



† **THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** †
10:30AM, Sunday, May 2, 2021

WELCOME TO MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We are honored to have you in worship with us today and pray God's blessings on your worship. If this is your first visit to Mount Olive, we hope your worship with us is a blessing and you find friendship and peace in this place. During this difficult time, we want to assure you that Mount Olive is taking all necessary precautions sanitizing our worship space, assuring social distancing, and safely preparing the sacrament. We hope to see you again and are happy to help in any way if you do not currently have a church home or are looking for one. Please ask an usher if you need assistance. We thank you for silencing your cell phones as you enter the sanctuary today.



AS WE GATHER

The images Jesus uses as He proclaims the kingdom of God often come from the world of agriculture. His parables are filled with plants and trees and birds and animals. Grapes, grapevines, and vineyards are all used as illustrations by Jesus as He teaches the people who are His first hearers and us also. As people who have been grafted as branches into Christ the Vine through Holy Baptism, we seek ways to strengthen that connection as the Holy Spirit works in and through us. We now nourish our faith as branches in Christ's vineyard as we grow in Him by Word and Sacrament

HOLY COMMUNION

You are invited to commune with us by joining in confessing our faith in Christ and His real presence in the Sacrament. We affirm the presence in the Sacrament of Christ's true body and blood "through and in which we obtain the forgiveness of sins." During this time of precautions, we will utilize a communion practice called "continuous communion" in which no other human hands will be touching the wafer or the wine. Pastor Jason and the ushers will guide you through the process. If you have questions or are not a member of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, please speak with Pastor Zobel before communing.

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

"Come As You Are"

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him,

C **in those who hope in His steadfast love.**

P Taste and see that the LORD is good!

C **Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!**

P O LORD, how manifold are Your works!

C **In wisdom have You made them all.**

P May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

C **may the LORD rejoice in His works.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy. Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

C **O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your Law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

P God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

C **Amen.**

P As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

FAITH LETTER Nora Morgan Psalm 73:28

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 145:1-2, 8,10,21 ; antiphon John 16:16

P A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me.

C **I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.**

P Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever.

C **The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

P All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, and all Your saints shall bless You!

C **My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever.**

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me.

SONG OF PRAISE

“Our God Reigns”

Bettis, Tertor, Scott

FAITH LETTER Barret Willenburg Proverbs 2:6-7

SALUTATION/ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” ³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 John 4:1-21

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

FAITH LETTER Payton Rademacher Psalm 103:1-4

SONG OF THE DAY "Come to the Water"

SERMON *Stay Connected to the Vine, Jesus!*

APOSTLES' CREED

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs Almighty God, with the whole creation, we praise You for Your gift of life and the world that sustains us and all the living. Grant that seeing Your even greater gift of deliverance from the disfigurement of sin and the promise of the renewal of Your original design all people may come to repentance and faith in Your gracious invitation through Jesus Christ, risen and victorious over death. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P Give power to Your Word as it is proclaimed boldly by Your Church filled with the Holy Spirit in the faithful witness of all—as it is preached and taught by all who are ordained and commissioned by You as well as those to whom You have given the gifts to be faithful witnesses of Your salvation and glory. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P Turn the hearts of all who bear the authority of government in our land and around the world that they serve and lead all people in the ways of justice, peace, and freedom. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P To all who suffer sickness or injury, give the comfort of Your healing. And to all who suffer any persecution for standing for the truth of the Christian faith, give strength to endure. To all increase faith and faithfulness, believing that the risen Christ leads us to the glory of eternal life in Your kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C **Amen.**

OFFERING

We accept offerings via Pushpay. Text "mountolive" to 77977.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

- P The Lord be with you.
- C **And also 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 Him thanks and praise.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have showed Your gracious power to us through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You nourish us that we may grow in grace. Grant that we may receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood as we gather at His command. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LORD'S PRAYER

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 power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION SONG

“We Have Been Told”

Haas

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Let us pray. Holy Father, we ask You now, by this blessed food and drink, to deliver Your Church from every evil, to teach it to love You perfectly, and to make it truly one, even as this bread was made from many grains of wheat to become the carrier of the body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and the wine was drawn from the fruitfulness of many grapes. Grant that we ever abide in the Word, Christ Himself, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

“Our God is Love”

Hillsong

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SERVING IN WORSHIP

Preacher	Rev. Jason Zobel, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
Music	Olive Branch, Ray Calderon, <i>Director of Music</i>
Elder	Jeremy Bluhm
Lector	Mary Goers
Usher Team	Matt Dierks
Sound Booth	James Fenske
Altar Guild (May)	Gene & Gretchen Cropp

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Text "mountolive" to
77977 to give

Sunday, May 2

Office Hours: 9am-3pm (M-F)
office@molc.us (608) 238-5656
Emergencies: (608) 228-4134 (Pastor)

Weekly Calendar

May 3-8

Monday (5/3)

9am Quilters
6pm Men at Work

Tuesday (5/4)

9am-2pm Communion
5pm Olive Branch Rehearsal

Wednesday (5/5)

10am Today's Light Bible Study
2-6pm Communion

Thursday (5/6)

6:30pm School Committee Meeting

Saturday (5/8)

7:30am Early Risers Bible Study

Sunday (5/9)

Mother's Day

8am Divine Worship†
9am Fellowship Hour
9:30am Education Hour
10:30am Divine Worship†
11:30am Communion

† Communion offered

* Available on Facebook Live also

Prayer Requests

Barb Koehler koehlbs@gmail.com
or (608) 335-6589
Laurel Zobel lzobel@molc.us

This Week's Prayers

We Pray for . . . Karl Fels, Rich, and Nancy Bartlett, Lois Caraway, Mary Kolberg, Dave Kral, Greg Schwechel, Luke Davison, Mount Olive Lutheran School, Andrew and Kristin Zobel, our confirmands Nora Morgan, Payton Rademacher, Barret Willenburg

This Week's News

Weekly Attendance: Sun. April 25- 60/52

Altar Flower Sponsors: Flowers this morning are given by LOGOS in celebration of our confirmands Nora Morgan, Payton Rademacher, Barret Willenburg!

Bible Reading Challenge: Pastor Mark is challenging the congregation to a chronological reading of the Bible in One Year! It began on June 1, 2020 and ends on May 31, 2021. Here are the daily readings for this week: **May 3:** Romans 9-11, **May 4:** Romans 12-14, **May 5:** Romans 15-16, Acts 20:4-21:40, **May 6:** Acts 22-24, **May 7:** Acts 25-27, **May 8:** Acts 28, Colossians 1-3, **May 9:** Colossians 4, Philemon, Ephesians 1. A list of the May readings for our chronological reading of the Bible are available for you to pick up on the Information Booth.

Congratulations to our confirmands! Congrats to Payton, Barret, and Nora on their confirmation! We pray that God continues to bless them as they grow and learn more about our Lord and Savior.

Bingo Night: Mark your calendars- Saturday May 15 6:30-8pm! Bible Bingo is back by popular demand! There will be prizes and snacks for all!

Mount Olive Lutheran School Fall Registration: Mount Olive Lutheran School is now enrolling for the 2021/2022 school year! For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact the office at office@molc.us!

Mount Olive Lutheran School Scholarship: If you are looking for a way to support Mount Olive Lutheran School the "Defending the Faith Scholarship" is looking for mission partners to help provide a high-quality Christ-centered education! Questions? Feel free to contact the school committee at schoolcommittee@molconline.org!

Geraniums for Pentecost!! If you wish to order geraniums for Pentecost, please fill out an order form that can be found in the welcome center. Order forms must be completed and returned by **Sunday, May 2nd**.

Women's Spring Fling: We are postponing the event to later in the year. Please watch for another opportunity for a womens' fellowship this year.

Mount Olive Concert Series: The last installment of this year's concert series will be held on May 16 at 3pm. Join us for an afternoon of Sacred Sounds sung by Ray Calderon!

Sunday Bulletins/Recordings: If you or someone you know is "shut in" and would like a bulletin and/or CD recording of the Sunday services, please let us know! Bulletins/CDs are sent out every Monday.

(Continued on back inside cover)

Share-a-Thon: The Board of Christian Outreach has made some changes to the upcoming Share-A-Thon. This event will be a service opportunity FOR our Madison neighbors at One City School on July 18th. An announcement will be coming soon on WHEN and WHERE donated items (from our congregation...or friends of members) will be collected! If you can, please begin setting aside the following items:

- Children's clothing (sizes infant to 10-yr olds)
- Coats for children & adults (all sizes & for all seasons)

Additional details about this first-time service event can be found in the TW@MOLC under the Board of Christian Outreach News and in The View!

SWD Student Financial Aid: Students attending a Concordia University or Seminary, preparing for full-time church work in the LCMS (pastor, teacher, DCE, DCO, DCM, deaconess, DFLM, DPM) and are a member of a congregation in the South Wisconsin District - LCMS are eligible to apply for financial assistance from SWD. For more information, visit swd.lcms.org - under Resources. The deadline is May 15.

Community Impact Teams: The Board of Christian Outreach is thrilled to announce that TWO teams are underway!

- MOLC Food Pantry Community Impact Team
- Homeless-to-Hopeful Community Impact Team

One of our community impact teams: Homeless to Hopeful (H2H) has begun their work to "live out the Love of Jesus" in the Madison area. The team's first project involves supporting homeless students and their families. You can help by donating these three items:

- Fabric softener sheets
- Deodorant (travel or full size, gender neutral)
- Hand sanitizers (small to medium size)

The team will be purchasing other requested items. Please put your donation in the special bin in the Narthex by May 16.

A huge thank you to the Mount Olive Foundation for the grant to fund this initial project!

To learn more about these amazing service opportunities, read about them in the Board of Christian Outreach News in the TW@MOLC and The View!

Upcoming Altar Flower Sponsors:

May 2: LOGOS

May 9: Paul Skidmore & Pat Middleton

May 16: Open

May 23: Pentecost Geraniums, Barb Koehler, Mary Goers

May30: Open

June 6: Open

June 13: Connie LaRowe

June 20: Open

June 27: Eunice Gibson

If you are interested in sponsoring flowers for an upcoming Sunday, please contact Denise Sliter at altarflowers@molc.us.

COVID-19 Assistance: If you are considered "at risk" and would like assistance getting groceries or with other errands, please contact the office. Our food pantry is also available to you during office hours.

Stewardship Corner

"Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit." (John 15:2)

God is interested in the fruit that we bear in good works, and He even prunes us so that we may bring forth more fruit. Trusting in our Lord's work for us, we are grafted by grace into His vine. We desire to be more like Him and grow into His image. That's growth in fruit bearing, and it always comes with some pruning.

Just a Note

Card Shop: Confirmation and Graduation, and Mother's Day cards now on display in addition to all occasion greeting cards at 75 cents each. Thank you for continuing self-service and the great response shown for supporting the missions at Lutheran Women's Missionary League with your purchases. We are located in the Library, next to the Nursery.

Altar Flowers: If you are interested in providing flowers, please contact Denise Sliter at altarflowers@molc.us or at (608) 354-7244. Payment of \$35 can be made via check or pay online molc.us/connect. Please make sure to email or call, or your order may be missed!

Holy Communion: If you would like to take communion at church during the week, there are three different days you can sign up **Sundays 11:30am-1:00pm, Tuesdays 9:00am-2:00pm, Wednesdays 2:00-6:00pm.** Contact the office at office@molc.us or (608) 238-5656, and Luke will set you up with a 15-minute time slot.

Our Staff

Rev. Jason Zobel, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Mark Baldwin, *Dir Family Life*
Ray Calderon, *Director of Music*
Laurel Zobel, *Preschool Director*
Luke Fraunehoff, *Office Manager*