



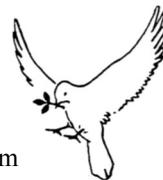
THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

December 31, 2017

WELCOME TO MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH



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



7301 N 28th Ave
Omaha, NE 68112-2816

office: 402.455.8700
email: MountOlv@msn.com
MountOliveOmaha.com

**Welcome to worship, Christian education and fellowship!
Please greet one another in the name of the Prince of Peace.**

Roland A. Jank, Jr.
Pastor

Rachel Misiolek
Organist



THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

December 31, 2017

Christmas lights may be coming down, but the Light of the world still shines for all to see. We receive this light as we celebrate The Epiphany of Our Lord. Today we hear how the mysterious Wise Men from the East are led by the Lord to follow the star of wonder to the everlasting, eternal Light. Jesus shines the brightness of heaven into the darkness of their hearts, and they respond with gifts of honor and praise. Jesus does the same for you today as you receive His Word and share in His body and blood. Dispelling the darkness of sin, He covers you with the light of His presence and invites you, as He did the Wise Men, to respond to Him in honor and praise.

PRE-SERVICE CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

WELCOME

Please fill out the attendance registration sheet.

RINGING OF THE CARILLON

Stand

GATHERING

We Enter God's Presence.

INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *(based on Isaiah 60:1-6)*

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Almighty God, thick darkness covers the whole earth, and the darkness of sin is on us, Your people.

We confess that we have walked in darkness instead of Your light. In our thoughts, words, and actions, we have turned away from Your face and have broken Your commands.

You alone, O Lord, invite all nations to come to Your light. You beckon those who are broken to find wholeness in the brightness of Your rising.

Guide us again to the mercy of our Savior Jesus Christ, that He may dispel the darkness of our sin and renew us in the light of Your presence. Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die 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.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

Green 50

**Angels, from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story; Now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

**Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the infant light.**

**Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations, You have seen his natal star.**

Refrain

**All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One.**

Refrain

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

R I T E O F B A P T I S M F O R C A D E N L E E S E E F U S

People of God, do you promise to support Caden Lee and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

We do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

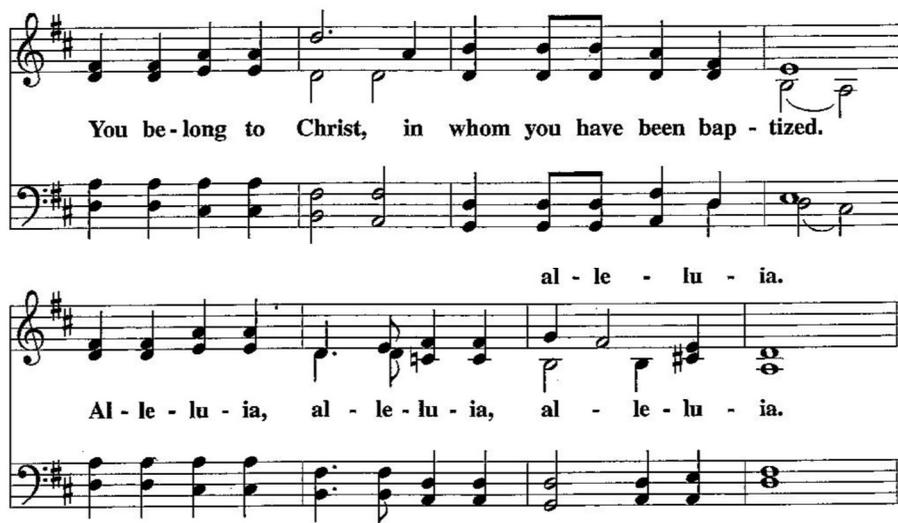
The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

You Belong To Christ
st. 3 - cantor descant



You be-long to Christ, in whom you have been bap-tized.

al - le - lu - ia.

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

Assisting: Through baptism you have been received into the household of God, entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ, and strengthened to serve by the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

B A P T I S M H Y M N

See This Wonder in the Making Tune: Tryggare Kan Ingen Vara (474)

**See this wonder in the making: God Himself this child is taking
As a lamb safe in His keeping, His to be, awake or sleeping.**

**Miracle each time it happens As the door to heaven opens
And the Father beams, "Beloved, Heir of gifts a king would covet!"**

**Far more tender than a mother, Far more caring than a father,
God into Your arms we place him, With Your love and peace embrace him.**

**Here we bring a child of nature; Home we take a newborn creature,
Now God's precious son or daughter, Born again by Word and water.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sit

WORD

We Hear God's Word.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

Nations come to the light of God's presence.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord. *(NRSV)*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God! *(shouted)*

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 3:1-12

The Gospel's promise extends to all.

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant

according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. *(NRSV)*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God! *(shouted)*

Stand

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



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



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



Al - le - lu - ia!

Cantor: We have observed his star at its rising, and have come to | worship him.

(Matt. 2:2)

H O L Y G O S P E L

Matthew 2:1-12

The magi come to worship the Christ Child.

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

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. *(NRSV)*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

S E R M O N

Stand

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

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Green 76

**O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God’s own truth and light,
Aglow with grace and mercy! Of Jacob’s race, King David’s son,
Our Lord and Master, You have won Our hearts to serve You only!
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious, All victorious, Rich in blessing!
Rule and might o’er all possessing!**

Cantor: Come, heav'nly bridegroom, light divine, And deep within our hearts now shine;
There light a flame undying! In your one body let us be
As living branches of a tree, Your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily Earth's deep sadness May perplex us And distress us,
Yet with heav'nly joy you bless us.

**Lord, when you look on us in love, At once there falls from God above
A ray of purest pleasure. Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood,
Refresh our souls with heav'n-ly food. You are our dearest treasure!
Let Your mercy Warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For You teach us
God's own love through You has reached us.**

**Almighty Father, in Your Son You loved us, when not yet begun
Was this old earth's foundation! Your Son has ransomed us in love
To live in Him here and above: This is Your great salvation.
Alleluia! Christ the living, To us giving Life forever,
Keeps us Yours and fails us never!**

Cantor: What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love is first and last,
The end and the beginning! He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place Beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness! We are yearning
For the day of your returning.

**Oh, let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gaily blending! For Christ goes with us all the way —
Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day! His love is never ending!
Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story!
Great is he, the King of glory!**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

. . . Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.
. . . in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.
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

The Kings
arranged by K. Lee Scott

Cantor

OFFERING PRAYER

God with us:

You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.

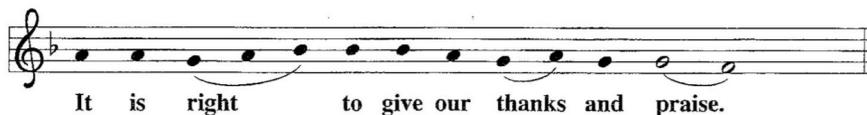
PREFACE

S 144a

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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

SANCTUS

Musical notation for the Sanctus, consisting of four lines. The first line is marked with "S 144b" in the upper right corner. The melody is in a treble clef, one flat key signature, and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san-na. 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." The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across notes.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed, holy, O God, . . . we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Musical notation for the Eucharistic Prayer, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of a series of eighth notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, Bb5, C6, D6, E6, F6, G6. The lyrics "Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain." are written below the notes, with "ris - en" and "a - gain" underlined.

Therefore, O God, . . . to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, . . . with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those . . . almighty Father, now and forever.



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

The bread of God comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.
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



**The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel!

**They look-ed up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.**

Refrain

**And by the light of that same star
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.**

Refrain

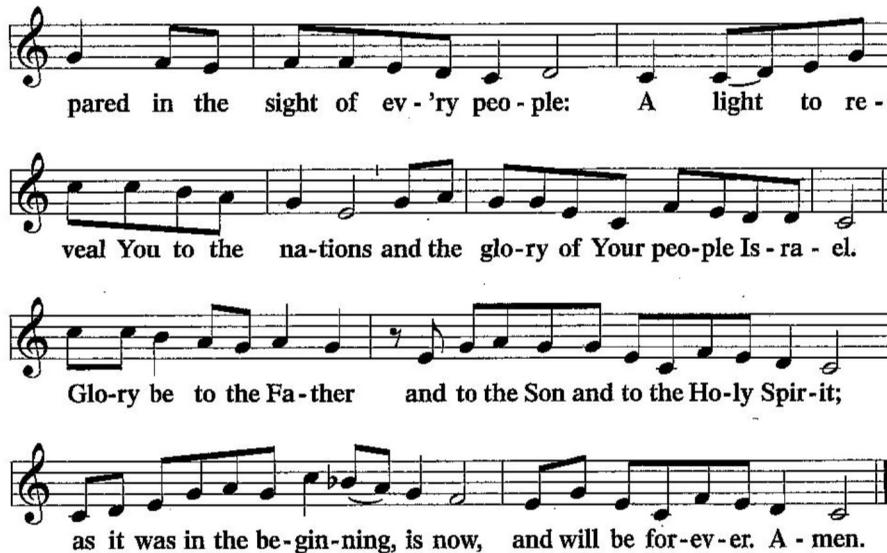
**This star drew near to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.**

Refrain

**Then entered in those Wise Men three,
Full rev'rently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.**

Refrain

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!**



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo-ple: A light to re-
veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is-ra-el.
Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

As With Gladness Men of Old

Green 82

**As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet Ever seek thy mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare At thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.**

**Holy Jesus, ev'ry day Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds thy glory hide.**

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

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NEXT SUNDAY – Baptism of our Lord (Year B): Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29;
Romans 6:1-11; Mark 1:4-11

*** ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP TODAY ***

ACOLYTE----- Bella Wegner
ASSISTING MINISTER ----- Robbie Moffett, Sr.
CANTOR ----- Sarah Jank
EUCCHARISTIC GIFTS ----- Ray Hogan, Cindy Webb
LECTOR ----- Max Williams

*** THIS WEEK AT MOUNT OLIVE ***

TODAY - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR ----- 10:20 A.M.
MONDAY - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED—NEW YEAR'S DAY
WEDNESDAY - *NO CONFIRMATION CLASS*
CHANCEL CHOIR ----- 7:30 P.M.
SUNDAY - WORSHIP-----9:00 A.M.
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR ----- 10:20 A.M.
BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING
TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS- 11:30 A.M.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS HOUR — During the Christian Education Hour in the Fellowship Hall, Pastor Jank will lead us in an open forum which will consist of a question and answer session. Grab a cup of coffee and join us.

HOLY BAPTISM — This morning we welcome into Christ’s family and into our congregation, Caden Seefus, infant son of Mary and Terry Seefus. May he grow up in Christ and glorify God all the days of his life. Steve and Cindy Webb are serving as godparents.

TAKING DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS — Next Sunday, January 7, after the Christian Education Hour.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED — The church secretary is on vacation this week. If Pastor Jank does not answer the phone, please leave a message.

POINSETTIAS — Thank you to those who donated poinsettias this year to decorate the church.

VERY MERRY UNBIRTHDAY CLUB — The monthly Very Merry Unbirthday luncheon will be Wednesday, January 10, at 11:30 a.m. G’day mates! We will travel to the Australian Outback.... Steakhouse, that is. Let’s meet in the church parking lot and car pool to Outback at 7605 Cass Street. Please RSVP to Barb Stacy at 402-453-7049 or Bonnie White at 402-676-7334.

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 2018

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

January 1
Hope Lorang

January 1
Victor Padron

January 4
Ryan Flemmer

January 5
Sara Kowalik