



**Mt. Olive Lutheran Church**

**September 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>**

## **Welcome to Mt. Olive**

From all of us at Mt. Olive, welcome to worship. We are so glad that you have joined us today.

### **A Few Notes Before Worship**

- Restrooms are located in the entryway
- We love having children in worship! We realize that can sometimes be challenging. If your child becomes restless, the fellowship hall or the library (across from the restrooms) are great places to regroup.
- Baby changing stations are located in every restroom
- You are our guest. If there is something else we can help you with, please let an usher know. They will be happy to assist.
- Finally, you'll find everything you need for worship printed in this worship folder or as noted in the blue hymnal located in your pew.

### **Assistive Listening System Available**

Our assistive listening system is available with the use of the free app, Listen EVERYWHERE (available for both Android and Apple devices). If you are interested in using Mt. Olive's assistive listening system, please pick up an informational card on the table in the entryway or ask an usher for assistance.

### **A Story Of Perplexing Generosity**

Give a single bag of M&Ms to two four-year-olds and tell them to share. You will witness counting done with accountant-like precision. Each child will get an equal amount of candy because that is fair. Human beings have an incredibly strong sense of fairness. That is why it can be so perplexing when we see how God dispenses blessing and grace. We see people who mock God who are more prosperous than believers. We see people who convert on their deathbed, and Scripture tells us they obtain the same salvation as someone who has been Christian all his life. How is that fair?

Through a simple story, Jesus teaches us a profound truth. We need to stop expecting God to be fair. God is not fair. He does not give us what we deserve, and that's called mercy. In fact, he gives us what we don't deserve, and that's called grace. No, God is not fair. He is breathtakingly generous.

### **A Prayer Before Worship**

Dear Lord, I thank you for giving me this opportunity today to gather together with fellow believers to join in worship and praise. May my worship and meditation this day be pleasing in Your sight and be deserving of Your honor. Amen.

# Hymn

## 538 Jesus, My Great High Priest



1 Je - sus, my great High Priest, of - fered his blood and  
2 To Christ, my sub - sti - tute, will I com - mit my  
3 My ad - vo - cate ap - pears for my de - fense on  
4 Should all the hosts of death and pow'rs of hell un -

died; my guilt - y con - science seeks no sac - ri -  
cause; he an - swers and ful - fills his Fa - ther's  
high; a gra - cious Fa - ther hears and lays his  
known put their most dread - ful forms of rage and

face be - side. His pow'r - ful blood did once a -  
bro - ken laws. Be - hold my soul at free - dom  
thun - der by. Not all that hell or sin can  
mis - chief on, I shall be safe, for Christ dis -

tone, and now it pleads be - fore the throne.  
set - my Je - sus paid the dread - ful debt!  
say shall turn his heart, his love, a - way.  
plays su - pe - rior pow'r and guard - ian grace.

*Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.*

*Tune: Roger R. Ross, 1817–1899*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

### Stand

## Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

## Absolution

CW 154

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**



## **Lord, Have Mercy**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Amen.**

# Glory Be to God

558 *Salvation unto Us Has Come* sts. 1–5



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come by God's free grace and  
2 What God did in his law de - mand and none to him could  
3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream that God his law had  
4 From sin our flesh could not ab - stain, sin held its sway un -  
5 Yet as the law must be ful - filled or we must die de -



fa - vor; good works can - not a - vert our doom, they help and  
ren - der caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand for man, the  
giv - en that sin - ners could them-selves re-deem and by their  
ceas - ing; the task was use - less and in vain, our guilt was  
spair - ing, Christ came and has God's an - ger stilled, our hu - man



save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, who  
vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those pure de - sires the  
works gain heav - en. The law is but a mir - ror bright to  
e'er in - creas - ing. None can re-move sin's poi-soned dart or  
na - ture shar - ing. He has for us the law o - beyed and



did for all the world a - tone; he is our one Re - deem - er.  
spir - it of the law re - quires, and lost is our con - di - tion.  
bring the in - bred sin to light that lurks with - in our na - ture.  
pu - ri - fy our wick - ed heart, so deep is our cor - rup - tion.  
thus the Fa - ther's ven - ge - ance stayed which o - ver us im - pend - ed.

*Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Paul Speratus, 1484–1551, abr., alt.*

*Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, Wittenberg, 1524*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

# The Word

## Salutation

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and promise to reward us according to your grace. Help us to rid our minds of worldly expectations and rejoice that you freely pour out the blessings of salvation to all people; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*



## First Reading

*Jonah 3:10—4:11*

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

<sup>1</sup>But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD, “Isn’t this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. <sup>3</sup>Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

<sup>4</sup>But the LORD replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

<sup>5</sup>Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. <sup>7</sup>But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.”

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

“It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

<sup>10</sup>But the LORD said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. <sup>11</sup>And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

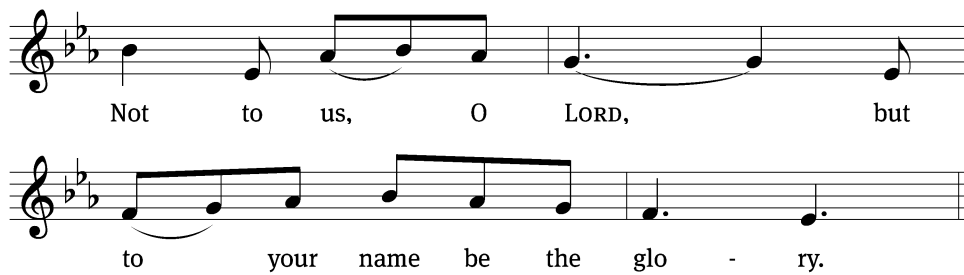
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Psalm of the Day

Psalm 115

## Refrain



Not to us, O LORD, but  
to your name be the glo - ry.

## Tone



Why do the nations say, “Where / is their God?”

Our God is in heaven; he does whatever / pleases him.

The LORD remembers us and will / bless us:

He will bless his people / Israel,

he will bless those who / fear the LORD—

small and / great alike. *Refrain*

All you Israelites, trust / in the LORD—

he is their / help and shield.

House of Aaron, trust / in the LORD—

he is their / help and shield.

You who fear him, trust / in the LORD—

he is their / help and shield.

**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. *Refrain***

*Tune: Michael D. Schultz*

*Setting: Michael D. Schultz*

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## Second Reading

*Romans 9:6–16*

<sup>6</sup>It is not as though God’s word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. <sup>7</sup>Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children. On the contrary, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” <sup>8</sup>In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring. <sup>9</sup>For this was how the promise was stated: “At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son.”

<sup>10</sup>Not only that, but Rebekah’s children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. <sup>11</sup>Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God’s purpose in election might stand: <sup>12</sup>not by works but by him who calls—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” <sup>13</sup>Just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

<sup>14</sup>What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! <sup>15</sup>For he says to Moses,

“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,  
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

<sup>16</sup>It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The children may come forward during verse 8 for the children's devotion*

## Hymn of the Day

558 *Salvation unto Us Has Come* sts. 6–10



6 Since Christ has full a - tone-ment made and brought to us sal -  
7 Let me not doubt, but tru - ly see your Word can - not be  
8 The law re - veals the guilt of sin and makes us con - science -  
9 Faith clings to Je - sus' cross a - lone and rests in him un -  
10 All bless - ing, hon - or, thanks, and praise to Fa - ther, Son, and



va - tion, each Chris - tian there - fore may be glad and build on  
bro - ken; your call rings out, "Come un - to me!" No false - hood  
strick - en; but then the gos - pel en - ters in the sin - ful  
ceas - ing; and by its fruits true faith is known, with love and  
Spir - it, the God who saved us by his grace; all glo - ry



this foun - da - tion. Your grace a - lone, dear Lord, I plead, your  
have you spo - ken. Bap - tized in - to your pre - cious name, my  
soul to quick - en. Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live; the  
hope in - creas - ing. For faith a - lone can jus - ti - fy; works  
to his mer - it! O tri - une God in heav'n a - bove, you



death is now my life in - deed, for you have paid my ran - som.  
faith can - not be put to shame, and I shall nev - er per - ish.  
law no peace can ev - er give, no com - fort and no bless - ing.  
serve our neigh - bor and sup - ply the proof that faith is liv - ing.  
have re - vealed your sav - ing love; your bless - ed name be hal - lowed!

*Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Paul Speratus, 1484–1551, abr., alt.*

*Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, Wittenberg, 1524*

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# God's Word In Our Lives

## Tell Us A Story ...Of Perplexing Generosity

*Matthew 20:1-16*

<sup>1</sup>“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

<sup>3</sup>“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup>He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ <sup>5</sup>So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup>About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

<sup>7</sup>“ ‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

<sup>8</sup>“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

<sup>9</sup>“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup>When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

<sup>12</sup>“These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

<sup>13</sup>“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? <sup>14</sup>Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup>Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

<sup>16</sup>“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

*Stand*

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated*

# Welcome!

## Worship Registers

*We're so glad you could join us for worship today and would love to have a record of your visit!*

*Any information you'd be willing to share would be greatly appreciated!*

*Use the QR Code below for an online worship register*



## Prayer of the Church

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

**Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.**

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

**Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.**

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

**Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.**

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

**Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.**

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

**Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.**

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. [Pour out your special blessing on . . . *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

**Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.**



Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

**In Jesus' name we pray. 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.

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

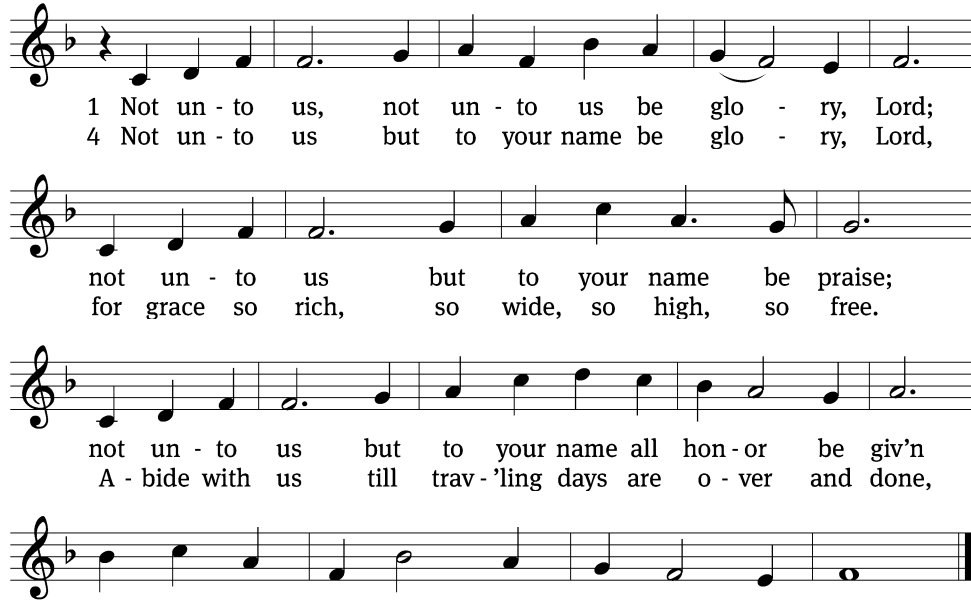
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

# Hymn

582 *Not unto Us* sts. 1, 4



1 Not un - to us, not un - to us be glo - ry, Lord;  
4 Not un - to us but to your name be glo - ry, Lord,  
not un - to us but to your name be praise;  
for grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.  
not un - to us but to your name all hon - or be giv'n  
A - bide with us till trav - 'ling days are o - ver and done,  
for match - less mer - cy, for - give - ness, and grace.  
and pil - grim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.

*Text: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993, alt.*

*Tune: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993*

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