



**Mt. Olive Lutheran Church**

**Christmas Eve - December 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.

### **Good News Of Great Joy – A Savior Has Been Born**

“I bring you good news of great joy.... A Savior has been born.” Think of what the angel's statement means. If you believe you are basically a decent person—not perfect, but good enough—you can still enjoy the carols and appreciate the pretty lights. You can still relish giving presents and gathering with family. But you will not have “great joy” this Christmas. For the angel said that the “good news of great joy” was the fact that “a Savior has been born.” One cannot truly celebrate Christmas unless one believes he needs salvation.

Let us then use this night to acknowledge that we aren't good enough people in God's eyes. Sin lives in our hearts and permeates our lives. We need to be saved—from the guilt of that sin, from the power of the devil, and from eternal death. So, Jesus came to do just that—save us. So great was his love for us, he left the throne of heaven, crawled into a manger, and would not stop until he reached the cross. Oh, come let us adore him!

### **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

## 354 O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come\_ ye to Beth - le - hem!  
born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes!  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee\_ be all glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:  
On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:  
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

*Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786*

*Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786, alt.*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

## Invocation

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

**Amen.**

## Confession

CW 188

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 188

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.**

# Hymn

## 350 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness!



peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.



*Refrain*  
Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

*Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.*

*Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

## The Word

### Salutation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## God's Word in Our Lives

### Sermonette

*Isaiah 7:10–14*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

<sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

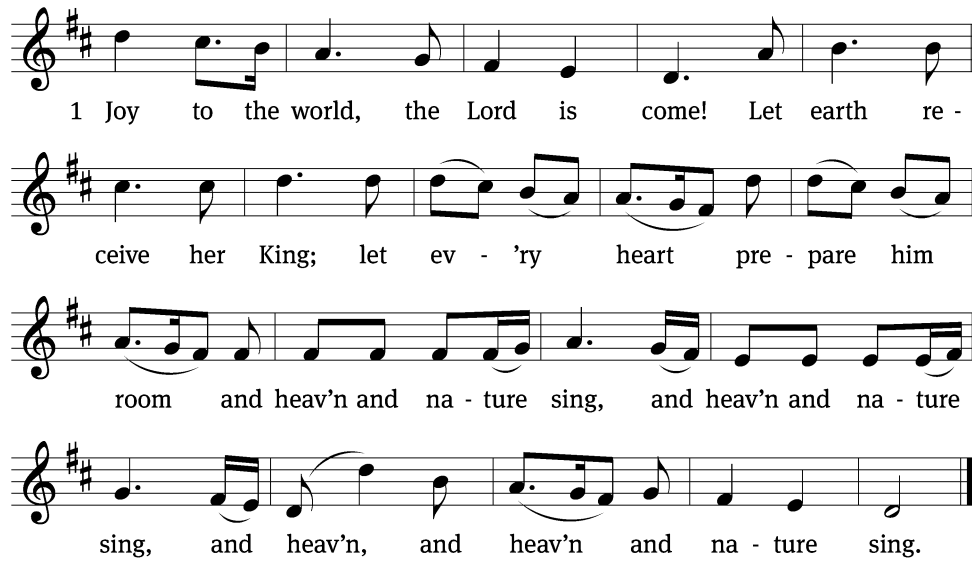
<sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Hymn

353 Joy to the World st. 1



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.

*Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748*

*Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

<sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**



# Hymn

353 *Joy to the World st. 2*

2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

The image shows a musical score for the second stanza of the hymn 'Joy to the World'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a '2' indicating a second ending. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

*Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748*

*Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

## Sermonette

*Titus 3:4–7*

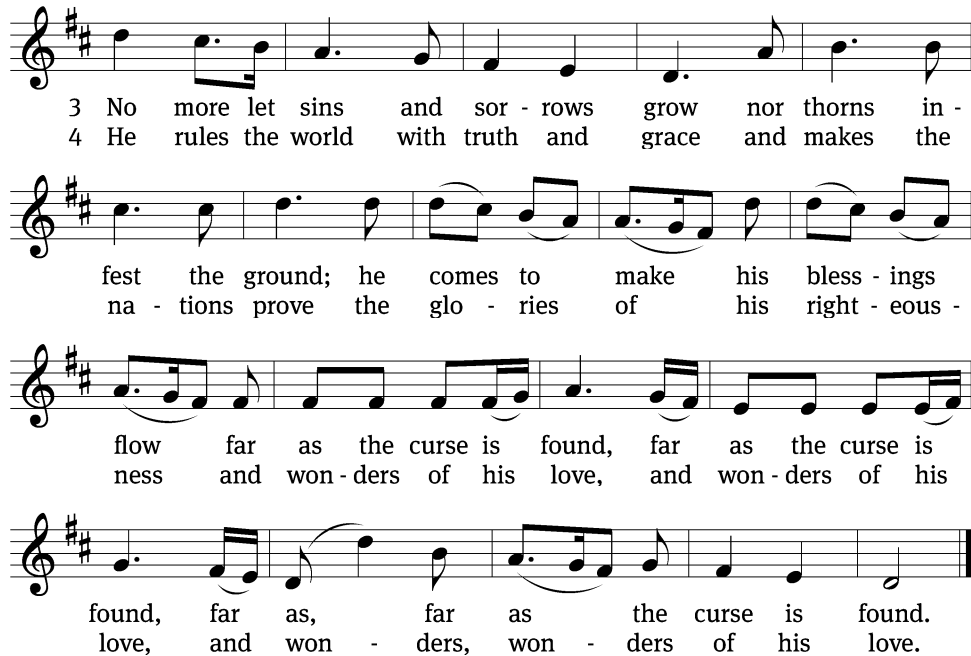
<sup>4</sup>But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

*353 Joy to the World sts. 3–4*



3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

*Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748*

*Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

**Stand**

## Confession of Faith: The Second Article (Redemption)

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.

*What does this mean?*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

*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.*

Gracious Father, when the time had fully come, you sent your Son to carry out your plan to save the world from the tyranny of sin, the threat of death, and the power of Satan. On this holy night, strengthen our faith as we ponder the depth of your divine love.

**Lead us to quiet awe as we remember your gracious compassion.**

Impress on us the poverty and pain your Son endured in our place, how he willingly set aside his power and place and assumed the weakness of an infant and the starkness of a stable. Lead us to acknowledge the sins which compelled his humiliation and the love which accepted his lowliness.

**Forgive us and move us to trust in his mission to save us.**

Take away our fears and fright and fill us with joy as we hear the message that Jesus was born for us and that he came to restore peace with you and mend the bond broken by sin. Move us to sing our carols and hymns not with passing pleasure but with the depth of praise for his extraordinary love.

**Let our songs and hymns reflect our faith in the redemption gained by Christ.**

Lead us to kneel at his manger with hearts of faith and to see there the God-man who takes away the sins of the world. Guide and guard us so that the happiness shared with family and friends does not delay or discourage our journey to his holy crib.

**Make the birth of Christ our highest priority and deepest pleasure.**

Fill us with an eager joy that moves us to share the good news with others, especially those who may have forgotten or dismissed the love of God in Christ. Give us faith-filled maturity to recognize that the best gift we can give to children is the story of Jesus who was born as a baby and died on a cross to save them for heaven.

**Move us to tell the good news we have seen and heard.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

During this hectic holiday, provide us with quiet times to remember what the birth of Jesus really means for us and all people, that he came to free us from the evil forces that separated us from your love, that he lived and died to forgive our sins, and that he rose in triumph to prepare a place where we will live with you forever.

**Move us to sing with hearts of faith, “Glory to God in the highest!” 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.**

*At this time, the ushers will assist in lighting the candles for the candlelight portion of our service. Please do not tip lit candles to avoid spilling wax.*

*Please tip only unlit candles to receive the flame.*

*Thanks!*

## **The Candle Lighting Ceremony**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
**In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.**

Jesus is the Light of the World!

**He is light; in Him there is no darkness at all.**

As we walk in the light we have fellowship with one another, and fellowship with Jesus, our King!  
**The blood of Jesus has purified us from all sin.**

Once we were darkness, but now we are light in the Lord!

**We will walk as children of Light!**

## **Prayer**

O Holy Spirit, as the light of these candles drives away the darkness, so use the good news that Jesus has come to drive sin and doubt out of our hearts. Rule in us with Your grace and Your goodness, that we might be Your grateful servants through all through this life, until that day when we join the angel hosts in singing eternal praises to our King. In Jesus' name we pray.

**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

*337 Silent Night, Holy Night sts. 1–3*



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
heav'n - ly hosts— sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

*Text: tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885; Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848*

*Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863*

*Text and tune: Public domain*

## **Acknowledgments**

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