



The Olive Branch

March 13, 2024

Accent on Worship

Jim Bargmann

Sunday Readings

March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Lent, year B

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10

John 12:20-32

March 24, 2024

Sunday of the Passion, year B

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1 – 15:47

Our First Reading for this Sunday contains a great spiritual truth for sure, but also a great lesson in the psychology of humans. A physical action or gift on its own very rarely results in change. It is the relationship, perhaps along with a physical gift, that motivates change.

We see this truth lived out in social services day in and day out. A gift of food, clothing, bus cards, birth certificates, or even things as significant as a vehicle or a new home often don't on their own help a person heal and grow. The consequences and scars of systemic racism, abuse, neglect, addiction, or any number of other psychological wounds may appear to have gone, but too often, they rear their ugly heads again and old patterns of behavior are repeated. But a gift of food, clothing, economic supports, a car, a home, accompanied by relationships in a community of caring others often provides the strength needed to pursue those higher goals - working on the damages of abuse, neglect, addiction.

Permit me to interrupt myself briefly. I want to be very clear that I am not drawing any kind of line between those with financial needs and those without in terms of the all-important work of psychological healing. We all have our stuff - we all have wounds and scars - and work to do, regardless of economic status, and the truths here apply to all of us.

Interruption done. Jeremiah teaches that these things are true of us spiritually too. A significant physical act by God, the freeing of slaves from Egypt, did not result in lasting relational change between God and their people. Not to say God made a mistake in taking the action they did.

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

Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

But God did continue to act, and Jeremiah prophesies that one day, God's own people will all know God's love and forgiveness because, "I will be their God, and they shall be my people." That's relationship language. In this language, I hear the echo of Revelation 21 where we hear the beautiful language describing the day when God's reign will be fully realized. But I would argue that the reality described by God through Jeremiah is true now too. Of course, as our other reading from this week teaches, the work of forgiveness was accomplished by Jesus' death and resurrection. But the language of knowing - that's Spirit language to me. The Holy Spirit helps us to know the seemingly unknowable - to know God themselves and to live in relationship with God. And it is in that relationship that we can fully live into the blessings of forgiveness, love, acceptance, and yes, growth, brought about by that very same God.

- Jim Bargmann

Upcoming Adult Forums

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: *Holy Week, no Adult Forum*

Happy Anniversary, ELCA World Hunger

ELCA World Hunger is one of Mount Olive's Global Ministry partners. They work with and through ELCA congregations, reaching communities

most in need in the U.S. and around the world. They provide health clinics, microloans, water wells, and community meals. They also partner with advocacy organizations, making it possible to support sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

50 years ago, Lutherans in the United States launched the World Hunger appeals to stand with their neighbors experiencing hunger., learning how hunger, poverty and other justice issues intersect. Now a core ministry of the church, ELCA World Hunger embodies our hope in God's promise and our faith that God is revealed in the neighbors we accompany together. Check out this ELCA World Hunger's [50th anniversary video](#).



The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, March 13

9:00 am Staff meeting
Noon *Midweek Lenten Eucharist*, followed by Soup Luncheon
4:30 pm Library Committee
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, March 14

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, March 15

7:00 pm Recovery Group

Sunday, March 17 - The Fifth 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
12:30 pm Y1 Confirmation

Monday, March 18

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

Tuesday, March 19

Noon Bible Study
6:00 pm Neighborhood Ministries Committee meeting
7:00 pm Area Housing meeting

Chancel Dusting and Polishing Day

The Altar Guild is hosting a chancel-cleaning event on Saturday, March 23, beginning at 1:00 p.m., (please note time change!) following the funeral for Larry Crosby.

Please join our crew – for an hour, for the afternoon. The more hands, the faster we'll finish! Come help prepare our worship space for Holy Week and Easter.

Questions? Contact Beth Gaede: bethgaede@comcast.net.

One Soup Maker Still Needed!

If you can bring soup and bread for the final lunch after midweek Eucharist on March 20, please sign up on the board next to the serving window in the East Assembly Room as soon as possible.

Thanks!

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 *Mr. Ives' Christmas*, by Oscar Hijuelos, and for May 11 they will read *Everything Sad is Untrue*, by Daniel Nayeri.

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](#).

Children's Choirs News

The Mount Olive Choristers Lenten Art Project is growing and developing each week with colorful paint and unique construction!

The sculpture will be part of the Holy Week Journey with the doors to the individual interior environments for "LU" closed through Good Friday, then opened for Easter. The art will be on display in the West Assembly for the following four Sundays of Easter.

Everyone is invited to visit the art.



Congregational Life Updates

Easter Carry-in Brunch - Bring a dish to share for the Easter morning Carry-in Brunch before the 10 a.m. Liturgy. Brunch will begin at 9 a.m. in the Chapel Lounge. If you're not singing with the Cantorei in the liturgy, please consider helping with clean-up. If you can help, please let Lora know at conglife@mountolivechurch.org, or call the church office.

Coffee Hour volunteers - Sign up next to the coffee serving window to bring treats and serve coffee on Sunday mornings. If you want help, just ask: conglife@mountolivechurch.org.

Save the Dates - There are two upcoming opportunities for learning together about our Native siblings and neighbors.

- Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.: Visit Hocokatata Ti, the Dakota history museum near Shakopee. We will start with coffee/tea and muffins at Mount Olive to give a brief introduction, then carpool to the museum. Watch for more information after Easter. <https://hocokatati.org/>
- Sunday, June 9, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.: a visit to Fort Snelling Interpretive Center and Fort Snelling State Park, including Dakota Sacred sites and the location of the 1862-63 concentration camp following the US-Dakota war. More information will be coming.

Rest eternal grant them . . .

The Mount Olive Columbarium, which was established in 2007, has a new section which is now being installed. The first unit has 96 niches, and 75% of them are accounted for, so the Columbarium Committee started plans for this second phase. The new unit (construction pictured below) holds another 80 niches. There are also plans for a third phase, if needed in the future, that will be kept on file. The columbarium itself is built by the Eickhof company, and the woodwork is done by RK Wolfgang (formerly St. Paul Fabricating.) Eickhof's work is completed; the woodwork should be installed sometime in April, after which we will bless the new unit for its use.



Many thanks to the Mount Olive Foundation for the loan to get this second phase built. Some of the costs were covered by the Columbarium fund, created by the sale of niches. But as with the first unit, the Foundation offered the Vestry a loan, this time of up to \$40,000 (final costs aren't yet available), to complete the project. The first loan was paid off by the cost of niches, and the same will happen with this second loan. If you're interested in reserving a place for burial in the columbarium, there are brochures and forms in the rack by the north entrance to the narthex, or you can contact Carol Peterson, the chair of the committee, or the church office.

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.

You are invited

In-district meeting with local representatives on the topic of housing

Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00 pm at Mount Olive Lutheran Church

In partnership with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, Mount Olive is hosting a meeting with two of the elected representatives from District 62, Representative Aisha Gomez and Representative Hodan Hassan.

At this meeting, we will celebrate the passage of the Minnesota rental voucher program called Bring It Home, MN at the same time as we advocate for the passage of the proposed Constitutional Amendment for Housing which will fully fund Bring It Home, MN and several other vitally important housing initiatives. In addition, we plan to talk about the importance of funding supportive housing, both in terms of funds needed for building supportive housing, but also funding for the on-going services provided as a part of these facilities.

While this meeting specifically gives those constituents who live in District 62 a chance to meet with their representatives, anyone is welcome to attend. However, Beacon is holding a number of these events in a variety of districts. For anyone interested in attending an event in their own district, please email Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry Jim Bargmann and he can provide you with the details for other district events.

For anyone interested in attending the District 62 meeting, please register at <https://tinyurl.com/ysx9m3jv>.

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!)

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, senior’s 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.

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.*

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