



Christmas Day Service, Wednesday, December 25, 2019; 10 AM

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25, 2019; 10 AM

Mount Olive Lutheran Church & School, ELS

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Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich | Vicar Jacob Kempfert | Principal Adam Pavelchik |

Welcome! In the name of our risen Savior we welcome you to Mt. Olive and thank you for worshipping with us. If you are a guest, please fill out a **“Get Connected!”** card (found in front of you in the hymnbook rack). We invite you to come and worship with us again soon. **Large Print** copies of the order of service from the ELS Hymnary are available from the usher stand in the back of the sanctuary.

Order of Service, Rite One (p. 41)

I. The Service of Preparation



(We prepare ourselves for worshipping God by acknowledging our unworthiness to stand before Him, and by receiving His forgiveness through absolution (forgiveness). We respond with thanks and joy.)

~**Prelude** — *Recorders Group & opportunity for prayer*

*(See “Prayers for Worship”
—ELH p. 40)*

~**Opening Prayer**

(ELH p. 41)

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your holy Word. We pray You to open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ’s sake. Amen.

~**Hymn 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful**

~**Confession of Sin** — *Admitting our sinfulness to God*

(ELH p. 41, 1)

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins. Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word and deed. Therefore we flee for

refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us: have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us a true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

~Kyrie Hymn 268, v. 6 *My Sins Are Countless as the Sands*

*My sins are countless as the sands,
My crimes, O God, are crying,
Deliver me from sin's dread bands
And save me, Lord, when dying;
O let me not, for evil past,
Be lost at last,
Grant me Thy grace, I pray Thee!*

~**Absolution** — *God's declaration of forgiveness*

(ELH p. 43, II; Mk. 16:16)

P: Hear the holy and comforting Word of our Lord: Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Lift up your hearts! By the authority of God and of my holy office I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

~**Canticle: Hymn 116 vv. 3, 4** *Come to Bethlehem and See*

~**Salutation** — *The people's blessing for the pastor's work*

(ELH p. 45)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

~**Collect** — *The congregation's prayer of the day*

(ELH p. 45; p. 148, #10)

P: Let us pray: Grant, we beseech You, almighty God, that the new birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free who are held in the old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: ♪ Amen.

II. The Service of the Word



(After receiving the forgiveness of sins, we thanked God by singing His praises and praying to Him. He now increases our faith through His holy Word which we hear through the Lessons and especially through the Sermon where God's Word is applied to our lives today.)

~Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7 The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. You have multiplied the nation And increased its joy; They rejoice before You According to the joy of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For You have broken the yoke of his burden And the staff of his shoulder, The rod of his oppressor, As in the day of Midian. For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, And garments rolled in blood, Will be used for burning and fuel of fire. For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

~Senior Choir: *To Us Is Born Emmanuel* (Michael Praetorius)

*To us is born Emmanuel, Christ the Lord,
As foretold by Gabriel, Christ the Lord.*

Refrain: Christ the Lord, the Savior of us all, the Savior of us all!

*He lies in humble manger hay, Christ the Lord,
Wondrous Child, born on this day, Christ the Lord. (Refrain)*

*Today all light shines through this Child, Christ the Lord.
Born of Mary, mother mild, Christ the Lord. (Refrain)*

~Epistle Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-12 In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high. The Son became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say: You are my Son. Today I have begotten you? And again: I will be his Father, and he will be my Son. And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world,

he said: Let all God's angels worship him. About the angels he says: He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire. But about the Son he says: God, your throne is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy beyond your companions. And he says: In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of your hands. They will perish, but you remain. They will all become old like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe, and they will be changed like a garment. But you are the same, and your years will never end.

~**Senior Choir:** *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* (J.S. Bach)

*Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light,
And usher in the morning;
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright,
But hear the angel's warning:
This Child, now weak in infancy,
Our confidence and joy shall be,
The pow'r of Satan breaking,
Our peace eternal making.*

*All blessing, thanks, and praise to Thee,
Lord Jesus Christ, be given;
Thou hast our Brother deigned to be,
Our foes in sunder riven.
O grant us, through our day of grace,
With constant praise to seek Thy face;
Grant us ere long in glory
With praises to adore Thee.*

~**Nicene Creed** — *Confession of faith*

(ELH p. 47)

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and

ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the Resurrection of the dead and the Life of the world to come. ♪ Amen.

~Hymn 115, vv. 1-3, 5, 6 *All My Heart Sings and Rejoices*

~Exordium

~Hymn 142 *Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn*

~Holy Gospel Lesson & Sermon Text

John 1:1-14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

~Sermon Theme

"God's Word Is Born To Us So That We Are Born Of God"

~Prayers & Special Petitions

~Apostolic Benediction

(ELH p. 49)

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

~Offering & Hymn 115, vv. 7, 10, 14 *Hark! A Voice From Yonder Manger*

"Christians give their offerings as a joyful response to what God has given them. The offerings given here support the continued Gospel ministry of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and School, and to support the work of sharing the Gospel throughout our community and around the world."

III. The Service of Holy Communion



(Following Christ's command, we receive His grace to us in the special meal He instituted for the forgiveness of our sins. Here, He feeds with His true body and His true blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. This is the same body which was born of the Virgin Mary, and the same blood which dripped down the wooden cross. This part of the liturgy is one of the oldest parts, dating back to at least the third century AD.)

Questions and prayers to assist in preparing for the Lord's Supper are found in the black hymnal, pp. 38-40.

Guests & Visitors: *We practice "Close" or "Closed Communion". We do this out of love and concern for you. We want to make sure that those who take this holy meal receive it as a blessing and not to their harm as Scripture warns. We also understand that those who come forward to take communion are professing a unity of faith with our congregation and are in full agreement with the teachings and doctrines of Mount Olive Lutheran Church and of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Therefore, we ask those who have not taken Holy Communion with us before to speak with a pastor before communing. Thank you.*

~**Preface** — *Preparing our hearts for Communion*

(ELH p. 50ff.; 2 Tim 4:22, Col 3:1, Ps 136)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with your spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts unto the Lord.

C: ♪ We lift up our hearts unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C: ♪ It is good and right so to do.

~**Christmas Preface**

(ELH p. 51; p. 74)

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory, that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things which are not

seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

~**Sanctus** — *“Holy, Holy, Holy”*

(ELH p. 51-52)

C: ♪ Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; heav’n and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

~**Lord’s Prayer**

(ELH p. 53; Mt 6:9-13)

C: ♪ Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the pow’r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

~**Words of Institution**

(ELH p. 54; Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25)

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: “Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

~**Agnus Dei** — *“Lamb of God”*

(ELH p. 55; Jn 1:29)

C: ♪ O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God. You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen.

~**Distribution**

(Communicants come forward at the direction of the ushers. During the Distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:)

Hymn 153, vv. 1-3 *The People That in Darkness Sat*

Hymn 113, vv. 1, 2, 4 *A Great and Mighty Wonder*

Hymn 153, vv. 4-6 *To Us a Child of Hope Is Born*

Hymn 125, vv. 3, 4 *Hail, the Heavenly Prince of Peace*

Hymn 153, v. 7 *Lord Jesus, Reign in Us We Pray*

~**Dismissal** — *Assurance of blessing for those who have communed* (ELH p. 56)

P: Our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ, who has now bestowed upon you His holy body and blood, whereby He has made full satisfaction for all your sins, strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto everlasting life. Peace be with you. Amen.

~**Hymn of Thanksgiving 327, v. 1 O Lord, We Praise Thee**

~**Collect of Thanksgiving** — *In appreciation of God's gifts* (ELH p. 56)

P: Let us give thanks and pray: We thank You, Lord God Almighty, that You have refreshed us with these Your salutary gifts; and we beseech You of Your mercy, to strengthen us through the same in faith toward You, and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

~**Benediction** — *Final blessing for God's people* (ELH p. 56-57; Num. 6:24-26)

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: ♪ **Amen, amen, amen.**

~**Closing Hymn 126 God Rest You Merry**

~**Closing Prayer** (ELH p. 57)

P: O Lord, we render unto You our heartfelt thanks that You have taught us what You would have us believe and do. Help us, O God, by Your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ, to keep Your Word in pure hearts, that we thereby may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

~**Postlude** — *Opportunity for prayer & to greet one another!* (See "Prayers for Worship" —ELH p. 40)

* * * * *
Officiant: Vicar Jacob Kempfert

Organist: Dennis Marzolf

Senior Choir Director: Elisabeth Urtel / Accompanist: Nikki Basel

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**The Poinsettias displayed on and around the altar have been donated
by our members in memory/honor of the following:**

Members

*Mark & Sandy Johnson
Paul & Mary Jane Tweit
Janet & Greg Costello
Ron & Mary Younge
Bill & Suzanne Bohning
Audrey Spear
Rev. Ted, Diane, Mark & Paul Gullixson
Elli & Joe Fisher
Dottie Kunkel
Art & Terri Westphal
Dave & Melodie Karge and Girls
Becky Anton
Dave & Cindy Reimers
Dean & LuAnn Shoop
Mercedes Hansen
Lois Johnson
John & Joyce Petersen
Scott Theresa Dzwonkowski
Barbara Forst*

In Memory/Honor of

*Orville & Mary Sampson
Our Parents
Al Nelson, John & Maxine Costello
Loved Ones
Our Parents
Stella & Raymond Richter
Ruth Gullixson Webber
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Grandpa Lyle Fox & Steve Karge
Robert & Ruth Kimble (Parents)
Loved Ones
Isaiah & Abram Shoop

Walther & Mildred Gullixson
Loved Ones
Miles Moyer, Timothy Moyer, Carol Dzwonkowski
Greg Forst & Sheryl Carroll*

Join Us for These Worship Services:

Sunday, December 29:

8:30 AM – Divine Service

No Bible studies or Sunday School classes

10:45 AM – Divine Service

Monday, December 30:

6:30 PM – Divine Service

Tuesday, December 31, New Year's Eve:

6:30 PM – Divine Service w/ Individual
Absolution and Holy Communion
(Office Closed)

Wednesday, January 1, New Year's Day

No service

(Office Closed)

Sunday, January 5, Epiphany

8:30 AM – Divine Service w/Holy Communion

9:40 AM – Sunday School/BIC/Bible Class resume

10:45 AM – Divine Service w/Holy Communion

