



† **THE TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** †
10:30AM, Sunday, November 15, 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

We read today about three servants. Two were good and faithful. One was evil and faithless. Two enter into the joy of their master. One does not. Our Lord has entrusted us with many good and gracious gifts and sends us into the world to make disciples and multiply the gifts we have received. Yet, it is not our own work that leads us into the joy of our Master; rather, it is our Master’s work on our behalf. Jesus’ saving work of death and resurrection brings us into the joy of our Master.

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

“Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)”

Chapman

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 Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.
C **You have been our good and faithful Master.**
P You have poured out blessings upon us.
C **You have given us all we need to support this body and life.**
P We meditate on all that You have done.
C **We ponder the work of Your hands.**
P On account of Your name, O Lord, preserve our lives.
C **On account of Your name, O Lord, preserve our lives.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P Indeed, our heavenly Father has done wonderful things for us. He has given us more than we could ever ask for or imagine. Yet, there have been times when we have been ungrateful for God's gifts, times when we have been lazy and selfish with what He has given us, times when we have been unfaithful servants. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness. Heavenly Father,
C **we confess that we have not been faithful with all of the good gifts You have given us. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might be restored as Your servants.**
P God hears your confession and has promised to always be with you. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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. We are forgiven. We are restored in Jesus.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 143:2, 5-6, 10-11 antiphon v.1

- P Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!
C **Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.**
P I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands.
C **I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**
P Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!
C **For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!**
P Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!
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.**

SALUTATION/ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 1:7–16

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. ⁸And on the day of the LORD’s sacrifice— “I will punish the officials and the king’s sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. ⁹On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master’s house with violence and fraud. ¹⁰“On that day,” declares the LORD, “a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. ¹¹Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, ‘The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.’ ¹³Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.” ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we

might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty fifth chapter.

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

¹⁴[Jesus said:] “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SONG OF THE DAY

“Your Love Defends Me”

Maher

SERMON *We Have The Light*

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 Dear heavenly Father, You have placed us in various vocations for the sake of Your people. Strengthen us when we face challenges and trials that would tempt us to abandon Your Church. Forgive us when we go astray. Bring back all those who have wandered from the faith. Hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**
- P Lord, raise up good and faithful servants in Your Church, that we work together for the common good and spread the good news of Your kingdom to all nations. Hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**
- P Lord, raise up good and faithful servants in the governments of the world, that citizens of all nations might be treated with fairness and justice. Hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**
- P Lord, the day of Jesus' return is drawing near. Give us patience and faith as we await His return. Embolden us to serve our neighbors and never grow weary of doing good. Hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**
- P Lord, disease and devastation have infected so much of Your creation, but we know Your healing is always close at hand. Be with all those who suffer now through abuse, illness, and injustice, especially . . . Heal them according to Your will, and send justice for the oppressed. Hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**
- P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. 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

“Open The Eyes of My Heart”

Baloche

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING SONG

“To Live Is Christ”

McDonald

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ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS

Flowers today are given by Brian and Connie LaRowe in celebration of family birthdays and all the many blessings. The second arrangement has been generously donated by Mike Peterson's family in loving memory of Mike.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Preacher	Rev. Jason Zobel, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
Music	Olive Branch, Ray Calderon, <i>Director of Music</i>
Elder	Jeremy Bluhm
Usher Team	Matt Dierks
Altar Guild (November)	Lana Esch

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Sunday, November 15

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

Weekly Calendar

November 16-21

Monday (11/16)

9am Quilters
6pm Exec Team Meeting
7pm PPC Meeting

Tuesday (11/17)

9am-2pm Communion
5pm Olive Branch Rehearsal
5:45pm Board of Fellowship Meeting

Wednesday (11/18)

10am Today's Light Bible Study
2pm-6pm Communion
5:30pm LOGOS
6pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7pm Choir Rehearsal
7:30pm Brass Ensemble Rehearsal

Saturday (11/21)

7:30am Early Risers Bible Study

Sunday (11/22)

8am Divine Worship* †
9am Fellowship 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) 850-3570
Laurel Zobel lzobel@molc.us
or 238-5656 x218

This Week's Prayers

We Pray for . . . Karl Fels, Kathryn Hanson, Bob Troia,, Duane Neitzel, The family of Mike Peterson, Paul Kolberg

This Week's News

Weekly Attendance: Sun, November 8 – 67/35

First Communion: Celebrating their first communion over the coming weeks are: Tristan Rademacher, Eli Brandt, Amari St. Martin, Eva Morgan, Emma Boyle, Marina Restrepo, and Isabela Restrepo.

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: **November 16:** Proverbs 26-28 **November 17:** Proverbs 29, Ecclesiastes 1-3 **November 18:** Ecclesiastes 4-6 **November 19:** Ecclesiastes 7-9 **November 20:** Ecclesiastes 10-12 1 Kings 10 **November 21:** 1 Kings 11, 2 Chronicles 9, Proverbs 30 **November 22:** Proverbs 31, 1 Kings 12-13. A list of the November readings for our chronological reading of the Bible are available for you to pick up on the Information Booth.

Special Voters' Meeting: A special Voters' Meeting will be held **TODAY** in between services to discuss extending a call to a teacher/administrator for the school. A Zoom option will be available for those who can't attend in person!

Mount Olive Concert Series: Thank you to all who attended the organ dedication concert on October 25! Mark your calendars, "Lessons and Carols" is set for Sunday December 20!

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!

Baptism Today: There will be a private baptism (Liam James Halverson) today immediately following the 8:00 service. Please continue to the gym for fellowship hour, and if you're staying around for the voters' meeting, please head back to the sanctuary at 9:20.

A Man Named Martin: Join us during education hour as we study the life of Martin Luther. Part 2 of "A Man Named Martin" begins today in the Fireplace room! Missed a session or want to look ahead? Part 1 and part 2 materials will be available on Mount Olive's website!

www.molc.us/bible-study

(Continued on back inside cover)

SCRIP orders - plan ahead for your gift giving which may include gift cards. Order them through SCRIP and MOLC gets a rebate! When an order is placed on a Monday, they are usually delivered the following Wednesday (the physical cards can be picked up at Mt. Olive, reloadable cards also available, and some print-at-home cards) so a quick turnaround. You may fill out a form at the Welcome center and put it in the SCRIP mail slot, or order online. I can help you set up your family account - so easy to do all online. Checks are made payable to Mt. Olive or you can also use PushPay. Check out the SCRIP website or contact Connie LaRowe (836-1635) Orders will be placed Nov. 16, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, and Dec. 14. <https://www.shopwithscrip.com>

Thank you from Kathryn Hanson: Thank you to all the members of Mount Olive who have been praying for me, and who have sent cards of encouragement. Your prayers lift me up and give me great encouragement during this difficult time. I am halfway done with chemo, and then will have one month of radiation. I am so thankful to God for my church and friends, and especially for His mercy and Grace. God's blessing to all of you.

Caret Baby Bottle Campaign: This year's baby bottle campaign will run during the month of November. Grab a bottle from the Welcome Center! As you fill it with loose change, cash, or checks, you help provide life affirming resources to women and men facing unintended pregnancies through the ministry of Care Net Pregnancy Center. Contact Connie LaRowe connielarowe@gmail.com or Carol White carolindawhite44@gmail.com for more information.

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.

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

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

"Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things." (Philippians 3:19)

There is danger in setting our minds on earthly things, serving mammon, and caring more for our bodily comfort than our spiritual well-being. God does not tell us to be faithful and generous in our stewardship of the things of this earth to ruin our fun. Rather, He tells us to give generously to teach us how to make sure the things of this world do not lay a hold of our hearts.

Just a Note

Card Shop: Bless those near and far with Thanksgiving and Christmas cards. Nice selection now on display, plus all occasion greeting cards for wedding, anniversary, birthday, sympathy, and much more. Continue to self-serve when you visit the Card Shop located in the Library. Individual cards are 75 cents each. Thank you for supporting the missions at LWML with your purchases.

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!

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*