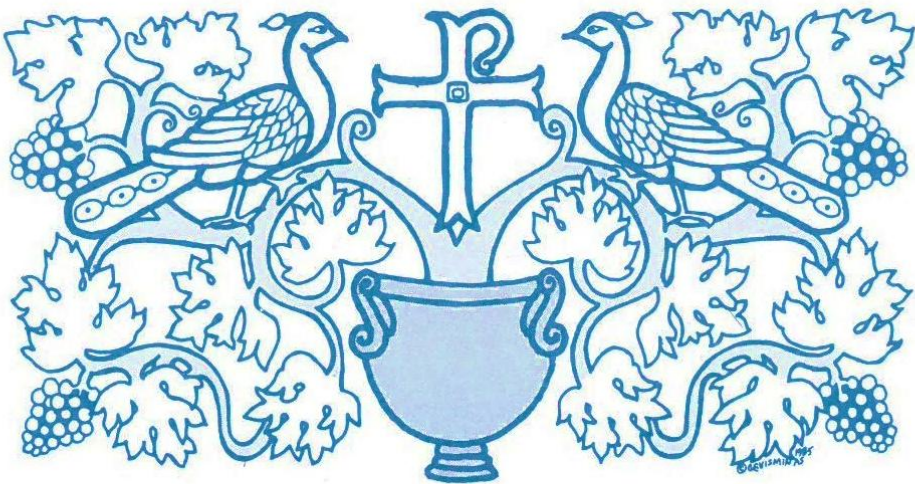


YET EVEN AT THE GRAVE
WE MAKE OUR SONG:



ALLELUIA
ALLELUIA · ALLELUIA

Burial of the Dead

✠ Melba E. Smrcka ✠

Thursday, December 11, 2025 + 11:00 a.m.
Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Born: September 3, 1918 ✠ Died: December 5, 2025

We gather today to worship Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son and Holy Spirit, who now welcomes ✠ Melba ✠ into her resurrection life.

The congregation is encouraged to participate in this service of worship by speaking the responses and prayers, and by singing the hymns. Please use this worship folder to follow the service.

The pall which is placed over the casket is a reminder of the white garment ✠ Melba ✠ put on at her baptism, a sign that in baptism we are clothed with the righteousness of Christ, our hope in life and in death. The Paschal candle, the large candle which stands behind the Baptismal font, is a symbol of Christ's presence, granted through his saving death and resurrection, for Jesus' resurrection has now become ✠ Melba's ✠ new and eternal life.

Following the Liturgy

- *HYMN*: Numbers marked "HYMN ..." are in the back of the red hymnal in the upper outside corners of the pages.

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.
- *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.

Entrance Liturgy

PRELUDE: Chorale Preludes by Paul Manz:

“Jesus Still Lead On”

Two Settings of “Dearest Jesus, At Your Word”

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE CHURCH

(Please stand and face the entrance to the church when the bell sounds.)

P Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

C Thanks be to God.

P When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

P Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life:

C We glorify you.

P Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life:

C We praise you.

P Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope:

C We worship you.

P To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

C Amen.

As the hymn begins, the casket is sprinkled with water, recalling Melba's baptism into Christ. The congregation is also sprinkled as a blessing, and for those baptized, as a reminder of their baptism.

AT THE PROCESSION

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

HYMN 504

GREETING AND PRAYER

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.

P Let us pray. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister, Melba. We thank you for giving her to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6-9

(seated)

Response: **C Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY: Psalm 23

The congregation sings the verses in bold print, using the following tone:



¹The LORD ¹is my shepherd;
I shall not be ¹in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down ¹in green pastures
and leads me beside ¹still waters.

³**You restore my ¹soul, O LORD,**
and guide me along right pathways for ¹your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
 I shall [|] fear no evil;
 for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they com- [|] fort me.
⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence [|] of my enemies;
 you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is run- [|] ning over.
⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days [|] of my life,
 and I will dwell in the house of the LORD [|] forever.

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17

Response: **☩ Thanks be to God.**

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



Verse: Jesus Christ is the firstborn from the dead;
 to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:1-6

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

A brief silence follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Jesus Live, My Sure Defense” *(Introduction by Paul O. Manz)*

(standing)
 HYMN 621

Stanza 1 – All

Stanza 5 – Low voices

Stanza 2 – Treble voices

Stanza 6 – All

Stanzas 3, 4 – All, in harmony

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(kneeling)

Response: **☩ hear our prayer.**

PEACE *You are invited to share God’s peace with those around you.*

(standing)

The Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

(seated, standing as the gifts are brought forward)

“Nearer, My God, to Thee”



1 Near - er, my God, to thee, near - er to thee! E'en though it
2 Near - er, my Lord, to thee, near - er to thee, who to thy
3 Near - er, O Com - fort - er, near - er to thee, who with my
4 But to be near - er still, bring me, O God, not by the



be a cross that rais - eth me; still all my song shall be:
cross didst come, dy - ing for me! Strength - en my will - ing feet,
lov - ing Lord dwell - est with me! Grant me thy fel - low-ship!
vi - sioned steeps an - gels have trod. Here where thy cross I see,



Near - er, my God, to thee, near - er, my God, to thee, near - er to thee!
hold me in ser - vice sweet near - er, O Christ, to thee, near - er to thee!
Help me each day to keep near - er, my Guide, to thee, near - er to thee!
Je - sus, I wait for thee, then ev - er - more to be near - er to thee!

Text: Sarah F. Adams, 1805–1848, st. 1; Hervey D. Ganse, 1822–1891, sts. 2-4
Music: BETHANY, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

P Holy God, holy and mighty, . . . Christ's death until he comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Therefore, O God, . . . great and promised feast.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Send now, we pray, . . . with all your saints in light.

C **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Join our prayers . . . holy Church, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily
bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

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.

"O Christ, Lamb of God"

HYMN 196

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

HYMN 779

"Jesus, Still Lead On"

HYMN 624

After all have communed:

COMMUNION BLESSING

(standing)

Response: **C** **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A** Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

Commendation and Sending

AT THE COMMENDATION

“Now, Lord, You Let Your Servant Go in Peace”

HYMN 201

COMMENDATION

- P** Let us commend Melba to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Into your hands . . . the glorious company of the saints in light.

C Amen

BLESSING

Response: **C Amen.**

DISMISSAL

- P** Let us go forth in peace,

C in the name of Christ. Amen

POSTLUDE: “Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart”

Johann Ludwig Krebs

The procession leaves during the postlude.

All are cordially invited to the West Assembly area for light refreshments following the liturgy.

Interment will take place this afternoon at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister & Preacher	Pastor Joseph Crippen
Organist	Cantor Daniel Schwandt
Sacristan	Tom Olsen
Assisting Minister	Kathy Thurston
Eucharistic Minister	Vicar Erik Nelson
Acolytes	Lora Dundek, Wes Huisinga
Usher	Andrew Andersen, Carol Martinson
Altar Guild	Jan Harbaugh
Pallbearers	Jeffrey Smrcka, Adam Smrcka, Westley Smrcka, Aiden Smrcka, Craig Scherf, Emma Peterson Smrcka
Honorary Pallbearer	Rod Smrcka
Livestream / Audio Mix	Jan Harbaugh / David Molvik

Acknowledgements: Psalm tone 8 © 1971, 1999 Saint Meinrad Archabbey, Inc. All rights reserved. Gospel Acclamation from the hymn tune victory, by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina; arr. William H. Monk. Psalm 23 text, *Sursum corda*, and *Sanctus* adapted by Ronald Nelson, from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License # SB165530.



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