

**How to Get Ready for Christmas –
Give the Knowledge of Salvation**

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

Thursday, December 21st

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 4: Give the Knowledge of Salvation

The promised John is born to Elizabeth and Zechariah. Zechariah sings a song, full of joy knowing that a great evangelist has been born, who will "give to his people the knowledge of salvation." There is no greater way to get ready for the Christ-child than giving that same knowledge of the gospel.

A Prayer Before Worship

Heavenly Father, you have given me the knowledge of salvation: Jesus lived, died, and rose for me, taking away all my sins, conquering death, making me his child, and ensuring my eternal future with you. Remind me I have nothing to fear in this world, and so free me to give the greatest gift possible this Christmas season, the knowledge of salvation, that you have saved me from my sins. 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 lyrics 'The Lord Al - might - y grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last.' The fourth staff contains the word 'A - men.' with a long horizontal line above it. The fifth and sixth staves contain the lyrics '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 score uses various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests and slurs.

Tune: Dale A. Witte

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Hymn

317 *When All the World Was Cursed*



1 When all the world was cursed by Mo - ses' con - dem - na - tion,
2 Be - fore Saint John was born, he leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,
3 Be - hold the Lamb of God, who bears the world's trans - gres - sion,
4 O grant, dear Lord of love, that we re - ceive, re - joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came with words of con - so - la - tion.
con - fess - ing him as Lord whose moth - er he was greet - ing.
whose sac - ri - fice re - moves the dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.
the word pro - claimed by John, our true re - pent - ance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal the great - er one he named,
By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, a new E - li - jah bold,
Be - hold the Lamb of God, who takes a - way our sin,
that glad - ly we may walk up - on our Sav - ior's way



and him, as yet un - known, as Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
he tes - ti - fied of him whom proph - ets had fore - told.
who for our peace and joy will full a - tone - ment win.
un - til we live with him in his e - ter - nal day.

Text: tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.; Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711, abr.

Tune: Abasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701

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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 111



1 LORD, I must praise you when I stand in won-der at your
2 Noth - ing but good you give to those who fear you; ev - er
3 You sent your peo - ple long - de - sired sal - va - tion, mak - ing



might - y works and splen - dor. There is no oth - er God, no
near those who re - vere you. To you the hun - gry come for
us a bless - ed na - tion. You are the rock: on you our



one a - bove you, yet so close to those who love you.
dai - ly feed - ing, and the poor for jus - tice plead - ing.
hopes are found - ed; safe we dwell, by love sur - round - ed.



O Lord, have mer - cy! All your works de - clare your maj - es - ty
O Lord, have mer - cy! All your deeds are hon - est and sin - cere;
O Lord, have mer - cy! Make us wise to fol - low in your ways,



in an end - less grand dox - ol - o - gy; e - ven more would I praise
all your vows as true as they ap - pear. Per - fect love, rar - est kind,
and re - ceive our sac - ri - fice of praise. We are yours, yours to use



your com - pas - sion, love, and grace. O Lord, have mer - cy!
all I need in you I find. O Lord, have mer - cy!
for your dream as you may choose. O Lord, have mer - cy!

Text: Jaroslav Vajda

Tune: G. A. Hennig

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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 4: Give the Knowledge of Salvation

⁵⁷When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, ⁶⁰but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

⁶¹They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

⁶²Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. ⁶³He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.”

⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God.

⁶⁵All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

⁶⁷His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

⁶⁸“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹He has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David

⁷⁰(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

⁷¹salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us—

⁷²to show mercy to our ancestors
and to remember his holy covenant,

⁷³the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without fear

⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,

⁷⁷to give his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,

⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven

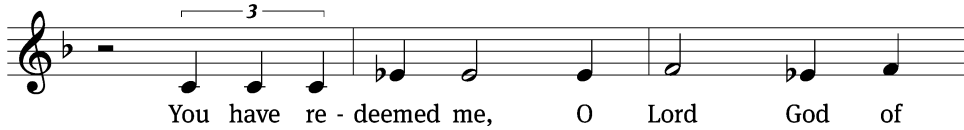
⁷⁹to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

⁸⁰And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Tune: Dale A. Witte

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A sermon or brief address may follow.

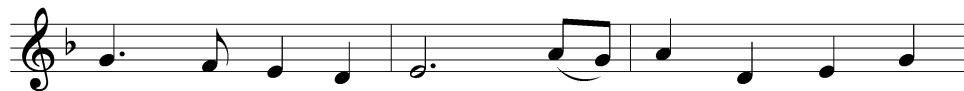
Song of Zechariah



1 Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, who comes in
2 Re - mem - ber - ing the cov - e - nant, God res - cues
3 In ten - der mer - cy God will send the Day - spring



love and pow'r, who rais - es from the roy - al house de -
us from fear, that we might serve in ho - li - ness and
from on high, our ris - ing sun, the light of life for



liv - 'rance in this hour. Through ho - ly proph - ets
peace from year to year; and you, my child, shall
those who sit and sigh. God comes to guide our



God has sworn to free us from a - larm, to save us
go be - fore to preach, to proph - e - sy, that all may
way to peace that death shall reign no more. Sing prais - es



from the heav - y hand of all who wish us harm.
know the ten - der love, the grace of God Most High.
to the Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

Tune: Marty Hangen

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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.

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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.

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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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