



† **THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS** †
10:30AM, Sunday, December 27, 2020

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 Gospel for the First Sunday after Christmas takes us to the temple in Jerusalem, where Jesus is brought by Mary and Joseph. In presenting Him there, they are affirming that He is dedicated to God as a firstborn son. But He is much more than a son—He is the Son. In her classic hymn text, German hymnist Elisabeth Cruciger celebrates His coming as she writes, “The only Son from heaven, foretold by ancient seers, By God the Father given, In human form appears. No sphere His light confining, No star so brightly shining As He, our Morning Star” (LSB 402:1). Jesus is the One in whom we see our salvation, whose light guides our way through life, and whose presence enlightens our world. With joy, we worship Him!

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

“Joy To The World” (Next page)

Tomlin

(Verse 1)

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

(Verse 2)

Joy to the world the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

(Chorus)

Joy unspeakable joy
An overflowing well
No tongue can tell
Joy unspeakable joy
It rises in my soul
Never lets me go

(Verse 3)

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders wonders of His love

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 Alleluia! My eyes have seen Your salvation,

C **a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel. Alleluia!**

P Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens.

C **You who have done great things, O God, who is like You?**

P My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to You;

C **my soul also, which You have redeemed.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P People redeemed by the Lord, let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.
- C **Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of having sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not lived our lives fully in the freedom won for us by our Lord. We have not always shared the bounty You have given us as stewards of Your creation. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus, our Savior. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.**
- P God has promised pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His beloved Son, who has replaced slavery to sin with a priceless inheritance of freedom and joy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.
- C **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 98:1-4; antiphon Isaiah 52:10

- P The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.
- C **Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**
- P The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.
- C **He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**
- P Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
- 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 The Lord has bared His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

SONG OF THE DAY

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

LSB 379

- 1 O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels:

- ref O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 Christ the Lord!
- 2 Highest, most holy,
 Light of Light eternal,
 Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
 Son of the Father
 Now in flesh appearing! Refrain
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,
 Sing in exultation,
 Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
 Glory to God
 In the highest: Refrain
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
 Born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
 Word of the Father
 Now in flesh appearing! Refrain

SALUTATION/ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. ¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” ³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SONG OF THE DAY

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence ”

LSB 621

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,

For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending
Comes our homage to demand.

- 2 King of kings yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.
- 3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending
From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish
As the darkness clears away.
- 4 At His feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

SERMON *The Great Turnabout!*

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 Gathered as God's people and as heirs of an eternal inheritance, let us pray for the whole Church and for all who bear the name of Jesus Christ, who is our Light and our Salvation.
Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P As we remember St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, we pray for the Church, asking that through her the joyous news of salvation be proclaimed as the Holy Spirit directs. Give us faith to acknowledge and rejoice in the fellowship that we share in Christ with people here and in every place, that we may see in each sister and brother in Christ a reflection of Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P Lord of all, watch over our nation and grant Your divine favor to all who bear office in our land, especially the president and Congress of the United States, the governor and legislature of this state and to all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. Help them to serve all those in their care according to Your holy will, that we may live in peace and safety. Save us from pestilence and plague, for unseasonable weather, and the dangers that are ever-present in our lives. Grant us Your blessing as one calendar year closes and another begins. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P Give a special measure of blessing to those with special needs. Especially we remember the sick, the shut-in, those dealing with depression, those who sorrow, and others known to us who at this time are in need of prayer. Help us to be people who bless, encourage, and strengthen all those in our circles of relationship and beyond. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P Sovereign Lord, we remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors, especially . . . Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven. Bless the communion we share on earth as we await the Supper of the Lamb in His kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **her our prayer.**
- P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.
- 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 We give thanks to You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love that He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. 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

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

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION SONG

“Gesu Bambino”

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows
Upon a winter night
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose
The King of Love and Light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang
The grateful earth rejoiced
And at His blessed birth the stars
Their exultation voiced.

(Chorus)

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows
To greet the holy night
That gave the world its Christmas Rose
Its King of Love and Light.

Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name
The grateful chorus swell
From paradise to earth He came
That we with Him might dwell.

(Chorus)

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, assuring us, thereby, that we are truly members of His Body, the Church. And we ask You to help us by Your Holy Spirit that we continue in this fellowship and do the good works that You desire us to do, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom with You and the same Spirit be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is good, return no person evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all of God's people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The almighty God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless you and keep you and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

“Go Tell It On The Mountain” (Next page)

LSB 388

- ref Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!
- 1 While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. Refrain
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain
- 3 Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. Refrain









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SERVING IN WORSHIP

Preacher Rev. Jason Zobel, *Senior Pastor*
 Music Olive Branch, Ray Calderon, *Director of Music*
 Elder Dave Gaston
 Usher Team Curt Casanova
 Altar Guild (December) Nancy Bartlett

CONNECT WITH US

							
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Sunday, December 27

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

Weekly Calendar

December 28 - January 2

Tuesday (12/29)

9am-2pm Communion
5pm Olive Branch Rehearsal

Wednesday (12/30)

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

Friday (1/1)

OFFICE CLOSED- New Year's Day

Saturday (1/2)

7:30am Early Risers Bible Study

Sunday (1/3)

8am Divine Worship* †
9:30am Education Hour
10:30am Divine Worship* †
11:30am-1pm Communion

† Communion offered

* Available on Facebook Live also

Prayer Requests

Barb Koehler koehlbs@gmail.com
or (608) 335-6589
Laurel Zobel lzobel@molc.us
or 238-5656 x218

This Week's Prayers

We Pray for . . . Karl Fels, Kathryn Hanson, Bob Troia, Eunice Gibson, Rich, and Nancy Bartlett

This Week's News

Weekly Attendance: Sun, December 20 - 40/38

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: **December 28:** Isaiah 28-30, **December 29:** Isaiah 31-34, **December 30:** Isaiah 35-37, **December 31:** Isaiah 38-39, Psalm 76 **January 1:** Isaiah 40-43, **January 2:** Isaiah 44-46, **January 3:** Isaiah 47-48, 2 Kings 18:9-37. A list of the December 2020 and January 2021 readings for our chronological reading of the Bible are available for you to pick up on the Information Booth.

Youth Ministry "No-Bake Cookie Sale": You do NOT have to find the recipe, buy the ingredients, mix the cookie dough, bake the cookies, decorate the cookies, wash all the dishes, and drop the cookies off at church. You can instead write a check for \$10, \$20, or whatever you wish to "Mount Olive Youth Ministry" and stay home enjoying family activities!

Bucky Book Sales: Helping each other is what makes us a community and you can help front-line workers who are sacrificing so much while helping Mount Olive Youth Ministry. The Bucky Book will donate one book to a health care front-line worker for each book sold over the Holidays by clicking on our link below. Just redeem one or two coupons out of hundreds valid up to October next year and it will cost you nothing to help our group while saying thank you to front-line workers and lifting their spirits for the Holidays. Plus, Bucky Books make GREAT Holiday gifts with something for everyone.
<https://www.buckybook.com/mount-olive-lutheran-church>

Bach & Brass: Mark your calendars! The next installment of Mount Olive's concert Series, "Bach and Brass" will be at 3:00pm on January 17!

(Continued on back inside cover)

Amazon Smile: Mount Olive is on Amazon Smile! For every purchase made on amazon.com, Mount Olive will receive 0.5% of your purchase price as a donation. To get signed up and for more information please visit:

www.smile.amazon.com. Type in "Mount Olive Evangelical Lutheran Church" to select Mount Olive as your charitable organization of choice!

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.

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.

View Deadline: Just a friendly reminder that January View Articles were due by Wednesday the 23rd. If you would like an article still submitted, please have articles in by Tuesday the 29th. Thanks in advance for your submissions!

Sound Booth Volunteers: We are currently looking for volunteers to help in the sound booth during both the 8:00 and 10:30 services. If you are interested, please let the office know!

One City Thank You: One City Schools would like to extend sincere thank you for all the coats Mount Olive recently donated!

SCRIP - SCRIP orders will be ordered on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. SCRIP cards are the usual gift cards that you can use at most all stores. You can fill out a form at the Welcome Center and put it in the SCRIP mail slot or order online (if you'd like to order online, let me know so I can give you the code for MOLC) - the cards cost no more than those you buy in the stores, but when ordered through us, MOLC receives a rebate! When ordered on a Monday, they usually arrive by the following Wednesday. Plan ahead for birthdays, Mother's/Father's Day, teacher gifts, etc. You can order the physical card, an ecard, or in some cases a reloadable card. Let me know if you have any questions (connielarowe@gmail.com) <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/>

Stewardship Corner

"And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord..." (Luke 2:39)

The Law of God is good. Of course, it always shows us our sins, but that is good, too! We need to be driven back to the forgiveness of Christ. And the Law also shows us the truly blessed way to live. As Mary and Joseph found their joy in a godly life, so should we see the Law as a guide for Christian living and the roadmap for saying thank you to the Lord for all His grace and mercy to us

Just a Note

Card Shop: While the COVID restrictions continue, please visit the Card Shop and "self-serve" as you have been doing. The Christmas cards will be put away and the Valentine cards will be brought out next. We will give you the totals given to Women's Missionary League in the February view. Thank you for all your support in 2020. Sending Christian greeting cards to friends and loved ones has been especially appreciated during these "stay at home" times and we will continue to offer a good assortment of birthday, get well, sympathy, thinking of you, anniversary, wedding cards, and more, still at the price of 75 cents each.

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 Frauenhoff, *Office Manager*