

The Olive Branch

January 17, 2024

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

Sunday Readings

January 21, 2024

*Third Sunday after Epiphany
year B*

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

January 28, 2024

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
year B*

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

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

There seems an interesting through-line in this week's appointed readings. This certainly isn't always the case where all four readings connect, and I cannot speak to whether it was intentional or not.

In the reading from Jonah, we know that Nineveh was considered a "great city." That very phrase is used by God themselves every time Nineveh is mentioned in their conversations with Jonah. And yet, because there were "more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left," they were doomed to destruction.

In Psalm 62:9, the Psalmist writes, "Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion." Given context, I don't know that the Psalmist was writing as much about the individual person themselves as much as they were writing about the concept of status - that whether you had a high standing or a low standing in the community, that simply doesn't matter.

In the reading from 1 Corinthians, we are given a list of things where we are instructed to live as though those things do not actually exist and told, "For the present form of this world is passing away."

And finally in Mark, we hear the story of Simon, Andrew, James, and John, all fishermen, who are called by Jesus to give up their livelihood and join in God's work. And they do just that, seemingly immediately and without hesitation.

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Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

There seems a message of the unimportance, the insignificance of greatness, status, possessions, even income, being communicated by all four of our readings this week. In a very real sense, I think all four revisit a theme common in our readings just before and though Advent - the reality of living within God's reign is different than the reality we often experience in our everyday lives. But if we are serious about believing that God's reign is a reality now and not simply a someday, what do we do with this?

I wish I had an answer for you. But at the same time, perhaps it really is better that way. Perhaps we each need to figure that out for ourselves, guided by prayer and the Holy Spirit.

I know personally, I long for a day when life will not seemingly be ruled by a necessity of money. I long for a day when status and power are not dependent on how wealthy a person is or is not. I long for a day when all have homes and food and clothing and all they need for life. I long for a day when no one has to say, "I wish I could do this, but I need to do this because it pays the bills." It is this longing that motivates me to do what I do - attempting to create a society where these things are true and not just a far off hypothetical.

What about you? What part of the reality of God's reign do you find yourself longing for? And how can we, as fellow journeyers in this faith community, join you in making that a reality in the here and now? At least until God's reign is fully realized.

- Jim Bargmann

Save the Date

Mark your calendars for February 11 for the Taste of Palestine and Israel.

The Global Ministry committee hosts a "Taste of" event each year, highlighting one of our supported ministries. This year will be a year to come together to learn, pray and share as we have thoughtful conversations about the challenges to hope that Palestinians and Israelis are facing today.

After the second liturgy, we will gather for a meal of typical food from the areas. Please let Lisa Ruff know if you are interested in making one of the recipes for the event.

(global@mountolivechurch.org or 651-307-2933)

We are also looking for people to help that day with preparing, serving, and cleaning up.

Calendar

Wednesday, January 17

10:00 am Staff meeting
3:00 pm Library Committee meeting
5:30 pm Children's Choirs supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
NO Confirmation this evening
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Thursday, January 18

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, January 19

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Sunday, January 21 - Third Sunday after Epiphany

8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
9:30 am Godly Play and Adult Forum
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
12:30 pm Y1 Confirmation

Monday, January 22

5:30 pm Family Music Time (online only)
7:00 pm Worship Committee meeting
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

Tuesday, January 23

Noon Bible Study

Coffee Hour Hosts (Always) Needed!

You know the drill.

Sign up on the chart near the serving window in the East Assembly Room.

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 February 10 meeting, the Book Discussion group will read *Of Human Bondage*, by W. Somerset Maugham. For March 9, they will read *Tom Lake*, by Ann Patchett.

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 smartphone, [click here](#).

Genre-jumping Trumpet & Organ Recital at Mount Olive

Mount Olive Music & Fine Arts presents
American Nomad and *The Modern Hymn Project*

The magnificent Schlicker pipe organ at Mount Olive will get a different kind of workout on **Sunday, January 28 at 4:00 pm**. Instead of a classical concert, Mount Olive will host two outstanding Minnesota musicians to present *American Nomad* and *The Modern Hymn Project*. Mount Olive Cantor David Cherwien teams up with acclaimed Minnesota Orchestra trumpeter Charles Lazarus for an evening of exciting and virtuosic music making. At the center of the genre-jumping performance will be the performance of *American Nomad*, a classical/jazz hybrid concerto for trumpet written by Emmy Award-winning composer, Steve Heitzeg. The program will include selections from Lazarus's latest recording of modern takes on hymns and spirituals along with classical favorites.

Juilliard-trained Charles Lazarus is a respected orchestral soloist, composer and bandleader.

"There are very few classical trumpet concertos that incorporate jazz improvisation as an integral part of the work," said Lazarus. "*American Nomad* melds cool jazz and a contemporary cinematic flair. I hear it as a hipster's coast to coast journey that captures elements of many American musical styles."

Organist, composer, conductor and clinician, David Cherwien is delighted to be artistically stretched. "In addition to piano improvisation, I am doing a couple of organ pieces: "In Dir ist Freude, by Bach, and my own Prelude and Toccata on "Of the Father's Love Begotten," said Cherwien. "We have been having much fun preparing this program - it's quite different and probably the most diverse program I've ever participated in!"



[Check out American Nomad on YouTube](#) - Charles Lazarus and the Minnesota Orchestra.

January Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month: *Our Saviour's Community Services*

Our Saviour's Community Services, a non-profit founded by our sister congregation, operates a shelter, which in the last year has served a vital role in providing housing for those experiencing homelessness who have recently been released from the hospital. In addition, they provide transitional housing for women who have experienced domestic abuse and permanent supportive housing for men and women who live with a mental illness, physical disability, and/or substance use disorders. In addition, Mount Olive volunteers provide meals at the Our Saviour's shelter once a month.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, and often, like our partner this month, we also volunteer in support of their work. On top of those financial and labor contributions, we encourage any member who wishes to donate 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 Our Saviour's work, please visit their website at <https://oscs-mn.org>. For more information about the teams from Mount Olive serving meals at the shelter, contact Elaine Halbardier at ech914@comcast.net.

Upcoming Adult Forums

January 21: "The Presence of Your Absence is Everywhere: The Feminine Divine in Our Tradition," part 2 of a 2-part series presented by Teresa Rothausen

This two-week presentation will provide deeper understanding of the need for a balanced perception of God and a panel of the Feminine Divine class participants sharing their insights and realizations.

January 28: A presentation by Johan Baumeister, Minneapolis Area Synod Congregational Organizer for Climate Justice. Topic to be announced.

Be Aware

This past Sunday one of our members was accosted after services as she went to her car parked on 31st Street. Fortunately, she was not hurt, but did have her purse stolen. Other members and two individuals came to her assistance as she waited for the police. The police were able to retrieve her phone and related that they were in the area actively working car theft issues.

Although this is a very rare incident for us, please take the following precautions:

- Leave the building with others, if at all possible.
- Pay attention to who is around the area. Don't ignore your sense that something is not normal.
- If it doesn't feel right, listen to your intuition and return to the church until someone can walk with you.

Report any concerns to the church office and police if warranted.

Nominate students for Lutheran Summer Music

Each year, the primary way that music students find their way to Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) is through the encouragement of church musicians and members! LSM offers opportunities for musicians of all kinds: brass, winds, strings, percussion, piano, organ, voice, harp, guitar, handbells, and more! Students receive advanced musical instruction through large ensembles (festival choir, band, and orchestra), chamber music, private lessons with collegiate-level faculty, and elective classes.



In the evenings, students attend recitals, Evening Prayer services, and social events with their friends. LSM 2024 takes place at Valparaiso University in Indiana from June 30 - July 28 (full session) or June 30 - July 14 (half session) and is open to students who have completed grades 8 - 12.

Know a musical young person who would thrive at LSM? Nominate them today at LSMacademy.org/nominate.

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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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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