

**How to Get Ready for Christmas –
Should be: Hear God’s Word of Comfort**

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

Thursday, November 30th

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.

How to Get Ready for Christmas - Step 1. Hear God's words of comfort!

To the heart of the guilty God speaks words of comfort! God prepares. God lifts up. God levels and makes smooth. The glory of the LORD will appear and you and I will see it! Our lives here are temporary, but the Word of our God will endure forever! Cling to this Word, and you too will endure forever!

A Prayer Before Worship

Dear LORD, thank you for the comfort you have provided to us, your people. You prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son with your powerful Word. You humble sinners like us, but then pardon our every iniquity. Be with us as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of your Son's birth. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Remain seated

The Lord Al - might - y grant us a qui - et
night and peace at the last.
A - men.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praise to your name, **O Most High,**
to her - ald your love in the morn - ing,
your truth at the close of day.

Tune: Dale A. Witte

Tune: © 2002 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734541

Hymn

312 *Comfort, Comfort All My People*



1 "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; speak of peace," so
2 All their sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each
3 John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert
4 Then make straight the crook - ed high - way; make the rough - er



says our God. "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, groan - ing
dark mis - deed; all that well de - served his an - ger he no
far and near, call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance for the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, read - y



from their sor - rows' load. Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. They have suf - fered man - y a day;
king - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
for his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



of the peace that waits for them; tell them that their
now their griefs have passed a - way. God will change their
Now pre - pare for God a way; let the val - leys
now o'er earth is spread a - broad, and all flesh shall



sins I cov - er, that their war - fare now is o - ver."
ach - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain

Confession

CW 226

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for personal reflection

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
in our thoughts,
in our words,
in our deeds,
and in all that we have not done.
Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Deliver and restore us,
that we may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ,
and in him we are forgiven.

Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun,
when we shall serve him in newness of life.

Amen.

Silence for reflection may follow.

Psalm

Psalm 103

Refrain



The LORD is kind and mer-cy-ful,
slow to an-ger, and rich in com-pas-sion.

Tone



Praise the LORD, / my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his / holy name—
who forgives / all your sins
and heals all your dis- / eases,
who redeems your life / from the pit
and crowns you with love and com- / passion,
who satisfies your desires / with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the / eagle's. *Refrain*

The LORD is compassionate and / gracious,
slow to anger, abound- / ing in love.
He does not treat us as our / sins deserve
or repay us according to our in- / iquities.
For as high as the heavens are a- / bove the earth,
so great is his love for those who / fear him;
as far as the east is / from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions / from us.

**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***

Text: Lectionary for Mass

Tune: Paul Tate, alt.

Setting: Paul Tate, alt.

Text: © 1969, 1981, 1997 ICEL (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734541

Music: © 2013 GLA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734541

HOW TO GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS

ON HOW MEDITATING ON THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST
GETS OUR HEARTS READY FOR THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Step 1. Hear God's words of comfort!

Reading

Isaiah 40:1–8

¹Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice of one calling:
“In the wilderness prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶A voice says, “Cry out.”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”

“All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

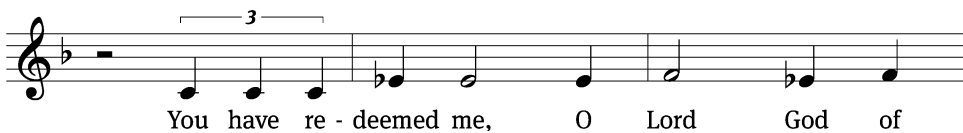
⁷The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The following response is sung



Tune: Dale A. Witte

Tune: © 2002 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734541

A sermon or brief address may follow.

Hymn

874 *Preserve Your Word, O Savior*



1 Pre - serve your Word, O Sav - ior, to us this lat - ter
2 Pre - serve your Word and preach - ing, the truth that makes us
3 Pre - serve in wave and tem - pest your storm-tossed lit - tle



day, and let your king - dom flour - ish; en - large your
whole, the mir - ror of your glo - ry, the pow'r that
flock; as - sailed by wind and weath - er, may it en -



Church, we pray. O keep our faith from fail - ing, keep
saves the soul. Oh, may this liv - ing wa - ter, this
dure each shock. Come take the helm, our pi - lot, and



hope's bright star a - glow; let noth - ing turn us
spring of heav'n - ly grace, sus - tain us while here
set the course a - right; then we will reach the



from you while wan-d'ring here be - low.
liv - ing un - til we see your face.
har - bor in your e - ter - nal light.

Text: tr. William J. Schaefer, 1891–1976, alt.; Andreas Gryphius, 1616–1664, abr.

Tune: Leonhart Schröter, c. 1532–c. 1601

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734541

Tune: Public domain

Prayer

CW 228



Hear my prayer, O Lord;



lis - ten to my cry.



Keep me as the ap - ple of your eye;



hide me in the shad-ow of your wings.



In right - eous - ness I shall see you;



when I a - wake, your pres-ence will give me joy.

Tune: Dale A. Witte

Tune: © 2002 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734541

The congregation joins in the Amen.



Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this / night,* so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world may rest in your eternal / changelessness;



O Lord, support us all day long, till the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is / done.* Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the / last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

O God our Father, by your mercy and might the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light. We place into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will / prosper.* To your great love and protection we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our sure de-/fender; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who watch or work or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who / sleep.* Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, pity the afflicted, soothe the suffering, bless the dying—and all for your love's / sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne, and illuminate this night with your celestial / brightness,* that by night as by day your people may glorify your holy / name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Tune: Dale A. Witte

Tune: © 2002 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734541

Lord's Prayer

CW 230



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your
name, your king - dom come, your will be done on
earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our
dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins, as
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de -
liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the
pow - er, and the glo - ry are yours
now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Tune: Dale A. Witte

Tune: © 2002 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734541

Song of Simeon

CW 231

Guide us wak - ing, O Lord,
and guard us sleep - ing
that a - wake we may watch with Christ
and a - sleep we may rest in peace.
In peace, Lord, in peace you let your ser - vant
now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my
eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which
you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry peo - ple, a
light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the
glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Guide us wak - ing, O Lord,
and guard us sleep - ing

that a - wake we may watch with Christ
 and a - sleep we may rest in peace,
 in peace, in peace.

Tune: Dale A. Witte

Tune: © 2002 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734541

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.

Amen.

Acknowledgments

Prayer at the Close of Day from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version[®], NIV[®]. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.[™] Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.