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**December 27, 2015**

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

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# WELCOME TO MOUNT OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH



7301 North 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Omaha, Nebraska 68112-2816



Sunday Worship .....9:00 A.M.  
Education Hour..... 10:20 A.M.  
Church Office – 455-8700 ..... FAX – 455-8701  
Email: MountOlv@msn.com Website: mountoliveomaha.com

**How worried Mary and Joseph were when they couldn't find Jesus for four days (Luke 2:41-52). How concerned God our Father must be when we wander away from him. Jesus, guide us back into the arms of our loving Parent.**

Roland A. Jank, Jr.  
Pastor

Rachel Misiolek  
Organist

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First Sunday after Christmas

**December 27, 2015**

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On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

**SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

**RINGING OF THE CARILLON**

**Stand**

**GATHERING**  
We Enter God's Presence.

**INVOCATION**

OPENING SENTENCES (*Luke 2:29-32, adapted; Psalm 139:23*)

Lord, let my eyes see Your salvation,  
**that You have prepared in the presence of all people,**  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
**and for glory to Your people Israel.**  
Search me, O God, and know my heart!  
**Try me and know my thoughts!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

We come before God, who has searched us and knows our hearts and minds, to confess our sins to God our Father.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved You with our whole heart;  
**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

With repentant hearts, help us to reject our sinful nature and put on the new self.

**Let our eyes see the salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all people.**

Salvation has come! Jesus has been born into the world in fulfillment of the Father's covenant with His people that He would not condemn the world, but save it. I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Let Our Gladness Have No End

Green 57

**Let our gladness have no end, Hallelujah!  
For to earth did Christ descend. Hallelujah!**

**Refrain: On this day God gave us Christ, his Son, to save us:  
Christ, his Son, to save us.**

**See, the loveliest blooming rose, Hallelujah!  
From the branch of Jesse grows. Hallelujah!**

**Refrain**

**Into flesh is made the Word. Hallelujah!  
He, our refuge and our Lord. Hallelujah!**

**Refrain**

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

## HYMN OF PRAISE

Gloria

Blue 640

*first time unison, two times as a canon*

*1) southwest 2) northwest 3) northeast 4) southeast*

Canon 1 2

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!  
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

3 4

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sit

**WORD**

We Hear God's Word.

## FIRST LESSON

**1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26**

The boy Samuel grew in favor with the Lord and the people.

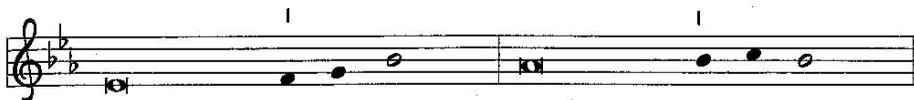
*Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord”; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!** (*shouted*)

**PSALM 148** (*antiphon v. 13*)

Tone 4



Cantor: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is ex- | alted;\* his  
majesty is above earth and | heaven.

Cantor: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the | heavens;\* praise him | in the heights!  
**Praise him, all his | angels;\* praise him, | all his hosts!**

Cantor: Praise him, | sun and moon,\* praise him, all you | shining stars!

**Praise him, you highest | heavens,\* and you waters above the | heavens!**

Cantor: Let them praise the name | of the Lord!\* For he commanded and they were  
cre- | ated.

**And he established them forever and | ever;\* he gave a decree, and it shall  
not | pass away.**

Cantor: Praise the Lord | from the earth,\* you great sea creatures and | all deeps,  
**fire and hail, | snow and mist,\* stormy wind fulfill- | ing his word!**

Cantor: Mountains and | all hills,\* fruit trees and all | cedars!

**Beasts and all | livestock,\* creeping things and | flying birds!**

Cantor: Kings of the earth and all | peoples,\* princes and all rulers | of the earth!

**Young men and maidens to- | gether,\* old men and | children!**

Cantor: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is ex- | alted; his  
majesty is above earth and | heaven.

**He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for | all his saints,\* for the  
people of Israel who are near to him. | Praise the Lord!**

**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: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is ex- | alted;\* his  
majesty is above earth and | heaven.

## SECOND LESSON

### Colossians 3:12-17

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

*As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!** (*shouted*)

Stand

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

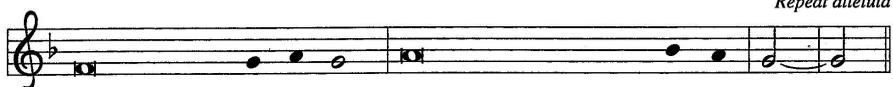
S124



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

*The proper verse may be sung, or all may sing this verse.*

*Repeat alleluia*



al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor: Let the peace of Christ rule | in your hearts,\* and let the word of Christ dwell |  
in you richly. (*Col. 3:15, 16*)

## H O L Y G O S P E L

### **Luke 2:40-52**

The boy Jesus increased in wisdom, and in divine and human favor.



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

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

*The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

## S E R M O N

**Jesus In Junior High**

**Luke 2:40-52**

Stand

## HYMN OF THE DAY

Let All Together Praise Our God

Green 47

**Let all together praise our God Before his glorious throne;  
Today he opens heav'n again To give us his own Son,  
To give us his own Son.**

**The Father sends him from his throne To be an infant small  
And lie here poorly mangered now In this cold, dismal stall,  
In this cold, dismal stall.**

*Left: Within an earthborn form he hides His all creating light;  
To serve us all he humbly cloaks The splendor of his might,  
The splendor of his might.*

*Right: He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our human frame,  
And in return gives us his realm, His glory, and his name,  
His glory, and his name.*

*Left: He is a servant, I a lord: How great a mystery!  
How strong the tender Christchild's love! No truer friend than he,  
No truer friend than he.*

*Right: He is the key, and he the door To blessed Paradise;  
The angels bars the way no more. To God our praises rise,  
To God our praises rise.*

**Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore,  
And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore;  
We praise you 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.**

. . . through Your Son, 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

#### 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 Apple Tree  
*setting by David Ashley White*

Vocal Duet

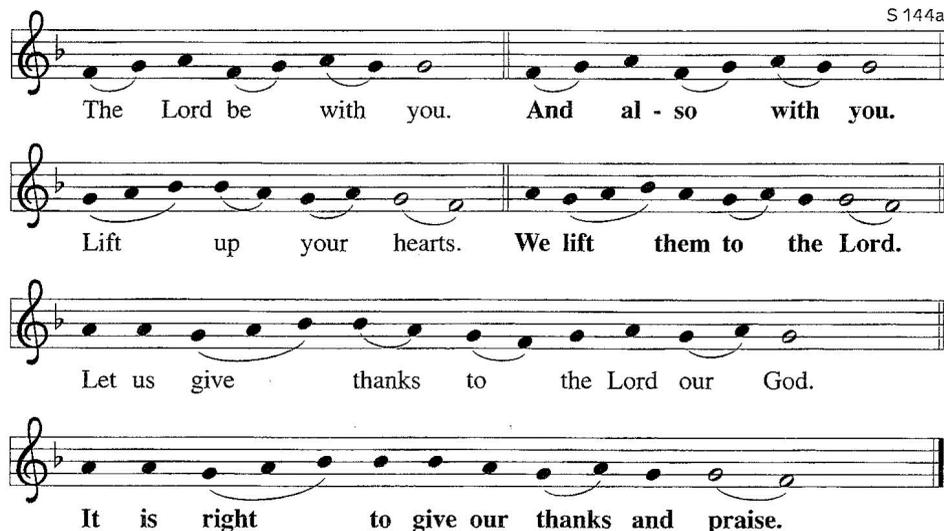
The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:  
The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ, the apple tree.  
His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see, the apple tree.  
For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:  
I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ, the apple tree.  
I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile:  
Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ, the apple tree.  
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Good and loving God,  
**we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 right to give our thanks and praise.

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

## SANCTUS

S 144b

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.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, O God, . . . until he comes.

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

Therefore, O God, . . . 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 . . . 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

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

S 146

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.

In A Lonely Manger Born  
*st. 1 - cantor*

Green 417

Our Father, by Whose Name

Green 357

Once in Royal David's City  
*st. 1 - cantor*

Blue 643

Stand

## COMMUNION BLESSING

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Song of Simeon



**C** Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre-



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**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**

Cold December Flies Away

Green 53

**Cold December flies away At the rose-red splendor.  
April's crowing glory breaks While the whole world wonders  
At the holy unseen pow'r Of the tree which bears the flow'r.  
On the blessed tree Blooms the reddest flow'r. On the tree blooms the rose  
Here in love's own garden, Full and strong in glory.**

**In the hopeless time of sin Shadows deep had fallen.  
All the world lay under death. Eyes were closed in sleeping.  
But, when all seemed lost in night, Came the sun whose golden light  
Brings unending joy, Brings the endless joy, Of our hope, highest hope,  
Of our hope's bright dawning, Son beloved of heaven.**

**Now the bud has come to bloom, And the world awakens.  
In the lily's purest flow'r Dwells a wondrous fragrance.  
And it spreads to all the earth From the moment of its birth;  
And its beauty lives. In the flow'r it lives, In the flow'r, and it spreads  
In its heav'nly brightness Sweet perfume delightful.**

**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** — The Epiphany of Our Lord (Year C): Isaiah 60:1-6;  
Psalm 72:1-11 (12-15); Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

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

**ACOLYTE** ----- Kailyn Townsend  
**ASSISTING MINISTER** ----- Robbie Moffett, Sr.  
**CANTOR** ----- Melissa Lorang  
**EUCCHARISTIC GIFTS** ----- Marge Eastman, Nancy Stierle  
**LECTOR** ----- Dixie Gerhart  
**VOCAL DUET** ----- Sarah Jank, Gloria Sorensen

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

Worship Attendance.....	136	Bible Class .....	37
Communion .....	98	Offering.....	4950
Sunday School .....	24	Needed Weekly .....	4824
Staff.....	10	Specials .....	458

First Time Worshippers Last Sunday - 5                      Children’s Christmas Service - 93

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

**TODAY**                      **WORSHIP** ----- 9:00 A.M.  
   **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR**----- 10:20 A.M.

**FRIDAY**                      - **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

**SUNDAY**                      **WORSHIP**----- 9:00 A.M.  
   **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HOUR**----- 10:20 A.M.  
   **BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS**  
   **TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**

**ADULT BIBLE CLASS** — During the Christian Education Hour, Pastor Jank will lead the Adult Bible Class in the Fellowship Hall. It will be an Open Forum this week and next. High School graduates through 30-somethings meet in the library during the Christian Education Hour for Bible study. Pick up a cup of coffee and join in.

**December 27, 2015 (C)**

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**GIFT IDEA/SAVE THE DATE** — Treat yourself and the ones you love to a Sweet Life! Dessert Comedy Theatre on Friday, January 22, at Florence City Hall. You'll enjoy a fun evening of clean, family-friendly comedy and music while indulging in a beautiful array of scrumptious desserts. It's a sweet treat your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family will love! Tickets will be available in the narthex after services and by asking Tim Lorang or Laura Hogan. Remember, they are only \$15 in advance. What a great Christmas gift!

**JANITORIAL VACANCY** — If you are interested in providing janitorial services to the church, please email Kelly Wegner at [Kwegner310@gmail.com](mailto:Kwegner310@gmail.com). You will be provided with an outline of the position's requirements and expectations for your review. Inquiries will be accepted until January 15, 2016. Submissions received past that date will not be considered. After January 15, 2016, the Board of Church Properties will evaluate the entries.

**LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES** — Beginning as orphanages in Omaha and Fremont in 1892, Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska—a faith-based, not-for-profit, multi-service human care organization—provides a multiplicity of services (children, behavioral health and refugee and immigration services) impacting 35,000+ people annually from 27 locations throughout Nebraska, and in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Wichita, Kansas. An envelope is enclosed in today's bulletin for you to support this human-care ministry of which we are a part.

**2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES** — You can pick up your box of offering envelopes for 2016 on the back table. Please do not use them until 2016.

**POINSETTIAS** — Thank you to all who donated a poinsettia to decorate the chancel for Christmas.

**VBS DATES** — Mark your calendars for this summer's Vacation Bible School, Monday, July 18, through Friday, July 22.

**DIAPER DRIVE** — Help COSMO/LWML celebrate the birth of Mary's baby boy Jesus by providing much needed diapers for Project Hope. They are always in need of diapers (size newborn to adult), but especially at this time of year when budgets get tight. We will be collecting diapers through today in the back of the church or you may make a monetary donation by marking it "Diaper Drive" and placing it in the offering plate.

**TEDDY BEAR COLLECTION** — Please join the Mount Olive Sunday School in helping collect teddy bears to donate to local charities. Please bring your new or gently used teddy bears to Mount Olive and add them to our teddy bear tree in the back of church.

**Praying for Our Parish in 2015**

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

December 29  
Kara Kowalski

January 1  
Elvira Frazer

January 1  
Robert Frazer

January 1  
Victor Padron