



Welcome to Worship at Mount Olive!

Mount Olive is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and a Reconciling in Christ congregation. It is a community in and of the city where all are welcome in every aspect of congregational life. We believe that the liturgy 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.

Following the Liturgy

- *Page*: Numbers marked “page ...” are in the front of the cranberry red hymnal in the lower outside corners of the pages.
- *HYMN*: Numbers marked “HYMN ...” are in the back of the cranberry red hymnal in the upper outside corners of the pages.
- *Psalms* are numbered as hymns 1–150.
- *Hymns numbered 901–1100*, marked “ACS HYMN ...,” are in the purple hymnal supplement, *All Creation Sings*.

Accessibility

- An *elevator* is located at the north entry. Turn right as you exit the nave.
- A large *unisex restroom* is located on the lower level (across the hall from the elevator).
- *Primary restrooms* are located on the main floor near the elevator.
- *Additional parking* is available on Sunday mornings behind the Career Force center at the corner of Chicago Ave. and Lake St.
- *Hearing Assistance*
 - *T-coil* is provided in our nave and other large gathering areas.
 - *Small headsets* are also available. Please ask an usher if you need assistance.

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

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

Tuesday, December 24, 2024 † 10:00 p.m.

Choral Prelude

(seated)

PRELUDE

“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

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke

*In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain;
heav’n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay,
enough for him whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel, which adore.*

*What can I give him poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,
if I were a wise man I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.*

— Christina Rossetti, “A Christmas Carol”

“A Stable Lamp Is Lighted”

David Hurd

*A stable lamp is lighted whose glow shall wake the sky;
the stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry, and straw like gold shall shine;
a barn shall harbor heaven, a stall become a shrine.*

*This child through David's city shall ride in triumph by;
the palm shall strew its branches, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry, though heavy, dull, and dumb,
and lie within the roadway to pave his kingdom come.*

*Yet he shall be forsaken, and yielded up to die;
the sky shall groan and darken, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry for hearts made hard by sin:
God's blood upon the spearhead, God's love refused again.*

*But now, as at the ending, the low is lifted high;
the stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry in praises of the child
by whose descent among us the worlds are reconciled.*

— Richard Wilbur, “A Christmas Hymn”

“Pastorale” from Concerto grosso in G minor, op. 6, no. 8
“Christmas Concerto”

Arcangelo Corelli

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, Jr.

Sussex Carol

arr. Robert Buckley Farlee

“A Cradle Song”

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, sleep, happy child, all creation slept and smiled;
Sleep, 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

The Entrance Liturgy

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

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

HYMN 270

GREETING

☞ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☛ **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Glory to God in the highest...”

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ 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.

☛ **Amen**

The Liturgy of the Word

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 child, now weak in

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three 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, the second system covers the second line, and the third system covers the third line. The music is written in a style suitable for a choir or a group of voices.

in - fan - cy, our con - fi - dence and joy shall be, the
 pow'r of Sa - tan break - ing, our peace e - ter - nal mak - ing.

Text: Johann Rist (1607-1667), tr. John Trautbeck (1832-1899)
 Music: Johann Schop (1590-1667); arr. J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

ERMUNTRE DICH
 8 7 8 7 8 8 7 7

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

(seated)

Response: **☑ Thanks be to God.**

CAROL: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

HYMN 272

Stanza 2 is sung by the choir in a setting by Hugo Distler.

Stanza 3 may be sung in harmony.

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)

“A Child Is Born in Bethlehem”

Before the reading: Stanza 1 – sung in Danish by the soloist, then in English by all

Stanza 2 – All, in harmony

Stanza 3 – All, unison

After the reading: Stanza 4 – All, in harmony

Stanza 5 – Low voices

Stanza 6 – Treble voices; All on “Hallelujah...”

Stanza 7 – All

Et barn er født i Bet - le - hem, Bet - le - hem, thi
 1. A child is born in Beth - le - hem, Beth - le - hem, who
 2. A poor young wo - man gave him birth, gave him birth, the
 3. She in a man - ger laid him down, laid him down, with
 4. God wel - comes all us chil - dren dear, chil - dren dear, and

glæ - de sig Je - ru - sa - lem.
 glad - dens all Je - ru - sa - lem.
 Christ, who reigns in heav'n and earth. Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!
 joy the an - gels gath - ered 'round.
 dwells a - mong us in our fear.

5. Our feeble flesh and Christ's the same,
 Christ's the same,
 our sinless sibling Christ became.
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

6. That we, from deadly thrall set free,
 thrall set free,
 like Christ, and thus like God, should be.
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

7. And to the Holy One-in-Three,
 One-in-Three,
 give praise and thanks eternally.
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Text: *Puer natus in Bethlehem*, 13th cent.; trans. Nicolaj F.S. Grundtvig (1783-1872),
 J.C. Aaberg (1877-1970), and H.M. MacGill (1807-1880), alt.
 Music: A.P. Berggreen (1801-1880), from a Danish folk melody.

NATIVITY
 8 3 8 8

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

Love Is Risk

Following the sermon, a brief silence is kept.

HYMN OF THE DAY

(standing)

“The Hills Are Bare at Bethlehem”



1 The hills are bare at Beth - le - hem, no fu - ture for the
2 The stars are cold at Beth - le - hem, no warmth for those be -
3 The heart is tired at Beth - le - hem, no hu - man dream un -



world they show; yet here new life be - gins to
neath the sky; yet here the ra - diant an - gels
bro - ken stands; yet here God comes to mor - tal



grow, from earth's old dust a green - wood stem.
fly, and joy burns new, a fi - 'ry gem.
hands, and hope re - newed cries out: "A - men!"

Text: Royce J. Scherf, b. 1929, alt.

Music: PROSPECT, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

NICENE CREED

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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

AT THE OFFERING

(seated)

Whence Is That Goodly Fragrance Flowing? Traditional French; arr. David Willcocks

Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing, stealing our senses all away?

Never the like did come ablowing, shepherds, in flowery fields in May.

What is that light so brilliant, breaking here in the night across our eyes?

Never so bright, the daystar waking, started to climb the morning skies.

Bethlehem! There in manger lying, find your Redeemer, haste away,

run ye with eager footsteps hieing! Worship the Savior born today.

Praise to the Lord of all creation, glory to God the fount of grace;

may peace abide in every nation, goodwill in all of every race.

— Traditional French, trans. A.B. Ramsay and David Willcocks

OFFERTORY

(standing as the gifts are brought forward)

“Peace Came to Earth”

HYMN 285

Stanza 1 – All

Stanza 3 – Treble voices

Stanza 2 – Low voices

Stanza 4 – All

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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Sanctus

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Eucharistic Prayer (attributed to Hippolytus, 3rd c.)

Response: **☩ Amen.**

Lord’s Prayer

“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.

“Lamb of God”

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“Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies”

HYMN 280

Stanza 1 — Soloist, in Mandarin

Stanzas 1, 2 — All, in English or Mandarin

“From Heaven Above”

All 1 From heav'n a - bove to earth I come to bring good
All 2 To you this night is born a child of Ma - ry,
All, harmony 3 This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your
Lower voices 4 The bless - ing which the Fa - ther planned the Son holds
Treble voices 5 These are the signs which you will see to let you
All, harmony 6 How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the

news to ev - 'ry - one! Glad ti - dings of great joy I
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of low - ly
 sad and bit - ter cry; he will him - self your Sav - ior
 in his in - fant hand, that in his king - dom, bright and
 know that it is he: in man - ger - bed, in swad - dling
 shep - herds let us go to see what God for us has

bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:
 birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
 be and from all sin will set you free.
 fair, you may with us his glo - ry share.
 clothes the child who all the earth up - holds.
 done in send - ing us his own dear Son.

Additional stanzas on next page

- All, unison* 7 Look, look, dear friends, look over there!
 What lies within that manger bare?
 Who is that lovely little one? The baby Jesus, God's dear Son.
- Treble voices* 8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
 through whom this sinful world is blest!
 You turned not from our needs away!
 How can our thanks such love repay?
- All, unison* 9 O Lord, you have created all! How did you come to be so small,
 to sweetly sleep in manger-bed where lowing cattle lately fed?
- Lower voices* 10 Were earth a thousand times as fair and set with gold and jewels rare,
 still such a cradle would not do to rock a prince so great as you.
- All, unison* 11 For velvets soft and silken stuff you have but hay and straw so rough
 on which as king so rich and great to be enthroned in humble state.
- All, harmony
 or unison* 12 O dearest Jesus, holy child, prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
 a holy shrine, within my heart, that you and I need never part.
- All, unison* 13 My heart for very joy now leaps; my voice no longer silence keeps;
 I too must join the angel-throng to sing with joy his cradle-song:
- All, unison* 14 "Glory to God in highest heav'n, who unto us the Son has giv'n."
 With angels sing in pious mirth: a glad new year to all the earth!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978
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After all have communed:

TABLE BLESSING

(standing)

Response: **☩ Amen.**

PROCESSION OF CANDLELIGHT

"Silent Night, Holy Night!"

HYMN 281

Stanza 1 may be sung in English or German.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Response: **☩ Amen.**

The Sending Liturgy

SOLEMN BENEDICTION

P 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.

C 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

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

HYMN 290

DISMISSAL

A The light shines in the darkness,

C and the darkness did not overtake it.

A Go in peace. Share the good news!

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Wayne L. Wold

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister & Preacher	Pastor Joseph Crippen
Interim Organist	Robert Farlee
Interim Choir Director	Andrew Stoebig
Assisting Minister	Vicar Natalie Wussler
Sacristan	Brad Nelson
Eucharistic Minister	Kandi Jo Nelson
Lector	Judy Hinck
Acolytes	Lora Dundek, Eric Manuel, Steve Manuel
Ushers	Andrew Andersen, Mike Knudson, Carol Martinson
Altar Guild	Lynn Ruff, Bonnie McLellan
Bells	David Engen
Choir	Cantorei
Flute	Elizabeth Spang
Strings	Marc Levine, Anna Andrews, violin; Emily Hagen, viola; Lucia Magney, 'cello; Mark L. Kausch, bass

On the cover: Angel and Shepherds. He Qi © 2021. All rights reserved.

Christmas and Epiphany Worship at Mount Olive

Christmas Day: Wednesday, December 25, 2024

Festival Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Christmas, December 29, 2024

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

The Name of Jesus: Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

The Epiphany of Our Lord: Monday, January 6, 2025

Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.

The Baptism of Our Lord: Sunday, January 12, 2025

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

Become a Member

Whether you worship in person or from afar, we invite you to join us
as members of Mount Olive Lutheran Church.

Please contact welcome@mountolivechurch.org or
evangelism@mountolivechurch.org for additional details.



Mount Olive Lutheran Church (ELCA)

3045 Chicago Avenue South • Minneapolis, MN 55407 + Phone: (612) 827-5919

Musical, Liturgical, Welcoming + A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Email: welcome@mountolivechurch.org + Website: www.mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor – Joseph Crippen

Vicar – Natalie Wussler

Administrative Assistant – Cha Posz

Coordinator Neighborhood Ministry – Jim Bargmann

Interim Organist – Robert Farlee

Interim Choir Director – Andrew Stoebig

Sexton – Jose Morocho