



March 26, 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

WELCOME TO MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH



7301 North 28th Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska 68112-2816

Sunday Worship 9:00 A.M.
Education Hour 10:20 A.M.
Church Office – 402.455.8700..... FAX – 402.455.8701
email: MountOlv@msn.com..... website: MountOliveOmaha.com



**Brothers and sisters, welcome to worship as we
are wrapped in the embrace of our loving Creator!**

Roland A. Jank, Jr.
Pastor

Rachel Misiolek
Organist



FOURTH SUNDAY
IN LENT

March 26, 2017

From the start of His public ministry to its conclusion, Jesus performed many miracles. In bringing sight to the blind, He gave them a new vision of the world and opened new possibilities for them. As the One who brings the light of salvation to His people, Jesus opens new possibilities for our lives. As our perfect substitute, He takes the weight of sin from us and lightens the burdens we bear. Both lightened and enlightened, we rejoice in the miracles we experience each day by His grace.

P R E L U D E

W E L C O M E *Please fill out the attendance registration sheet.*

R I N G I N G O F T H E C A R I L L O N

Stand

G A T H E R I N G

We Enter God's Presence.

I N V O C A T I O N

OPENING SENTENCES *(Psalm 118:24-26)*

Pastor: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Women: Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!

Men: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

All: We bless you from the house of the LORD.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us make confession of our sins to God, our gracious heavenly Father.

Eternal God, we confess that we are sinners in need of forgiveness. By nature we are sinful from the very beginning of our life. Through our thoughts, words, and deeds, we continually sin against You. We have lived for ourselves in many ways, breaking Your commands that direct us not to lie, steal, or transgress Your holy will. We have walked in the darkness of bad choices and have left unfulfilled opportunities to do good and be blessings to others. O God, in Your mercy, forgive our sin and free us from selfishness and indifference, that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments. Graciously forgive our sins and direct us in ways of compassion and love.

God promises to hear those who turn to Him with repentant hearts. Upon this your confession, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Be at peace.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Awake, O Sleeper

Blue 745

**Awake, O sleeper, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light.
So learn his love, its length and breadth, its fullness, depth and height.**

**To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear release,
To give the Spirit's unity, the very bond of peace.**

**Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
With kind and gentle hearts forgive as God in Christ forgave.**

**For us Christ lived, for us he died, and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.**

APOSTOLIC GREETING

KYRIE

Cantor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Cantor: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Cantor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Cantor: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Cantor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sit

WORD

We Hear God's Word.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 42:14-21

God's patience with His people and promise of new light.

For a long time I have held my peace, I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor, I will gasp and pant. I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their herbage; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. I will lead the blind by a road they do not know, by paths they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I will do, and I will not forsake them. They shall be turned back and utterly put to shame—those who trust in carved images, who say to cast images, “You are our gods.” Listen, you that are deaf; and you that are blind, look up and see! Who is blind but my servant, or deaf like my messenger whom I send? Who is blind like my dedicated one, or blind like the servant of the Lord? He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. The Lord was pleased, for the sake of his righteousness, to magnify his teaching and make it glorious. (NRSV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God! (*shouted*)

PSALM 142 (antiphon v. 5)



Cantor: I cry to you, | O Lord;* I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the
| living.”

Cantor: With my voice I cry out | to the Lord;* with my voice I plead for mercy | to the
Lord.



I pour out my complaint be- | fore him;* I tell my trouble be- | fore him.

Cantor: When my spirit faints within me, you | know my way!* In the path where I walk they have hidden a | trap for me.

Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice | of me;* no refuge remains to me; no one cares | for my soul.

Cantor: I cry to you, | O Lord;* I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the | living.

Attend to my cry, for I am brought | very low!* Deliver me from my perse- cutors, for they are too | strong for me!

Cantor: Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks | to your name!* The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully | with me.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; As it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Cantor: I cry to you, | O Lord;* I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the | living.”

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 5:8-14

Awake from sleep, live as children of light.

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” (NRSV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God! (*shouted*)

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Fine

Glo-ry to you, O Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Verse (cantor or choir)

D.C. al Fine

Cantor: Jesus says, I am the light | of the world;* whoever follows me will have the | light of life. (*John 8:12*)

HOLY GOSPEL

John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man who was born blind.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord! (*shouted*)

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said

to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains." (NRSV)

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ! (*shouted*)

Sit

S E R M O N

Karma? I'll Take Grace!

John 9:1-41

Stand

H Y M N O F T H E D A Y

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Green 448

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me;
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

A P O S T L E S ' C R E E D

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the**

third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

. . . Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.
. . . one God, now and forever.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share the reconciliation we have with God with one another by greeting those around you with a hearty handshake and the words, "Peace be with you."

Sit

M E A L

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper.

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please fill out the attendance registration sheet in your pew, if you have not already done so. Visitors, you are our guests and are not expected to make a contribution. As the offerings of bread, wine, and money are brought forward, please stand.

MUSIC AT OFFERING

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come
setting by Richard W. Giesche

Choir

O Christ, the healer, we have come To pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored When reached by love that never ends?

From ev'ry ailment flesh endures Our bodies clamor to be freed;
Yet in our hearts we would confess That wholeness is our deepest need.

In conflicts that destroy our health We recognize the world's disease;
Our common life declares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

Grant that we all, made one in faith, In your community may find
The wholeness that, enriching us, Shall reach and prosper humankind.

OFFERING PRAYER

Compassionate God,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, . . . and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

S108

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, . . . as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

O God of resurrection . . . with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us . . . with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones . . . now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

LORD'S PRAYER *(join hands)*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

INVITATION

Come to the banquet. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

Amen.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

If you believe that those who commune receive in, with, and under the bread and wine of this sacrament the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and that receiving the sacrament is a public witness to your oneness in faith in the teachings of our church, you are invited to join us at the Lord's Table. Newcomers are asked to read and sign a communion registration card from the hymnal rack as a sign of your agreement with its statements and give it to an usher.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

S112

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -

way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;

I found in him a rest - ing - place, and he has made me glad.
 my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 and in that light of life I'll walk till trav - ling days are done.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Blue 649

Be Thou My Vision

Blue 776

Stand

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING

We Go Out into the World on God's Mission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

God, Whose Almighty Word

Green 400

**God, whose almighty word Chaos and darkness heard
And took their flight:**

**Hear us, we humbly pray, And where the Gospel day
Sheds not its glorious ray, Let there be light!**

**Lord, who once came to bring, On your redeeming wing,
Healing and sight,**

**Health to the sick in mind, Sight to the inly blind:
Oh, now to humankind Let there be light!**

**Spirit of truth and love, Life-giving, holy dove,
Speed forth your flight;**

**Move on the water's face Bearing the lamp of grace,
And in earth's darkest place Let there be light!**

**Holy and blessed three, Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, love, might!**

**Boundless as ocean's tide, Rolling in fullest pride,
Through the earth, far and wide, Let there be light!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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NEXT SUNDAY – Fifth Sunday in Lent (Year A): Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:1-11, John 11:1-45

***** ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP TODAY *****

ACOLYTE ----- Austin Wegner
ASSISTING MINISTER----- Arnie Jacobson
CANTOR ----- Dan Schreiber
EUCCHARISTIC GIFTS----- Gary and Nancy Jacobson
LECTOR----- Dixie Gerhart

***** LAST SUNDAY AT MOUNT OLIVE *****

Worship Attendance.....	96	Bible Class	37
Communion	76	Offering	4133
Sunday School	15	Needed Weekly	4861
Staff.....	4	Specials	512
First Time Worshipers Last Sunday - 0		Lenten Midweek #3-55	

***** THIS WEEK AT MOUNT OLIVE *****

TODAY - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR----- 10:20 A.M.
WEDNESDAY - CONFIRMATION CLASS ----- 6:00 P.M.
CHANCEL CHOIR ----- 7:45 P.M.
THURSDAY - LENTEN MEAL ----- 5:30 P.M.
MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE ----- 7:00 P.M.
SATURDAY - SPRING CLEAN UP ----- 9:00 A.M.
SUNDAY - WORSHIP----- 9:00 A.M.
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR----- 10:20 A.M.
BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

ADULT BIBLE CLASS HOUR — During the Christian Education Hour in the Fellowship Hall, Pastor Jank will lead us in the six-week study of “At The Crossroads.” This week’s theme is *Declaration*. Grab a cup of coffee and join us.

SPRING CLEAN UP — Our spring clean up is this Saturday. Check out the insert for details.

EASTER EGG HUNT — Our annual Easter egg hunt at 28th and Craig Park for the community will be held Sunday, April 9th, at 2:00 p.m. Come join us.

DEATH — Our sister in Christ, Carol Childers, died on Thursday morning, March 16. A memorial service was held yesterday, here at Mount Olive. “And I heard a voice from heaven saying, ‘Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord.’ “Yes,” says the Spirit, ‘they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.’” (*Rev. 14:13*)

FOSTER CARE COLLECTION — LWML is having a Pajama Prayer Party in Grand Island on April 22, 2017. Items being collected are pajamas for newborn to 12 months and women’s t-shirts size X-large. Also needed are items for boys and girls hygiene kits for foster kids. You will find a list of these items on the table in the back of church. All items should be full-sized (not travel or hotel size). Kids coming into foster care can range in age from 0-18 so feel free to pick an age and purchase age appropriate items.

MIDWEEK WORSHIP — Join us for *At The Crossroads*, a special series of services for the season of Lent on Thursdays at 7:00 P.M. Join us each week during Lent as each service in the series will reveal how Christ and his cross lead us to decide the path of God’s will for us. This Thursday the theme will be *Declaration*.

LENTEN DINNER SIGN-UPS — Please look for the Lenten dinner sign-up sheets in the back of church today. It’s not too late to sign up. Help is needed with serving and clean-up.

LENTEN MEAL — Fellowship meals are available each week prior to the Midweek Lenten service from 5:30 - 6:30 at a modest cost. Make plans to join us each week. The cost is \$5 per person or \$15 per family.

EASTER LILIES — Would you like to donate an Easter lily to decorate the chancel this Easter? The cost is \$10 and the sign-up sheet is in the narthex (back of church) until April 2.

THE GREAT THREE DAYS - We will have worship opportunities on Holy (Maundy) Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday evenings (April 13-15). All of these services are incomplete and anticipate your return the next day. Please make plans to be with us. This is all part of the most sacred week of the year for us Christians.

Praying For Our Parish in 2017

Let us remember each other in prayer during the week that we celebrate the anniversary of one’s Baptism.

March 26
Benjamin Anderson
Henry Hagen

March 29
Cathy Corcoran
Lee HighHawk

March 29
Doug Pollock
Emily Standley

March 30
Destiny Prine
Misty Prine

April 1
Lois Lenz
Janet Zulfer