

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.

Officiant: Pastor John Petersen/ Liturgist: Pastor Luke Ulrich

Organist: Mark DeGarmeaux/ Choir Director: Sarah Leyrer/ Accompanist: Elisabeth Urtel



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

<u>Members</u>	<u>In Memory /Honor of</u>
Mark, Michelle, Katelyn & Alyssa Graham	Loved Ones
Janet & Greg Costello	Our Fathers
Mark & Sharon Madson	Loved Ones
Jerome & Jeanette Koberg	Parents & Granddaughter
Phyllis Kenning	Bud Kenning
Rev. Ted & Diane Gullixson	Ruth Gullixson Webber
Paul & Mary Jane Tweit	Our Parents
Ron, Elli, and Joe Fisher	Richard Fisher & Karl Jaster
Bill & Suzanne Bohning	Loved Ones
Sig & Caroline Lee	Olaf & Gerhard Lee
Dottie Kunkel	Parents
Allan & Ellen Mueller	Our Parents
Ruth & Bob Heidenreich	Loved Ones
Tom & Joni Bode	Joshua Bode
The Reichwald Family	Glenn Reichwald & Mary Reichwald Sargent
Sam, Sarah, Megan & Samo Barbosa	Norman & Violet Holte
Janet & Rhea Wassman	Loved Ones
LuAnn & Dean Shoop	Our Parents & Isaiah
Jim, Sandie & Jimmy Tessien	Loved Ones
Art & Terri Westphal	Loved Ones
Hal & Marsha Natvig	Loved Ones
Dottie Kunkel	Loved Ones
Rich, Janine & Ella Andreason	Loved Ones



1123 Marsh St., Mankato, MN 56001 / (507) 345-4966 / MtOliveLutheran.org
Pastors John J. Petersen & Luke Ulrich/Mr. Larry Rude, Principal/ ELS

Christmas Day Service

Friday, December 25, 2015 10:00 am

*Welcome! In the name of our incarnate Savior we welcome you to Mt. Olive and thank you for worshipping with us this morning. If you are a guest please fill out a guest card (found in the hymnbook rack) or sign our guest book in the entry. 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. **For the Hearing Impaired:** Our facility is equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask an usher for a receiver.*

** **Holy Communion:** This morning the confirmed, communicant members of our fellowship come to receive the true body and blood of Christ in the Holy Supper. Here Christ gives us this treasure for the remission of our sins. As we commune together we also outwardly demonstrate the unity of faith which we confess. If you are a guest and wish to commune with us, please speak to our pastor prior to the service. Thank you.*

~Opening Prayer

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 (p.41, form I)

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.

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 (p. 55)

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

Hymn 148 vv. 1-3, 6-8 *Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men*

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

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

~Dismissal

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 (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 (pp. 56-57)

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.**

~Hymn 126 *God Rest You Merry*

~Closing Prayer (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

~Sermon Theme

“A Peculiar Holiday”

1. In Christ, God makes us His own people.
2. In response, we seek to live distinctive, unusual lives to His glory.

~Christmas Day Prayer

~Offering and Hymn 115 vv. 7, 8 *Hark! A Voice From Yonder Manger*

~Preface (p. 50)

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 (p. 51)

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 (pp. 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 (p. 53)

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 (p. 54)

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

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*

**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 (p. 43, form II)

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

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ **And with your spirit.**

~Collect

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks to You that of Your mercy and compassion You caused Your Son to become incarnate, and through Him redeemed us from sin and everlasting death: We beseech You, enlighten our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that we may ever be thankful for such grace, and comfort ourselves thereby in all tribulation and temptation, and at last obtain eternal salvation; through the same, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. C: ♪ **Amen.**

~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.

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

~Choir: "*Rejoice, Rejoice, Ye Christians*" – W. A. Mozart

*Rejoice, rejoice, ye Christians with all your hearts this morn!
O hear the blessed tidings, "The Lord, the Christ, is born,"
Now bro't us by the angels that stand about God's throne;
O lovely are the voices that make such tidings known!*

*O harken to their singing! This Child shall be your friend;
The Father so has willed it, that thus your woes should end.
The Son is freely given, that in Him ye may have
The Father's grace and blessing, and know He loves to save.*

~Hymn 146 vv. 1-3 *When Christmas Morn Is Dawning*

~Gospel Lesson

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.

~Nicene Creed (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.

~Choir: "*Christmas Day*" – G. Holst

~Hymn 115 vv. 5, 6 *If Our Blessed Lord and Maker*

~Exordium

~Hymn 142 *Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn*

~Sermon Text

Titus 2:11-14 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.