

**How to Get Ready for Christmas – Trust in the Promise**

**Mt. Olive Lutheran Church**

**Thursday, December 14<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.

### **How to Get Ready for Christmas - Step 3. Trust in the Promise**

The pregnant Elizabeth visits her relative, the pregnant Mary. Even in the womb, Elizabeth's unborn child, John, leaps for joy at the presence of the unborn Jesus. This reading is summed up by the words of Elizabeth, "Blessed is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises." And so, too, are we blessed.

### **A Prayer Before Worship**

Heavenly Father, I thank you for your gift of faith, the trust I have in my heart that you have taken away all my sins for Jesus' sake, that I am forgiven and beloved in your sight, and that I have a sure future guided by your wisdom and strength. As the unborn baby John leaped for joy in his mother's womb, move me in the same joy that comes only by being near you, my Saving God. 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.**

The musical score is written in a single system with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). It consists of six staves of music. The first staff is an instrumental introduction. The second and third staves contain the first line of lyrics. The fourth staff contains the second line of lyrics, including the word 'men.' in bold. The fifth and sixth staves contain the third line of lyrics, including the words 'O Most High,' and 'your truth at the close of day.' in bold. The music features various note values, rests, and phrasing slurs.

*Tune: Dale A. Witte*

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# Hymn

## 304 *What Hope! An Eden Prophesied*



1 What hope! An E - den proph - e - sied where  
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, a  
3 As ban - ner of God's love un - furled, Christ  
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, lost



tame live with the wild, the lamb and li - on  
branch from Da - vid's line, a Prince of Peace in  
came to suf - fer loss, that by his death a  
Par - a - dise re - store; lead past the an - gel's



side by side, led by a lit - tle child!  
Beth - le - hem: the fruit of God's de - sign.  
dy - ing world would ral - ly to the cross.  
flam - ing sword—come, o - pen heav - en's door.

*Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955*

*Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813, ed. John Wyeth*

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*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.

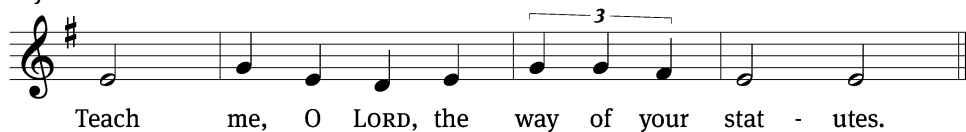
**Amen.**

*Silence for reflection may follow.*

# Psalm

# Psalm 119B

## Refrain



## Tone



Teach me, LORD, the way of / your decrees,  
that I may follow it / to the end.  
Give me understanding, so that I may / keep your law  
and obey it with / all my heart.  
Direct me in the path of / your commands,  
for there I / find delight. *Refrain*

Turn my eyes away from / worthless things;  
preserve my life according / to your word.  
Fulfill your promise to your / servant,  
so that you / may be feared.  
How I long for your / precepts!  
In your righteousness pre- / serve my life.  
**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: Thomas Pavlechko*

*Setting: Thomas Pavlechko*

*Music: © 2004, 2012 Thomas Pavlechko, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 734541*

## Reading

*Luke 1:39–45*

<sup>39</sup>At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup>where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup>In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup>But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# 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 3. Trust in the Promise



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***A sermon or brief address may follow.***



# Hymn

## 954 Blessed Be the God of Israel

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el, who  
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the  
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord, you

comes to set us free and rais - es up new  
cov - e - nant re - call, the oath once sworn to  
will pre - pare the way, to tell God's peo - ple

hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all,  
they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph - ets long de - clared that  
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and  
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine

with a might - y arm God would turn back our  
of - fer lives of praise, in ho - li - ness and  
forth and nev - er cease to drive a - way the

en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
right - eous - ness to serve God all our days.  
gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., b. 1944

Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958, alt.

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# 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*

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*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*

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# 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.

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# 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*

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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

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