



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 Day

On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ Jesus our Savior. John’s Gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth: the light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot understand it. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

Thursday, December 25, 2025 ✝ 10:00 a.m.

The Entrance Liturgy

PRELUDE “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (DIVINUM MYSTERIUM) David N. Johnson

PROCLAMATION OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

AT THE PROCESSION *(standing to face the cross as it is carried into the nave)*
 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” HYMN 283

GREETING

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

KYRIE

Sung once by the soloist, then repeated twice by all.



Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son. Chris-te e-le-i-son. Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

“Glory to God”

page 139

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:7-10

(seated)

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

PSALMODY: Psalm 98

The choir sings the antiphon after verses 4, 6, and 9:

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

The verses are sung by all, using the following tone:



SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4

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

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



Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Christ is born!

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: John 1:1-14

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

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

After the Gospel: “All Praise to You, Eternal Lord”



1 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Lord, clothed in garb of
 2 God's Son to whom the heav - ens bow, cra - dled by a
 3 A lit - tle child, you came our guest, all the wea - ry
 4 Your com - ing in the dark - est night makes us chil - dren
 5 All this for us your love has done! Thus our love for



flesh and blood, a man - ger choos - ing for a throne
 vir - gin now, we lis - ten for your in - fant voice
 to give rest! For - lorn and low - ly was your birth
 of the light, en - a - bling us in realms di - vine
 you is won! For this with joy our songs we sing,



while worlds on worlds are yours a - lone. Hal - le - lu - jah!
 while an - gels in your heav'n re - joice. Hal - le - lu - jah!
 that we might rise to heav'n from earth! Hal - le - lu - jah!
 like all your an - gels bright to shine! Hal - le - lu - jah!
 in - ces - sant prais - es ech - o - ing! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: German hymn, 1370, st. 1; Martin Luther, 1483-1546, sts. 2-5; tr. composite
 Music: GELOBET SEIST DU, *Enchiridion*, Erfurt, 1524

Please remain standing until the invocation has been pronounced.

SERMON

Following the sermon a brief silence is kept.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Stanza 1 – Low voices

Stanza 2 – Treble voices

Stanzas 3, 4, 5 – All

(standing)

HYMN 295

NICENE CREED

page 104

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.

“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 Jesús que entre animales es nacido según véis?

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

OFFERTORY

(standing)

“Peace Came to Earth”

HYMN 285

Stanza 1 – All

Stanza 2 – Treble voices begin, all at “Who could but sigh...”

Stanza 3 – Low voices begin, all at “Who could but see...”

Stanza 4 – All

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Response:  **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Sursum Corda

page 144

Sanctus

page 144

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

Response: ☩ **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

"Our Father in heaven..." *(chanted by all)*

page 163

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"

page 146

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

see page 11 of worship folder.

"There's a Star in the East"

Traditional Spiritual

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn, rise up, shepherd, and follow.

It will lead to the place where the Christ was born, rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Refrain: Follow, follow, rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow the star of Bethlehem, rise up, shepherd, and follow.

If you take good heed to the angel's words, rise up, shepherd, and follow.

You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds, rise up, shepherd, and follow.

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

HYMN 290

"Midnight Stars Make Bright the Sky"

HYMN 280

COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(standing)

Response to each: ☩ **Amen.**

The Liturgy of Sending

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

SENDING HYMN

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

HYMN 288

DISMISSAL

A Glory to God in the highest,

C And peace to God's people on earth!

A Go in peace. Share the good news!

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on IN DULCI JUBILO

Acknowledgments: Music of the liturgy from Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting Three by Richard Hillert. Psalm antiphon and tone © 2025 Daniel Schwandt. Kyrie by Frank Stoldt, based on themes by Richard Hillert, © 2005. Gospel Acclamation adapted by Daniel Schwandt from regent square by Henry T. Smart. "O little town of Bethlehem" text by Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893; music, FOREST GREEN, English folk tune, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister	Pastor Joseph Crippen
Preacher	Vicar Erik Nelson
Organist	Cantor Daniel Schwandt
Sacristan	Lora Dundek
Assisting Minister	David Anderson
Crucifer	Jan Harbaugh
Livestream / Audio Mix	Donn McLellan / Ken Schulz
Trumpets	Laura Thelander & Arthur Murray
Lector	Brad Holt
Acolytes	Kat Campbell Johnson, Nicholas Johnson
Ushers	Brian Jacobs & George Ferguson, Allen Heggen, Lisa Nordeen
Bell Tree	David Engen
Altar Guild	Jan Harbaugh
Choir	Mount Olive Cantorei
Cover Art	Hannah Crippen

The Celebration Continues

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.

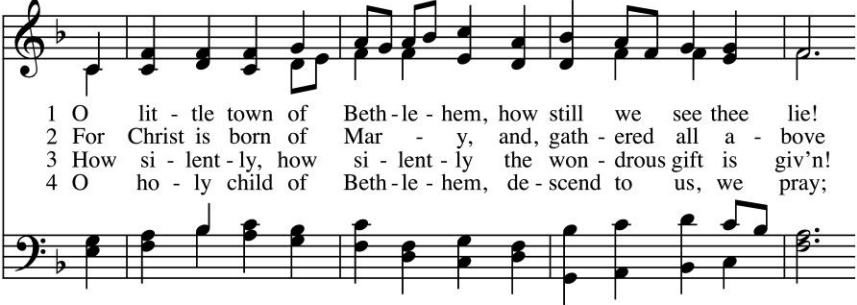
The Epiphany of Our Lord: Monday, January 6, 2026

Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.

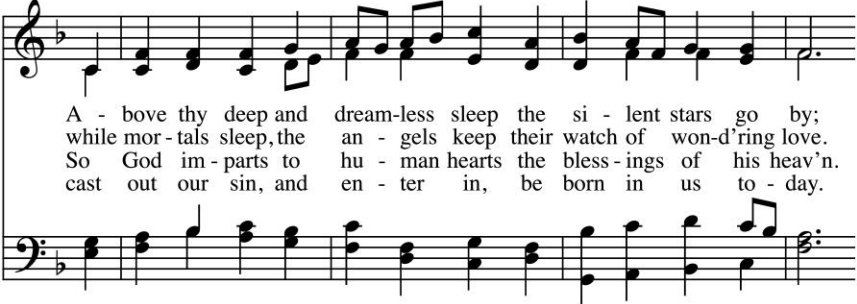
The Baptism of Our Lord: Sunday, January 11, 2026

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

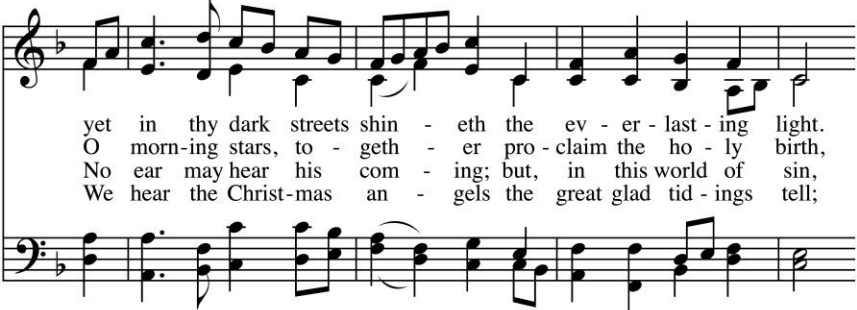
O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!



Mount Olive Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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Phone: (612) 827-5919

*Musical, Liturgical, Welcoming + A Reconciling in Christ
Congregation*

Email: welcome@mountolivechurch.org

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Staff

Pastor – Joseph Crippen

Cantor – Daniel Schwandt

Vicar – Erik Nelson

Administrative Assistant – Cha Posz

Sexton – Jose Morocho

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry – Jim Bargmann

