| <b>Assisting Minister</b>                | Vicar Lauren Mildahl   |
| <b>Sacristan</b>                         | Brad Nelson  |
| <b>Eucharistic Minister</b>              | Kandi Jo Nelson  |
| <b>Livestream</b>                        | Greg Murphy  |
| <b>Lector</b>                            | Teresa Rothausen   |
| <b>Acolytes</b>                          | David Bryce, Steve Manuel, Eric Manuel   |
| <b>Ushers</b>                            | Sue Browender, Michael Lansing<br>Harrison & Rebekah Wold Defries  |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>                       | Bob Christenson & Beth Gaede<br>Bonnie McLellan  |
| <b>Choir</b>                             | Mount Olive Cantorei   |
| <b>Bells</b>                             | David Engen  |
| <b>Flutist</b>                           | Elizabeth Spang  |
| <b>String Ensemble</b>                   | Marc Levine and Elise Meichels Parker, violins<br>Emily Hagen, viola<br>Jane Cords-O'Hara, 'cello<br>Mark Kausch, bass |



### **Mount Olive Lutheran Church (ELCA)**

3045 Chicago Avenue South • Minneapolis, MN 55407

Phone: (612) 827-5919 • Fax: (612) 827-4557

*Musical, Liturgical, Welcoming + A Reconciling in Christ Congregation*

Email: [welcome@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:welcome@mountolivechurch.org)

Website: [www.mountolivechurch.org](http://www.mountolivechurch.org)

### **Staff**

Pastor – Joseph Crippen

Cantor - David Cherwien

Vicar – Lauren Mildahl

Administrative Assistant – Cha Posz

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry – Jim Bargmann