

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 31, 2019

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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MountOliveOmaha.com

Roland A. Jank, Jr.
Pastor

Rachel Misiolek
Organist

LENT FOURTH SUNDAY
IN LENT

March 31, 2019

“Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift; that’s why we call it the present.” This short statement speaks volumes about our new life in Christ. Yesterday is history—in Christ, all our sins have been paid for, forgiven, and cast away as far as the east is from the west. Tomorrow is a mystery—not only do we not know the day or hour of Christ’s glorious return, but we also have no guarantees about what will happen in our lives mere moments from now. Today is a gift—the present time is indeed a gift, a present, from our gracious Father. He mercifully comes running to His prodigal children and embraces us in His arms. His love picks us up and places us into the nail-scarred hands of His Son, Jesus Christ, who puts to death our old lives, which were once lived without Him, and freely gives to us our new lives, which are now fully lived in and through Him.

P R E L U D E

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

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

Stand

G A THERING
We Enter God's Presence.

INVOCATION

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *(Psalm 32:1-2, 5;10b-11)*

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

That we may receive the blessing of Christ's forgiveness, let us draw near to God, confessing the brokenness of our sin and receiving the fullness of our Father's mercy. Together, we pray:

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

I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

In Holy Baptism, almighty God, our merciful Father, has declared you to be His children and has gathered you into His family, the Church, in which He daily and richly forgives all your sins and the sins of all believers. This new life is yours today! 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.

Amen!

Steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

GATHERING HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and a prom-ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our mind,
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je-sus; it is some-thing more than all.

There's a kind-ness in God's dis-cer-ning which is more than we can try,
There is grace for ev-ry one who turns to Him, there is love for all who
seek His face, and His love is broad-er than the mea-sures of our mind,
It is not all we owe to Je-sus; it is some-thing more than all.

There is no sin which earth and sea are more full than up in heav'n,
There is grace enough for them-lands of new worlds as good as this,
His love will be the love we get from Je-sus, and His love is broad-er
than the mea-sures of our mind.

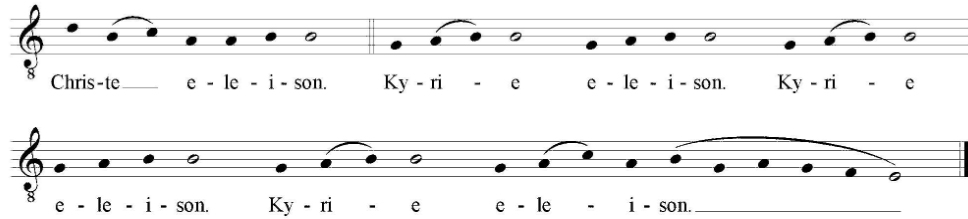
There is no place where men's hearts have such kind-ly judg-ment given,
There is room for ev-ry one's re-joic-ing in that up-per home of bliss,
and we mag-ni-fy its strict-ness with a zeal God will not own,
and our lives will be thank-sgiv-ing for the good-ness of the Lord.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

KYRIE

cantor first time on each set of three

Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky-ri - e
e - le - i - son. Chris-te e - le - i - son. Chris-te e - le - i - son.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sit

W O R D
We Hear God's Word.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 12:1-6

God's people sing to the Lord for all he has done.

You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. *(NRSV)*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God! *(shouted)*

PSALM 32 (antiphon v. 11)



Cantor: Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O | righteous!* and shout for joy, all you up- | right in heart!

Cantor: Blessèd is the one whose transgression is for- | given,* whose sin is | covered.

Blessèd is the man against whom the Lord counts no in- | iquity,* and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.

Cantor: For when I kept silent, my bones wast- | ed away* through my groaning | all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy up- | on me;* my strength was dried up as by the heat of | summer.

Cantor: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my in- | iquity;* I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and you forgave the iniquity | of my sin.

Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you | may be found;* surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not | reach him.

Cantor: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from | trouble;* you surround me with shouts of de- | liverance.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way | you should go;* I will counsel you with my eye up- | on you.

Cantor: Be not like a horse or a mule, without under- | standing,* which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay | near you.

Many are the sorrows of the | wicked,* but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts | in the Lord.

Cantor: Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O | righteous,* and shout for joy, all you up- | right in heart!

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: Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O | righteous!* and shout for joy, all you up- | right in heart!

SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

We are new creations.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. *(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

Fine

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

Verse (cantor or choir) *D.C. al Fine*

Cantor: I will arise and go to my fa- | ther and say,* I have sinned against heaven | and before you. *(Luke 15:18)*

H O L Y G O S P E L

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The two sons of the forgiving father parable.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

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

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe the best one and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’” (NRSV)

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

S E R M O N

How Does This Story End?

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Stand

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

God Loved the World

Tune: St. Crispin

**God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.**

**Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.**

**God would not have the sinner die; His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.**

**Be of good cheer, for God's own Son Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood, Your Baptism grants the highest good.**

**If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer;
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.**

**Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!**

N I C E N E C R E E D

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.

. . . trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
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 money are brought forward, please stand.

MUSIC AT OFFERING

How Can I Keep From Singing
setting by John Leavitt

Choir

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation.
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

Refrain: I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smooths Since first I learned to love it;
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, A fountain ever springing:
All things are mine since I am his How can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die the Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round songs in the night he giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to the rock I'm clinging;
Since Christ is Lord of heav'n and earth how can I keep from singing? Refrain

OFFERING PRAYER

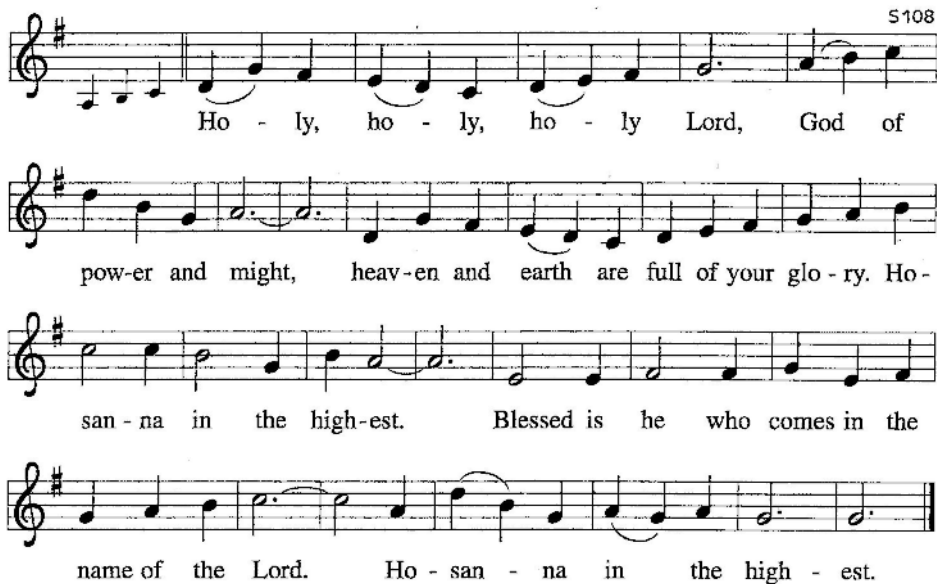
Merciful God,
receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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, . . . we praise your name, and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

5108



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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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 table where you are welcomed home.
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

S 112

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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The music is a simple, melodic line. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff continues the melody and lyrics. The fourth staff concludes the melody and lyrics with a double bar line.

As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered

st. 1—cantor



1 As reb - els, Lord, who fool - ish - ly have wan - dered
2 Still we re - turn, our con - trite words re - hears - ing,
3 A feast of love for us You are pre - par - ing;



Far from Your love— un - fed, un - clean, un - clothed—
Speech, that with - in Your warm em - brace soon dies;
We who were lost, You give an hon - ored place!



Dare we re - call Your wealth so rash - ly squan - dered,
All of our guilt, our shame, our pain re - vers - ing
“Come, eat; come, drink, and be no more de - spair - ing—



Dare hope to glean that boun - ty which we loathed?
As tears of joy and wel - come fill Your eyes.
Here taste a - gain the trea - sures of My grace.”

Amazing Grace

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.**

**Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame,
As, distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.**

**And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
Behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring,
In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.**

**O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored,
Compassionate, forgiving and ever-caring Lord,
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.**

Stand

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

S E N D I N G

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

Oh, for A Thousand Tongues to Sing

Green 559

**Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of his grace!**

**My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad The honors of your name.**

**The name of Jesus charms our fears And bids our sorrows cease,
Sings music in all the sinner's ears, Brings life and health and peace.**

**He breaks the pow’r of canceled sin; He sets the pris’ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood avails for me.**

**To God all glory, praise, and love Be now and ever giv’n
By saints below and saints above, The Church in earth and heav’n.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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**NEXT SUNDAY – Fifth Sunday in Lent (Year C): Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126;
Philippians 3:(4b-7) 8-14; Luke 20:9-20**

*** ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP TODAY ***

ACOLYTE-----Albert Hogue
ASSISTING MINISTER----- Mikale Townsend, Jr.
CANTORS----- Melissa Lorang, Dan Schreiber
EUCCHARISTIC GIFTS----- Kathy Mansfield, Barb Stacy
LECTOR----- Dixie Gerhart

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

Worship Attendance.....	94	Bible Class	31
Communion.....	72	Offering	3400
Sunday School	19	Needed Weekly	5300
Staff.....	7	Specials	32
First Time Worshipers Last Sunday - 1		Lent Midweek #3 —33	

*** THIS WEEK AT MOUNT OLIVE ***

TODAY	-	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR-----	10:20 A.M.
TUESDAY	-	WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY-----	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	-	CONFIRMATION CLASS-----	6:00 P.M.
		MEN’S BIBLE STUDY-----	6:00 P.M.
		CHANCEL CHOIR-----	7:45 P.M.
THURSDAY	-	LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP-----	7:00 P.M.
SATURDAY	-	FINAL FIRST COMMUNION CLASS-----	4:00 P.M.
SUNDAY	-	WORSHIP-----	9:00 A.M.
		CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR-----	10:20 A.M.
		BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING	

ADULT BIBLE CLASS — During the Christian Education Hour Pastor Jank will lead the class that meets in the Fellowship Hall in the fifth session of a Lenten Bible Study on the “Sermon on the Mount.” This week’s theme is “Judge Not.” A second Bible class, “Present Over Perfect,” for parents with children in the nursery is being led by Melissa Lorang in the nursery room, the northwest corner room upstairs. Grab a cup of coffee and join in.

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE — Join us for the *Sermon on the Mount* special service this week 4 of Lent on Thursday, April 4, at 7:00 P.M. In this service we recognize that we live in a very judgmental world, so Jesus’ advice not to judge sounds radical to our modern ears. When we leave all judgment up to God, we free ourselves to look at one another through fresh and forgiving eyes.

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY — The Women’s Bible Study group has enjoyed studying Liz Curtis Higgs’ “Bad Girls of the Bible” and “Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible.” We decided that we would finish Liz’s trio of books and begin “Really Bad Girls of the Bible” on Tuesday, April 2. Who exactly are the “Really Bad Girls” of the Bible? Please join us on Tuesday and find out! We are skipping Tuesday, April 16 because it is Holy Week. Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 7. We generally start at 6:00 p.m. and try to wrap things up by 7:30 p.m. If you’ve been wanting to check the Women’s Bible Study out...this is a great opportunity. No worries if you cannot slide in right at 6:00...we usually start off with a connect question. Each lesson stands on its own, so if you miss a night...you’re still okay. If you want more information regarding the study, please do not hesitate to contact me...**Dixie Gerhart** 402-602-3252 (day number) and 402-453-6707 (night number).

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT — Save the date for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 14, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. to be held at Mount Olive. There will be a bounce house, egg hunt, skit and gifts. This is an excellent opportunity to invite families to get to know our church family! Please talk to Tim Lorang about volunteering.

VERY MERRY UNBIRTHDAY CLUB — The monthly *Very Merry Unbirthday* luncheon will be on Wed., April 10. We are eating at the Rustic Inn, 116 South 14 Street, Ft. Calhoun (just 10 miles north on Hwy 75). Let’s meet in the church parking lot at 11:30 a.m. and carpool. Please RSVP to Barb Stacy at 402-453-7049 or Bonnie White at 402-676-7334.

EASTER LILIES — Sign up by April 14 to donate a lily that will decorate the chancel for Easter. The cost is \$10. You can either take the lily home with you after Easter Day services or donate the lily. The sign up sheet is available in the narthex on the back table.

THE GREAT THREE DAYS — We will have worship opportunities on Holy (Maundy) Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday evenings (April 18-20). 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.

LENTEN ALMS — As part of your Lenten discipline, we encourage individuals and families to fast one meal each week during Lent. Bring the money you would have spent for that meal and put it into a special envelope that is available inside the Sunday bulletin during Lent. Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Lutheran World Relief and Concordia University, Seward, will receive the Lenten alms.

YOUTH GROUP EASTER BREAKFAST — Don't miss breakfast on Easter morning, April 21, beginning at 7:45 a.m. The Youth Group is hosting this fundraiser for youth activities here at Mount Olive. The suggested cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children under 12, and \$15 for families. Easter breakfast dates/times: Youth Group Easter Breakfast set up, Saturday, April 20, 9:30 a.m.; Youth Group to report to church for food prep, Sunday, April 21, 7:00 a.m.

WORK DAY — Thank you to those who joined us Saturday, March 23rd. So much was accomplished—we filled the dumpster and had a lot of fun and fellowship while doing it! Thanks to Amber, Abie, Stephanie and Alexis Brown, Galen Behr, Dixie Gerhart, Ron and Annette Hurt, Tim, Noah and Sam Lorang, Judy Rath, Rich Wismont and Jerry Zulfer. Special thanks to Jim Sorensen who not only spent the morning working with us but also provided juice and doughnuts. —The Board of Church Properties, Jill Clausen, Roger Perrigo

Praying for Our Parish in 2019

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

April 1

Lois Lenz
Janet Zulfer

April 2

Beth Anderson
Ruth Benish

April 2

Nancy Jacobson
Sarah Callahan

April 6

Susan Worrall