



The Olive Branch

February 28, 2024

Accent on Worship

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Sunday Readings

March 3, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent, year B

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent, year B

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

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

Getting in the way

The lectionary cheats a little this week. We hear John's telling of Jesus clearing the moneychangers out of the Temple, but John places this very early in Jesus' ministry. It's the other Evangelists that put this in Holy Week, our destination. But the other versions are not included in the lectionary.

The three synoptics have a similar tale as John. But John tells of Jesus making a whip of cords and criticizing making the Temple a marketplace (the others say he called it a robbers' den). John also says the disciples remembered the Scripture about Jesus' zeal. Last, John says when Jesus is asked for a sign that he is permitted to do this, he says he'll tear the Temple down and rebuild it in three days. (John helpfully tells us Jesus is talking about his own body.)

Whether it happened early or late, this moment speaks God's deep desire that all people can come to God for healing and wholeness. Jesus compares himself to the Temple because he will now be the access point for all God's children into the life of God, and no one can block them. The moneychangers and bird sellers were running a monopoly that charged people to give them access to the holiest place of prayer and worship. Jesus' anger at that barrier led to him dismantling it. Later, he will promise to draw all things to himself on the cross (our Gospel for March 17.)

In zeal for all God's children to have access to God's love and grace, what might Jesus criticize in our lives, our community, our world?

Upcoming Adult Forums

March 3: “Mount Olive Death Café,” facilitated by Rev. Cody Sanders

The “Death Café” is an international movement that brings people together for intentional conversation about death-related topics in an invitational and accessible way. There are no agendas, objectives, themes, or speakers. The purpose of the movement is simply to “increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives” (see deathcafe.com). The Mount Olive Death Cafe will allow us space to bring whatever topics are on our hearts and minds related to death and dying into conversation and exploration with others around tables (of course, with refreshments). Rev. Sanders has facilitated Death Cafes in a number of communities, including the first Death Cafe in Davis, California, and has helped numerous seminary students bring this conversational style about death to myriad congregations across the country. Join in the conversation!

March 10: “*Corpse Care: Ethics for Tending the Dead*,” a book discussion with Cody J. Sanders

Cody Sanders (Luther Seminary) and Mikeal Parsons (Baylor University) co-authored this book to help Christian communities re-engage in the important work of caring for our dead. Amid the rise of the green burial and home funeral movements, new practices like water cremation and human composting, and increasingly widespread conversation relating ecological ethics to our deathcare practices, churches have often been absent from the discussion. In this form, you'll learn about the history of our care for the dead from the arrival of the Puritans to the present, what theological and ethical significance the dead body holds, and how congregations can reclaim some aspects of caring for the dead as part of the continuum of our communal care for the person from birth through death. Books will be available for purchase for \$20.

March 17: “Life, Legacy, Love, Death”

Culminating our series on death and dying, this forum will be an opportunity to enter into dialogue on matters of theological and spiritual significance related to death -- our own and those we love. We will discuss options related to our own deathcare and end-of-life decisions making, passing on legacies, values, and virtues to those we love, and practicing caring community amid the losses and grief we all experience as we move through life together.

March 24 and 31: Palm Sunday and Easter Day - No Adult Forum

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, February 28

9:00 am Staff meeting
Noon *Midweek Lenten Eucharist*, followed by Soup Luncheon
5:30 pm Children's Choirs supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
6:00 pm Soup supper
7:00 pm *Midweek Vespers*
7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Thursday, February 29

5:30 pm Feminine Divine Study group
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, March 1

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Sunday, March 3 - The Third Sunday in Lent

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

Monday, March 4

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

Tuesday, March 5

Noon Bible Study

Soup Makers Needed for March 20

Host(s) are still needed for one last Lenten Soup and Bread lunch on Wednesday, March 20. If you are willing to bring a kettle of soup and bread on March 20, please sign up on the chart provided in the East Assembly Room.

For planning purposes, typically about 25-35 guests attend the midday meal that is served at about 1:00 pm, in the Chapel Lounge.

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 March 9 meeting, the Book Discussion group will read *Tom Lake*, by Ann Patchett. For their April 13 meeting, they will read *Mr. Ives' Christmas*, by Oscar Hijuelos.

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](#).

Attention Children's Choirs

A note from Laurie Richardson Johnson who will be making art with our choristers on Wednesday evenings during Lent, February 21, 28, March 6, 13, and 20:

The Land of Dreams, Songs, and Stories for Hidden Alleluia

We have now said goodbye to *Alleluia* for the Lenten season. Last Sunday, the children recessed out of the sanctuary with the *Alleluia* banner, snaked through the corridors of the church, down stairways, descending even farther until the *Alleluia* banner reached the geothermal basement. There, in the dark, *Alleluia* will stay throughout Lent until Easter Sunday.

What is it like to wait and stay by oneself in the dark? In the quiet? Is *Alleluia* lonely? Afraid? Bored? Frustrated? How would you feel? For five Wednesdays during choir time, we will be answering these questions with our imaginations and our art—the painting and building of *The Land of Dreams, Songs, and Stories for Hidden Alleluia*. Each chorister will be making their own three-dimensional offering (dreams, songs, stories) to our special hidden land. We'll put them all together as a secret gift to *Alleluia* as *Alleluia* waits to be claimed and brought into the light and new life of Easter. This art work will be an offering for our Mount Olive community too. Perhaps we can help one another during times when we might feel that hope is hard to find.

The Land of Dreams, Songs, and Stories for Hidden Alleluia is about listening to the voice who knows us best, and sharing sparks of hope, joy, light, and glimpses of the new life to come.

Choristers, please wear comfortable clothes, bring a paint shirt, and your crackling imaginations. See you soon!

Getting to Know the Mount Olive Community

The Youth and Family Committee is planning to start placing a monthly rotating display in the chapel area where we typically gather for adult education and coffee on Sundays. This will include a photo and brief description of a person or family that attends Mount Olive. We are hoping that this practice helps us get to know names and faces and a little more about each other in addition to the existing ways of communicating through worship and other activities. We are open to including people of any age or family structure.

If you would like to be included in a future monthly display or if you have any questions, please feel free to email Erica at youthfamily@mountolivechurch.org or send a text message to 651-216-5983.

March Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month: *Sabathani Community Center and Community Emergency Services*

In March, we highlight two of our partners that work on issues of food insecurity in our south Minneapolis community as a part of the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, a state-wide initiative intended to bring together “organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals” to raise awareness about the issue of food insecurity and support for local food programs.

“Sabathani Community Center is one of Minnesota’s oldest African American-founded nonprofits... [and] helps equip approximately 32,000 South Minneapolis residents annually” through their food shelf, clothes closet, seniors programs, workforce initiatives, support for school- age children, and more.



Community Emergency Service or CES, works to alleviate hunger and food insecurity through an on-site food shelf, food delivery programs, a partnership with Meals on Wheels, and its unique Ani-Meals program, providing food for pets and service animals.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget. On top of those financial 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.

In addition, we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items in the cart located in the West Assembly to be divided between our two food shelf partners. However, for those who are able, we strongly encourage monetary donations. Because our food shelf partners have access discounts and bulk purchase opportunities not available to regular consumers, monetary donations allow our partners to purchase much more food than if we were to purchase the same food through a retail store.

For more information about the work of the Sabathani Community Center, please visit their website at sabathani.org. For more information about CES, please visit cesmn.org.

Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesdays in Lent

Holy Eucharist at Noon,
followed by Soup Luncheon

Vespers at 7:00 pm,
preceded by Soup Supper at 6 pm

All are welcome.

Lenten Pilgrimage

The Stations of the Cross are a long-standing Christian tradition in the West. Dating from the thirteenth century and promulgated by Franciscans, this devotional practice emerged as a way of visiting the sacred sites of Christ's Passion when travel to the Holy Land wasn't possible. Here at Mount Olive, we've celebrated a Stations of the Cross liturgy at noon on Good Friday for many years.

This year, visual representations of our nine stations will accompany us in the nave throughout Lent. They come from different artists of varying backgrounds and eras representing the richness of Christian thought and practice. Embracing our assembly, these pieces wrap us in the mystery of our salvation. They call us to the wonder of Christ's passion and to solidarity with all victims of violence and oppression.

When you have a moment, you might take this art in — one piece at a time or by walking the Way of the Cross in prayer, the Way that leads through Death to Life.

Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter at Mount Olive

Monday-Wednesday, March 25-27: Monday-Wednesday in Holy Week
+ Daily Prayer at Noon, in the side chapel of the nave, near the columbarium

Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday
+ Holy Eucharist, Noon
+ Holy Eucharist, with Washing of Feet, 7:00 pm

Friday, March 29: Good Friday
+ Stations of the Cross, Noon
+ Adoration of the Cross, 7 pm

Saturday, March 30: Holy Saturday
+ The Easter Vigil, 8:30 pm, followed by a festive reception

Sunday, March 31: The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day
+ ONE Festival Holy Eucharist at 10 am (note schedule!)
Carry-in Brunch before the liturgy at 9:00 am
(bring a dish to share!)

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

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.*

In This Issue:

- **Accent on Worship – Pastor Joseph Crippen**
- **Midweek Lenten Worship, Wednesdays at Noon & 7 pm**
- **Lenten Pilgrimage: Art for Stations of the Cross**
- **Adult Forum Schedule**
- **Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter Worship Schedule**
- **Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month:
Sabathani Community Center and Community
Emergency Service**