



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

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 ✝ 10:00 p.m.

Choral Prelude

(seated)

PRELUDE

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Gustav Holst

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.

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.

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 Georgina Rossetti

Three settings of “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

John Schwandt

Hugo Distler, op. 10

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as prophets long have sung,
it came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

- German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker

Johannes Brahms, op. 112, no. 8

“Il est né le divin enfant”

arr. John Rutter

Refrain:

Il est né, le divin enfant, jouez, hautbois, résonnez, musettes;
il est né, le divin enfant; chantons tous son avènement.

*Born on earth, the divine Christ child, oboes, rejoice, with bagpipes vying;
born on earth the divine Christ child, sing to welcome the Savior mild.*

'Tis four thousand years and more folk his birth have been prophesying;
'tis four thousand years and more while we longed for the joys in store.

Ah, such beauty and charm adore! Ah, such perfections of grace undying!
Ah, such beauty and charm adore! Promised us in days of yore.

In a stable here on earth, Jesus, in the manger, lying,
In a stable here on earth, O how lowly our Savior's birth!

Jesus, Savior, heaven's Lord, tiny child in the manger crying,
Jesus, Savior, heaven's Lord, Christ our king forevermore.

- traditional French, tr. Jacqueline Froom

“Verbum Caro factum est” Anonymous, from *Cancionero de Uppsala*, 16th cent.

Refrain:

Verbum caro factum est, porque todos os salvéis.

The Word became flesh for the salvation of us all.

Y la Virgen le decía: Vida de la vida mía,

And the Virgin spoke to him: Life of my life,

Hijo mío, ¿qué os haría, que no tengo en qué os echéis?

my son, what shall I do, having nothing in which to dress you?

O riquezas temporales, ¿No daréis unos pañales

O you the rich of this world, will you not give a swaddling cloth

A Jesu que entre animales es nascido según véis?

to Jesus, born amidst the beasts as you may behold?

“Pieds-en-l'air: Andante Tranquillo,” from *Capriol Suite*

Peter Warlock

“Before the Marvel of This Night”

Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow,

then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow.

Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:

sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heav'nly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:
sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,
now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above:
sing love, sing love, sing God is love, sing love, sing God is love! - Jaroslav J. Vajda

“La Nativité (The Nativity), ” op. 2, no. 2

Jean Langlais

Inscribed: “*In a humble manger on a quiet night, Mary and Joseph await the birth of Christ the Lord. After the child is born, a celestial host—in graceful appearance—tells the shepherds of the event in Bethlehem. Shepherds come to the manger to offer the baby Jesus their soft melodies as a sign of worship. Then the Holy Family is calm in the peace of the Lord.*”

The Entrance Liturgy

Please stand at the sound of the bell and face the cross as it is carried into the nave.

PROCLAMATION: “Rejoice, O heavens!”

AT THE PROCESSION

“Once in Royal David’s City”

see page 14 of worship folder

GREETING

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

C **And also with you.**

KYRIE *Sung by the choir in a setting by Healy Willan, from Missa Brevis no. 4*

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

“Glory to God”

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** 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. **C Amen**

The Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

(seated)

Response: **C Thanks be to God.** *A brief silence follows the reading.*

PSALMODY: Psalm 96

The antiphon is intoned by the choir, then repeated by all.

The verses are sung by the choir.



SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

Response: **C Thanks be to God.** *A brief silence follows the reading.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(standing to face the cross as it is carried into the assembly)*



Verse: I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,
the Lord. - Luke 2:10-11

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

Response after the announcement: **C Glory to you, O Lord.**

Response after the conclusion: **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

After the reading:

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 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.

Please remain standing until the invocation is pronounced.

SERMON

Always Bethlehem

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)

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Gifts may be placed in the offering plate or made online using the QR code on the back of this worship folder.

“For Unto Us a Child is Born,” from *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. — *Isaiah 9:6*

OFFERTORY

(standing as the gifts are brought forward)

“Joy to the World”

HYMN 267

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Response:  **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Sursum Corda

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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*)

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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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“All My Heart Again Rejoices”

HYMN 273

“Manger Carol”

Leo Sowerby, orch. Robert Buckley Farlee

Here betwixt ass and oxen mild, sleep, sleep, sleep my little child.

Refrain: Angels from on high hover in the sky
keeping watch above the incarnate God of love.

Here in the crib, secure from harms, sleep, sleep, in your mother’s arms. *Refrain*

Here betwixt rose and lily white, sleep, sleep, sleep my son tonight. *Refrain*

On this fair night of holy joy, sleep, sleep, sleep my little boy. *Refrain*

- French 13th cent, tr. Winfred Douglas

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

HYMN 276

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

☐ 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.

☩ **Amen**

☐ 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.

☩ **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

SENDING HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

HYMN 270

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

“In Dulci Jubilo,” BWV 729

J. S. Bach

Acknowledgments “Il est ne, le divin enfant” text © 1967 Oxford University Press. “Before the marvel of this night” text © 1981 Jaroslav J. Vajda, admin. Augsburg Fortress. *Rejoice, O Heavens* text © 2002 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; music by Scott C. Weidler. “The hills are bare at Bethlehem” text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission under OneLicense.net A-704058. Psalm antiphon by Daniel Schwandt © 1999. Psalm tone by Gerre Hancock. Gospel Acclamation adapted by Daniel Schwandt from regent square by Henry T. Smart. “Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light” text by Johann Rist, 1607–1667; tr. John Troutbeck, 1832–1899; music: *ermuntre dich*, Johann Schop, 1590–1667; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750. Music of the liturgy from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* Setting Three by Richard Hillert.

Worship Leaders

Presiding Minister & Preacher	Pastor Joseph Crippen
Organist	Cantor Daniel Schwandt
Assisting Minister	Vicar Erik Nelson
Sacristan	Brad Nelson
Crucifer	Kandi Jo Nelson
Lector	Judy Hinck
Acolytes	Eric Manuel, Steve Manuel
Ushers	Andrew Andersen, Mike Knudson, Jerry Duncan, Lisa Nordeen
Altar Guild	Bob Christenson & Beth Gaede, Bonnie McLellan
Livestream	Greg Murphy
Bells	Matt Crosby
Choir	Cantorei
Strings	Marc Levine and Anna Andrews, Violin Emily Hagen, Viola Charles Asch, 'Cello Mark L Kausch, Bass
Cover Art	Hannah Crippen

Christmas and Epiphany Worship at Mount Olive

Christmas Day: Thursday, December 25, 2025

Festival Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Christmas, December 28, 2025

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

The Name of Jesus: Wednesday, January 1, 2026

Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Christmas, January 4, 2026

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

The Epiphany of Our Lord: Monday, January 6, 2026

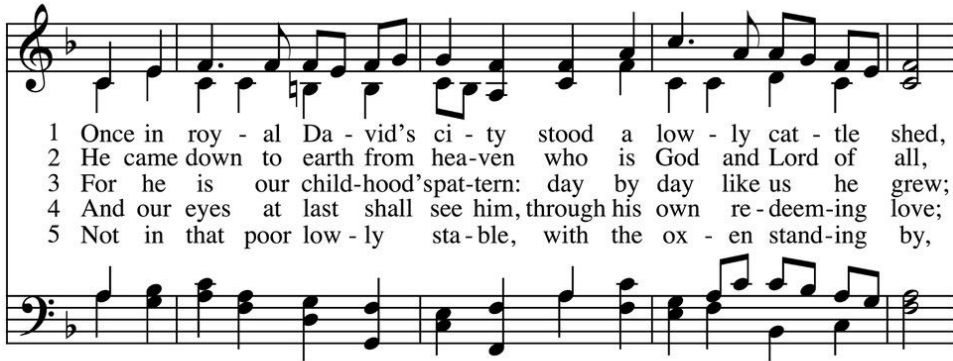
Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.

The Baptism of Our Lord: Sunday, January 11, 2026

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

Once in Royal David's City

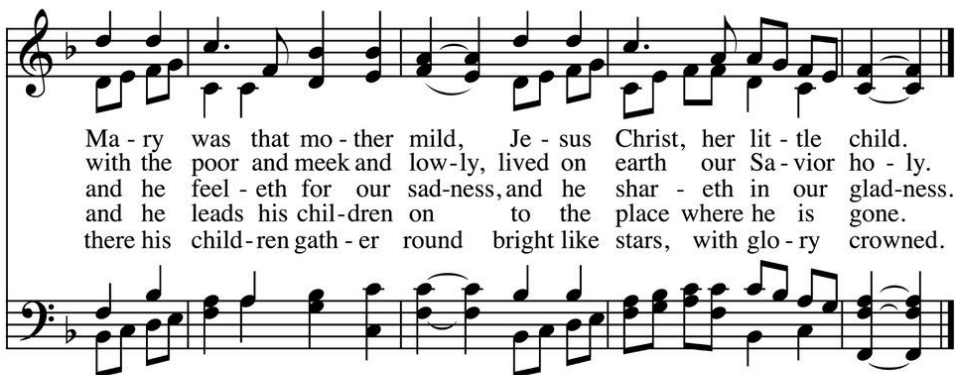
Stanza 1 – Choir; Stanzas 2, 3, 4 – All in harmony; Stanza 5 – All



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven who is God and Lord of all,
 3 For he is our child - hood's pat - tern: day by day like us he grew;
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
 5 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a mo - ther laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
 he was lit - tle, weak, and help - less; tears and smiles like us he knew;
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
 we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Ma - ry was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
 and he feel - eth for our sad - ness, and he shar - eth in our glad - ness.
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
 there his child - ren gath - er round bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895, alt.

Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlet, 1805–1876, harm. Aurthur Henry Mann, 1850–1929



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

Cantor – Daniel Schwandt

Vicar – Erik Nelson

Administrative Assistant – Cha Posz

Sexton – Jose Morocho

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry – Jim Bargmann

