



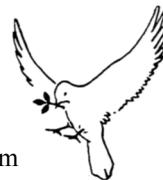
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10, 2017

WELCOME TO MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Education Hour 10:20 a.m.



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Omaha, NE 68112-2816

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email: MountOlv@msn.com
MountOliveOmaha.com

A blessed Advent to all!
Welcome to worship as we prepare for Jesus' birth and second coming.

Roland A. Jank, Jr.
Pastor

Rachel Misiolek
Organist



We see the truth of the words of today's Old Testament Reading all around us. "The grass withers, the flower fades" (Isaiah 40:8). The flowers of summer fade and fall as autumn arrives and gives way to winter. The car we saved up to purchase piles on mileage and begins to require costly repairs. The once-new wedding dress has yellowed with age. The things of this world wither and fade. But that's not the end of what the prophet Isaiah has to say: "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever." In our ever-changing fallen world, there is one thing that remains unchanged—God and His Word. Listen today to the unchanging promises of God for you, anchored in His Son, Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Please fill out the attendance registration sheet.

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

Stand

GATHERING
We Enter God's Presence.

INVOCATION

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
the light no darkness can overcome.
Let Your light scatter the darkness
and illumine Your Church.

The second candle is lit.

HYMN

We Light the Advent Candle



1 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And wait for Christ to
2 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And thank the Lord for



come. With hope, we trust the pro - mise That
rest. With peace, we know our Je - sus Has



He will bring us home. Our hope is in our
come to be our guest. This peace be - yond all



Sav - ior Who wins for us God's fav - or.
know - ing With - in our hearts is glow - ing.

Refrain



We wait with grow - ing light Till



God makes all things right!

CONFESSIO N AND ABSOLUTION *(Isaiah 40:10-11)*

“Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and His arm rules for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him.”

Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

“He will tend His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms; He will carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.”

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

Green 26

**Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley A level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, Foretold in sacred story:**

Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God’s Word!

**God’s people, see him coming: Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God’s promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain**

**Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev’ry nation Its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; Their voices join your singing: Refrain**

**His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding:**

Refrain

A P O S T O L I C G R E E T I N G

K Y R I E

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

Congregation



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

Lord, have mercy. (*same as above*)

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

Lord, have mercy. (*same as above*)

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

Lord, have mercy. (*same as above*)

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



P R A Y E R O F T H E D A Y

Sit

| |
|--|
| <p>W O R D</p> <p>We Hear God's Word.</p> |
|--|

F I R S T L E S S O N

Isaiah 40:1-11

Good news of God's coming to a people in exile.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. (NRSV)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God! (*shouted*)

PSALM 85 (*antiphon v. 9*)



Cantor: Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,* that glory may dwell | in our land.

Cantor: Lord, you were favorable | to your land;* you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your | people;* you covered | all their sin.

Cantor: You withdrew | all your wrath;* you turned from your hot | anger.

Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,* and put away your indignation | toward us!

Cantor: Will you be angry with us for- | ever?* Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?

Will you not revive | us again,* that your people may re- | joice in you?

Cantor: Show us your steadfast love, | O Lord,* and grant us your sal- | vation.

Let me hear what God the | Lord will speak,* for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.

Cantor: Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,* that glory may dwell | in our land.

Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet;* righteousness and peace kiss each | other.

Cantor: Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,* and righteousness looks down | from the sky.

Yes, the Lord will give | what is good,* and our land will yield its | increase.

Cantor: Righteousness will go be- | fore him* and make his foot- | steps a way.

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: Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,* that glory may dwell | in our land.

SECOND LESSON

2 Peter 3:8-14

Waiting for and hastening the day of God.

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish. (NRSV)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God! (*shouted*)

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S124

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor: Prepare the way | of the Lord.* All flesh shall see the salva- | tion of God.

(Luke 3:4, 6)

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptizer, baptizing and preaching.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (NRSV)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ! *(shouted)*

Sit

SERMON

The Incarnate Word: Prepare For Him

Mark 1:1-8

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

Green 36

**On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.**

**We hail you as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward;
Without your grace we waste away Like flow'rs that wither and decay.**

**Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, And make us rise to fall no more;
Oh, let your face upon us shine And fill the world with love divine.**

**All praise to you, eternal Son, Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit, evermore.**

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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

MEAL

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

Comfort, Comfort Now My People
setting by Richard Proulx

Choir

"Comfort, comfort now my people, Tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness Mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim That God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!

Hark! A herald voice is sounding far and near. Calling us to true repentance,
Since the kingdom now is here. Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God alway! Let the valleys rise And the hills bow down to greet him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked, And the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord Now on earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token That God's word is never broken.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
With 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

S130

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. Bless - ed. is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, . . . Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



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

With the bread and cup . . . We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. . . . Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, . . . one God, now and forever.



A - men, 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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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



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.

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You
st. 2 & 5—cantor

Green 23

**O Lord, how shall I meet you, How welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, My hope, my heart's delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly All that may please you best.**

Your Zion strews before you Green boughs and fairest palms;
And I, too, will adore you With joyous songs and psalms.
My heart shall bloom forever For you with praises new
And from your name shall never Withhold the honor due.

**I lay in fetters, groaning; You came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning; You came to honor me.
A glorious crown you give me, A treasure safe on high
That will not fail or leave me As earthly riches fly.**

**Love caused your incarnation; Love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty,
Oh, love beyond all telling, That led you to embrace
In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race.**

Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, Who sit in deepest gloom,
Who mourn your joys departed And tremble at your doom.
Despair not; he is near you, There, standing at the door,
Who best can help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.

**He comes to judge the nations, A terror to his foes,
A light of consolations And blessed hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth your beams so cheering And guide us safely home.**

All Earth Is Hopeful
st. 1—cantor

Blue 629

All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
This, the labor of people who struggle to see
How God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.

**People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
She conceived him, "God with us." our brother, whose birth
Restores hope and courage to children of this earth.**

**Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
New highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!**

**We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
In our world; he is present, in neighbors we see
Our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Green 198

**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.**

**King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of hosts in human vesture, In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.**

**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.**

**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!”**

Stand

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

S E N D I N G

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

Hark, the Glad Sound

Green 35

**Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.**

**He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst, The iron fetters yield.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace To enrich the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Your welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring With your beloved name.**

DISMISSAL

**Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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N E X T S U N D A Y – Third Sunday of Advent (Year B): Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

ACOLYTE----- Bella Wegner
ASSISTING MINISTER ----- Robbie Moffett, Sr.
CANTOR ----- Sarah Jank
EUCCHARISTIC GIFTS -----Mike and Connie Townsend, Sr.
LECTOR -----Max Williams

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

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|---------------------|------|
| Worship Attendance..... | 110 | Bible Class | 33 |
| Communion..... | 83 | Offering | 6049 |
| Sunday School | 25 | Needed Weekly | 4905 |
| Staff..... | 7 | Specials | 964 |

First Time Worshipers Last Sunday - 1

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

TODAY - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR ----- 10:20 A.M.
 SS CHRISTMAS SERVICE REHEARSAL---- 10:30 A.M.
 COOKIE SWAP ----- 11:30 A.M.
 YOUTH GROUP TO BABYSIT ----- 11:30 A.M.
 ADULT INFORMATION CLASS----- 2:00 P.M.
TUESDAY - MT. OLIVE BOOK CLUB ----- 7:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY - CONFIRMATION CLASS----- 6:00 P.M.
 CHANCEL CHOIR ----- 7:45 P.M.
THURSDAY - ALL BOARDS MEETING----- 7:00 P.M.
SUNDAY - WORSHIP-----9:00 A.M.
 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR ----- 10:20 A.M.
 SS CHRISTMAS DRESS REHEARSAL ----- 10:30 A.M.
 SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE ---- 4:00 P.M.
 MESSENGER ARTICLES DUE

ADULT BIBLE CLASS HOUR — During the Christian Education Hour in the Fellowship Hall, Pastor Jank continues with the video-based Bible study - *A Man Named Martin Part 3: The Movement*. Grab a cup of coffee and join us.

CONGRATULATIONS — Brittany Willmore is graduating from University of Nebraska, Omaha on Friday, December 15, with two degrees: a Master of Public Administration and a Master of Social Work. Congratulations, Brittany.

SS CHILDREN'S SERVICE REHEARSALS CONTINUE — Rehearsals for the Sunday School Christmas Service are today at 10:30 A.M. and again next Sunday with a dress rehearsal at 10:30 A.M. on December 17. "The Greatest Gift of All" Sunday School Children's Service is December 17, at 4:00 P.M. Parents, please make every effort to have your children at every practice to learn songs, practice speaking parts, and prepare for the program. All Mount Olive Sunday School children are encouraged to participate in this Christmas tradition!

COOKIE SWAP — Mount Olive is hosting a **Cookie Swap** today, December 10, at 11:30 A.M. To participate, bring three to four dozen cookies, bars, snacks or candies. Be sure to bring a container to take home your Christmas goodies (plan for around three dozen). If you would like to share your recipe, bring it and we will make copies as needed. We will set up in the old preschool area (room next to Luther Hall) and the swap will take place following the Adult Bible Class Hour/Sunday School Class. Each participant will have plenty of delicious treats to serve family and friends during the holidays! Questions? Call **Anne Wegner** at (402) 980-6953.

BABYSITTING — Parents, plan to leave your kids at Mount Olive today from 11:30 to 3:00 p.m. The Youth Group will provide lunch, snacks and activities. A free-will donation is requested. Walk-ins are welcome! Questions? Contact Kristi Townsend at (402) 457-9611.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES — Christmas Eve (Sunday evening) 7:30 P.M., Christmas Day (Monday) 10:00 A.M. Anticipate celebrating the fourth Sunday of Advent, Sunday morning, December 24th, and Epiphany on Sunday, December 31, at the regular worship time of 9:00 a.m. with Sunday School immediately following.

VERY MERRY UNBIRTHDAY CLUB — The monthly *Very Merry Unbirthday* luncheon will be this Wednesday, December 13, at 11:30 a.m. This time, we are trying Greek. We'll meet in the church parking lot and car pool to Greek Isles, 3821 Center (just 15 minutes from church). Please rsvp to Barb Stacy 402-453-7049 or Bonnie White 402-676-7334.

POINSETTIA — Would you like to help decorate the church with a poinsettia this year? The cost is \$10. Use the sheet on the table in the narthex to sign up by December 17. Please indicate whether you would like to leave the poinsettia or take it with you.

THIS ADVENT — Plan to use an Advent wreath in your home with four candles. This will visually assist you in marking the four weeks of Advent waiting that precedes the celebration of Christ's incarnation. An Advent devotional book is available this morning one per family.

MITTEN TREE — New and gently-used hats, scarves, and mittens are being collected on the mitten tree in the narthex.

AUTOMATIC GIVING — *Joyful Response* is a way to make your Sunday morning offerings convenient and consistent through preauthorized withdrawal from your checking account at no extra cost to you. It is safe and secure. Your giving continues even if you are out of town or aren't able to be at a worship service. Pick up a *Joyful Response* brochure from Max Williams or from the Church Office. More members each year are using this plan.

LITTLE FREE PANTRY — We have an ongoing collection for our "Little Free Pantry." This small cabinet with non-perishable food items, paper goods, and other items sits outside of Mount Olive. It is accessible 24 hours per day to anyone. The pantry will be stocked by donations from all of us but can also be stocked by a concerned neighbor. There aren't any applications to fill out or set hours of operation. Please, no glass jars or expired food. You can place your items inside the marked cabinet in the old nursery room right behind the doorway.

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.

December 10
Jacob Markham

December 14
Cindy Wilbanks