



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29, 2020

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

**“Stir up your might, and come to save us!” prayed the psalmist (Psalm 80:2, NRSV).
Welcome to worship in Advent, as we await our Savior.**

The Rev. Dr. William G. Moorhead
Vacancy Pastor

Rachel Misiolek
Organist



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Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear up the heavens and come.

Because of the increase in COVID-19 cases all congregational singing has been removed from our worship. To reduce particle transmission please stay seated throughout the service and maintain a minimum six foot distance from others.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

RING IN THE NEW YEAR

GATHERING

We Enter God's Presence.

INVOCATION

OPENING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

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.

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,
we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin, renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free— free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, † comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

W O R D

We Hear God's Word.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 64:1-9

Prayer that God would come with power and compassion.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people. *(NRSV)*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God! *(shouted)*

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gifts of grace sustain us who wait for the end.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *(NRSV)*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God! *(shouted)*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(spoken)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Lay Minister: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.
(Psalm 85:7)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

H O L Y G O S P E L

Mark 13:24-37

The sudden coming of the Son of Man.

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

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

[Jesus said:] “But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.” (*NRSV*)

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

S E R M O N

Make Your Name Known

Text: Isaiah 64:1-9

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.

P R A Y E R O F T H E C H U R C H

Let us pray for . . . Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, Father, . . . One God, now and forever.

Amen

M E A L

We Celebrate the Lord's Supper.

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

Gracious and loving God . . . through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

P R E F A C E

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, . . . we praise your name, and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS *(spoken)*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, . . . the mystery of faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
With this bread and cup . . . hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus
Holy God, we long for your Spirit, . . . the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.
All praise and glory are yours, . . . one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven: Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here.
Amen.

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.

Please stay masked as you come forward when directed to do so. Avoid kneeling or touching the communion rail. At the Pastor's direction remove the seal and eat the bread, flip the cup, remove the seal and drink the wine. Dispose of cup and seals in containers provided.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Instrumental

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

S E N D I N G
We Go Forth With God’s Blessing To Serve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

When departing the Sanctuary please allow the pews in the back to leave first. Use side aisles as needed to maintain social distancing and avoid congregating in the hallways.

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

To reduce particle transmission please take your bulletins with you.

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NEXT SUNDAY — The Second Sunday of Advent (Year B): Isaiah 40:1-11;
Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

*** ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP TODAY ***

LAY MINISTER ----- Mark Sorensen
LECTOR ----- Max Williams

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT OLIVE

TODAY	WORSHIP ----- 9:00 A.M. HEALTH AND MEDICATION COUNSELING ADULT BIBLE CLASS/ZOOM----- 10:20-11:20 A.M. CONFIRMATION CLASS----- 10:30 A.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY ----- 10:00 A.M. MIDWEEK WORSHIP ----- 6:00 P.M.
SUNDAY	WORSHIP ----- 9:00 A.M. ADULT BIBLE CLASS/ZOOM----- 10:20-11:20 A.M. CONFIRMATION CLASS----- 10:30 A.M.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES — Adult Bible Class and Fellowship will take place today in Luther Hall. Pastor Moorhead will discuss the Gospel. It can also be joined via a Zoom meeting. The link to do that is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3912069426> Meeting ID is 391 206 9426. **Wednesday Morning Bible Study** is offered live in Luther Hall and recorded and available on our YouTube and Facebook sites. **Women’s Bible Study** are currently studying Ruth. **Children’s Sunday School** is currently on hold. For more information on any of these groups please see the monthly newsletter, *The Mount Olive Messenger*.

OVERFLOW SEATING — If our worship space looks too crowded for your comfort, ask an usher or Max Williams to stream the service live for you in Luther Hall.

HOLY COMMUNION — We are now using pre-packaged bread and wine. If you would like to commune without consuming alcohol please speak to an usher or the Lay Minister.

SPECIAL DAYS THIS WEEK — Birthdays: 11/29 Cathy Corcoran, Hope Lorang, 12/5 Nelson Kosch, Madison Webb.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE — As positive cases of COVID-19 rise in the Omaha area we encourage you to worship with us remotely. Sunday Worship will continue but if you have symptoms, are in contact with anyone with symptoms, or are in a high risk category please stay home and follow along on our YouTube channel (see below for more information). We will not sing any part of the service. Wednesday night services will continue. Please do not use the coat racks.

ADVENT CAROLS AND READINGS — The annual Advent Carols and Reading service will be pre-recorded and posted on our YouTube channel on Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 P.M. Due to Coronavirus there will not be an in-person service this year.

LIFELINE SCREENING — Lifeline Screening will be offered on Friday, December 18th at Mount Olive. Pre-registration is required at 1-888-653-6450 or www.lifelinescreening.com. For questions, please contact a member of the Health Ministry board.

PASTORAL CALL LIST — The Call Committee has interviewed three of the four pastors chosen from the list provided to us from the district office. The names and a short biography is printed out and on the table in the narthex. Please take a copy.

YOUTUBE — Sunday services and other videos will be available on the Mount Olive YouTube channel. Subscribe to our channel (Mount Olive Lutheran Church Omaha) on YouTube or by visiting our Facebook page. Our YouTube channel can also be found at <https://www.youtube.com/MountOliveLutheranChurch>.

WINTER WEATHER-In case of inclement weather please check Facebook, our church website, or local news stations to see if normal operations or worship services are affected.

November 29, 2020 (A)

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Praying for Our Parish in 2020

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

November 30
Kristi Townsend

December 3
Rodney Lorang