

The Olive Branch

January 24, 2024

Accent on Worship *Cantor David Cherwien*

Sunday Readings

January 28, 2024

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
year B*

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

February 4, 2024

*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
year B*

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

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

Ordinary Time

We are in the first of two stretches of "Ordinary Time." This one spans between the Feast of the Epiphany and Lent, ending with Transfiguration Sunday, year February 11. (The other is the long stretch after Pentecost up to Advent). During our current weeks these Sundays sometimes are referred to as "Sundays After Epiphany" (but not Sundays OF Epiphany). The word "epiphany" means "to make known" which the lessons during this time illustrate, providing a logical connection. In any case, it is a short stretch of non-festival time which calls for simpler, more unadorned liturgies, and do not create a "season" for Epiphany.

For the Ordinary (the liturgical songs sung each week) we sing the song of the angels at the nativity; The Gloria, the more generic Gospel Acclamation ("Alleluia, Lord to whom..."), and as is the case for all seasons, the Three sentences, the Great Thanksgiving with Sanctus and Lamb of God. During this time, as a post-communion canticle we also sing the song of Simeon, "Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace."

There are many settings of Simeon's canticle in the hymnal but mostly we sing the plainsong, or chant version at hymn 201. While the other settings that are in the book are indeed good settings, we focus on this one for its timelessness. It's been sung for hundreds (maybe thousands) of years and by more denominations than Lutherans alone. It is the most likely candidate to still be with us

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Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

well into the future. Singing it every week during this time sinks it deep into our memory for those times when we need it most – at every funeral, or in hospice, for example. These weeks are the rehearsals for the future.

For the Gloria, Gospel Acclamation, and Great Thanksgiving, we are returning to setting four in the ELW (pages 147 to 155). This, too, is to refresh this staple setting in memory – it's been a while since we have spent time with this setting. I also believe this is a setting that will likely be carried well into the future. Most of these melodies were composed by Twin Cities church musician, the late Ronald Nelson. This melody of the Sanctus, however, is one that has been with the church perhaps from before the time before Christ with certain adaptations along the way. It is also the base melody for the "Bach setting" we sing during summer months.

These are melodies and texts worthy of getting into the memory, or as Alice Parker loved to say, "knowing them by heart" – a lovely phrase. Perhaps you won't need to use the hymnal since you know them so well, but don't forget it is still helpful for you to open the hymnal to that page – there might be someone within sight who needs to see where in the book we are. But you don't have to read it – you can still sing it by heart.

From the Hasidic tradition: A disciple asks the rebbe, "Why does the Torah tell us to place these words upon your hearts? Why does it not tell us to place the holy words in our hearts?" The rebbe answers: "It is because as we are, our hearts are closed and hard, and we cannot place the holy words in our hearts. So we place them on top of our hearts and there they stay until one day our heart breaks, and the holy words fall in."

- Susan Palo Cherwien in *To God I Give My Melody*

- Cantor David Cherwien

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The Youth and Family Committee would like to invite you to a Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, February 13, from 5:30-7:00, in the Mount Olive Undercroft.

We will invite kids to help prepare and serve pancakes and will also have a variety of games and activity options available.

Following the Pancake Supper, we will gather to burn the palm branches from last year's Passion Sunday, to create the ashes for Ash Wednesday services the following day.

Hope to see you there!

Calendar

Wednesday, January 24

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, January 25

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, January 26

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Sunday, January 28 - Fourth 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
4:00 pm MFA Event: Trumpet and Organ Concert

Monday, January 29

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

Tuesday, January 30

Noon Bible Study

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](#).

The Presentation of Our Lord

Friday, February 2, 2024

Holy Eucharist at 7:00 pm

All are welcome.

Call for Palms!

If you have palm branches in your home from last year's Palm Sunday liturgies, please bring them to church and place them in the basket provided in the narthex.

These branches will be burned on Shrove Tuesday (February 13) to make ashes for this year's Ash Wednesday liturgies on February 14.

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 28: "Two Banks of the Same River: Why Indigenous Rights & Climate Justice Are Intertwined," presented by Johan Baumeister, the Minneapolis Area Synod Congregational Organizer for Climate Justice. This will be a conversation about the EcoFaith Network of the Minneapolis Area Synod and our collective efforts on climate justice. We'll focus especially on the connections between the history of energy systems and Native peoples in Minnesota. We'll connect the ELCA's social statements to the present and discuss opportunities to chart a just future.

Feb. 4: No adult forum

Feb. 11: A Taste of the Holy Land.

February 18 & 25: "White and Delightful: Christian Missionaries and Cultural Chaos in Dakota Indigenous Communities, 1833-1863."

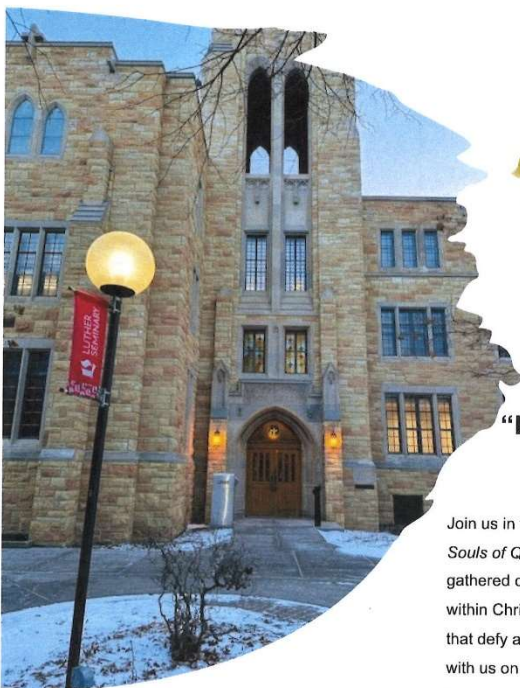
This two-part series will provide an overview of the ways in which Christian missionaries likely hastened the cultural destruction of Dakota peoples in Minnesota and contributed to the tragic U.S. Dakota War of 1862. Discussion of how Mount Olive members might respond to the call for justice for our Indigenous neighbors will be part of the presentation.

What's Your Question?

On Sunday, February 11 we will have a rare opportunity to hear from both a native Palestinian and a native Israeli as we work to understand, learn, and expand our thinking about the Holy Land, our partnerships there, and the current situation.

Ashraf Ashkar and Sami Rahamim will help us to realize the complex nature of both the history and the present situation in this part of the world. They would like to have your questions ahead of time to give them appropriate thought. What would you like to know? Please submit your questions to judyhinck@gmail.com or to the church office by February 5. And then prepare your heart and mind to listen and learn. Indeed, your Global Ministry Committee knows that this will be an unusual Taste of... event, one that focuses on hope for peace and understanding.

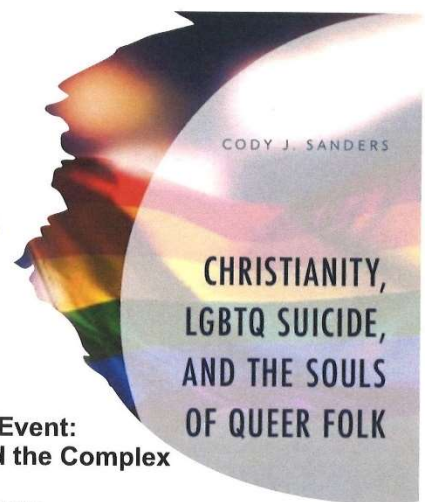
We hope that you will join.



Library is located on 2nd floor of Gullixson Hall (pictured above). 2481 Como Ave., St. Paul



**Luther Seminary Faculty Book Event:
"LGBTQ+ Religious Stress-Trauma and the Complex
Beauty of Queer Faith"
Wednesday, February 7, 1:30pm**



Join us in the Luther Seminary library where Cody Sanders will reflect with us on his book *Christianity, LGBTQ Suicide, and the Souls of Queer Folk*. Isaac Horwedel will respond, and there will be time for questions and further conversation among the gathered community. "LGBTQ+ people have long experienced spiritual stress, religious trauma, and soul violence from and within Christian communities. Yet, queer and trans people have also lived fiercely and faithfully in face of these realities in ways that defy a single story of the relationship between LGBTQ+ people and Christian faith," writes Sanders. His talk will reflect back with us on his book while also imagining forward to an upcoming keynote address he will present at the Loma Linda University Biopsychosocial-Spiritual Research Conference on spiritual trauma in the LGBTQ+ community. You are invited to be in dialogue with him about his work and its implications for Christian community and the practice of ministry.

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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January 28, 4 pm**
- **Save the Date! Taste of Palestine and Israel, February 11**



Bimosedaa Service Project Days and Opening

On two different occasions in January, members of Mount Olive worked alongside our partners at Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative to prepare the new Bimosedaa residences for their new occupants.

Bimosedaa, Ojibwe for “Let’s walk together,” will provide 48 units of supportive housing in the former Rockler Fir Building in downtown Minneapolis. The vision for Bimosedaa came out of a partnership between Beacon and the leadership of the Red Lake Nation and as a response to the Wall of Forgotten Natives, an encampment of largely native individuals experiencing homelessness that was closed in 2018. Bimosedaa will provide not only apartments, but culturally relevant counseling, addiction treatment options, skills training, and more, provided by another partner organization, Avivo.

Bimosedaa, along with several other projects, was partially funded by gifts given by members of the Mount Olive community through the Building Our Home initiative.

And now, we are starting to see that project become reality as new residents begin moving in.

To read more about Bimosedaa, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/4ru8m8hc>.



