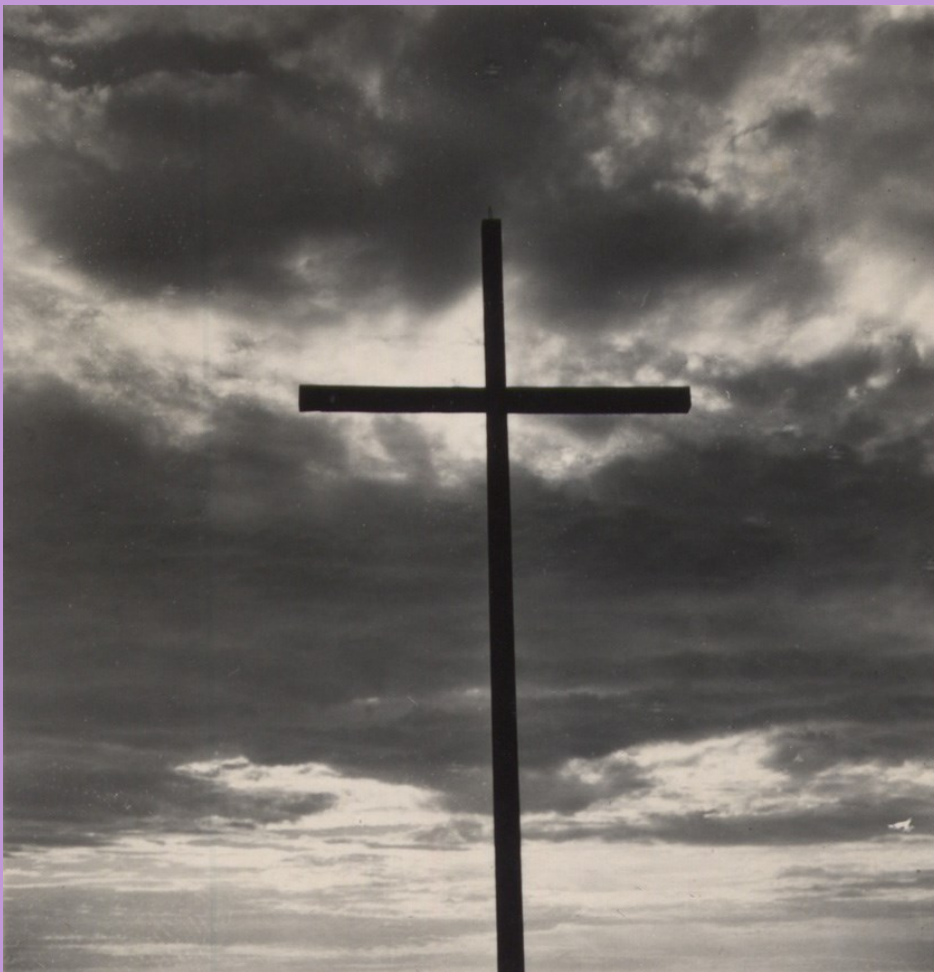


Mount Olive Lutheran Church



First Sunday in Lent
Sunday, February 21, 2021

office@molive.org
www.molive.org
(507) 288-1580



**A Reconciling in
Christ Community**

2830 18th Avenue NW
Rochester, Minnesota 55901



Mount Olive is a welcoming and inclusive congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), serving our neighbors in Rochester, Minnesota.

*Our core identity is lived out in four ways:
Worship, Service, Education, and Fellowship.*

Mount Olive's Welcome Statement:

"We trust that God calls Mount Olive Lutheran Church to a ministry of reconciliation. We embrace as a gift the diversity of our neighborhood and the world, and we extend God's hospitality by welcoming, hearing, and treasuring: All gender identities and sexual orientations, all races and ethnicities, all ages and abilities, all economic statuses and education levels, all faith journeys and personal histories. As Christ welcomes all, we too welcome the full inclusion of all people into the life, ministry, and sacraments of Mount Olive, joining in a journey toward greater love, understanding, and mutual respect."

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

Glorybells

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory." Arr. Sandra Eithun © 2012 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727717. All rights reserved.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

C: Amen

P: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Fountain of living water,

C: pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

P: Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ✠ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

C: Amen



GATHERING HYMN

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

ELW #517

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

First Sunday in Lent

FIRST READING

1 Peter 3:18-22 (NRSV)

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now



saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

L: Word of God, Word of Life,

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25

“To You”

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:9-15 (NRSV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark

C: **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

"Being Brought to God"

Pastor Glenn Monson

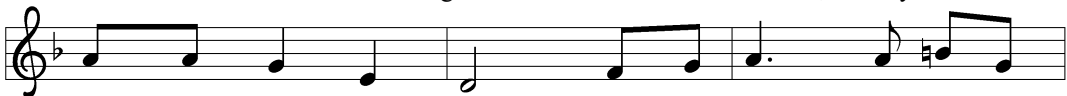
HYMN OF THE DAY

“Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery”

ELW #334



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling
4 From the dawn - ing of cre - at - ion, you have



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and
loved us as your own; stay with us through all temp -



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the
tat - ion, make us turn to you a - lone. make us

rise with ev - 'ry morn.
bod - y of our Lord.
riv - er, you the sea.
turn to you a - lone.

"Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery." Words & music by Marty Haugen © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727717. All rights reserved.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

L: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

L: Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

40 TOGETHER LENTEN VIDEO

Bishop Regina Hassanally,
Southeastern MN Synod

Please share words of God's peace with one another.

MEAL

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

P: Let us pray:

C: **Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.



In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your love and teach us to pray.

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

P: Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

[Share the bread with one another, saying, "The body of Christ, given for you."
Share the wine with one another saying, "The blood of Christ, shed for you."]

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

C: Amen.

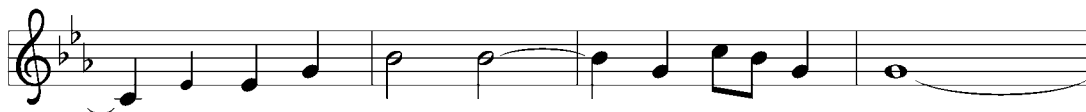
SENDING HYMN

"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"

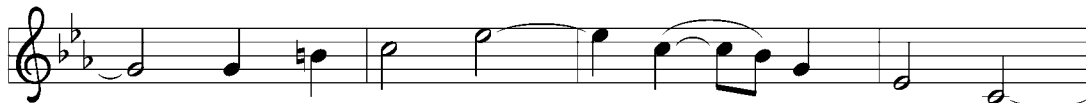
ELW #325



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.



DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Welcome, Worship Guests!

Thank you for joining us in online worship today. You are always welcome. You may also visit our website, www.molive.org, to learn about other ways you can be part of life at Mount Olive in this "exilic" time. Online classes, devotions, and suggestions for support and service are available to you as well. God's peace be yours.



Worship Participants

Preaching	Rev. Dr. Glenn Monson
Presiding Minister	Rev. Luke Hollander
Organist/Pianist	Deacon Travis Beck
Psalmist	Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
Assisting Minister & Lector	Mark Schoer

Congregational prayers for healing and comfort ...

- ♦ Mount Olive members and friends who are ill, grieving, or recovering from surgery.
- ♦ All those feeling the effects of COVID 19, including the sick, homebound, or grieving, those who have lost jobs or been financially impacted, teachers and students.
- ♦ All essential employees working in difficult situations to keep us safe.
- ♦ All homebound members

We pray that God's presence would make itself known to all, and especially to our companions in ministry in Kijota, Tanzania and Bogota, Colombia. Bring hope, faith, and peace to our siblings in Christ, and grant that your presence might be seen in them by all they encounter.

Lenten Midweek Services Are Psalm-centered

The Book of Psalms will be our focus for the Midweek Lenten online services, which will begin on February 24. Each Wednesday, a member of the pastoral/musical team will provide a reflection on the Psalm that is appointed for the following Sunday. In addition, we will be introduced to a new Lenten liturgy written by Olive Branch Cantor, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan. Service links will be shared on Facebook and available each week on Mount Olive's YouTube Channel- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqQHpLrP-lcwjKDOIwIGwdA>. You may click on the "Subscribe" button and set notifications to alert you when the service is available.

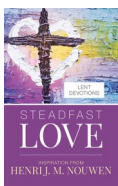


Quilters Meet Thursday Mornings

A limited number of the Mount Olive quilters have resumed meeting weekly in the Fellowship Hall, socially distanced while wearing masks. They meet Thursday mornings at 9:00 am. If you are interested in joining them, please contact Donna Grever at 507-206-4605.

Pastor Glenn's Lenten Bible Study

There is still time to join Pastor Glenn's study of Psalms during the season of Lent. There will be two identical sessions via Zoom each week, Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm and Thursday mornings at 10:30 am. You may attend at either time. The psalms to be studied include laments, praise psalms, instructional psalms, and even an acrostic psalm. We will be using a study guide entitled "Songs of the Faithful", which may be ordered through the office for \$8.00. Guests and friends of members are always welcome. Contact Nancy Britson to order a book and sign up-nancy@molive.org or 288-1580.



Lenten Devotions Available

A Lenten devotion entitled *Steadfast Love* by Henri J. M. Nouwen is available to pick up in the Mount Olive office. Nouwen wrote passionately about the steadfast love of God in a way that has touched the hearts of readers the world over. Pick a booklet up for your daily Lenten reading time or contact the church office if you would like to receive one by mail. If you prefer an online devotion, two options are given on the front page of the Mount Olive website, www.molive.org.

Lenten Offerings to Benefit Global Companions

During the Lenten season this year the Southeastern Minnesota Synod is encouraging all congregations to jump aboard an initiative called **40 Together: 1 Body, 1 Dollar, 40 Days**. This week in worship, we share a video from Bishop Regina Hassanally of the Southeastern MN Synod of the ELCA explaining this initiative. You may also watch the video at this link: <https://youtu.be/VRz2WcOD7W8> Each week, a new video will be shared showing some of the challenges faced by our companions in ministry. Through this project, monies will be raised to support our companions in ministry in Colombia, Tanzania, and the southern border of the U.S. who are suffering greatly because of COVID-19. Food insecurity is common in these places as work has become scarce and the virus has placed enormous strains on already struggling families. During the season of Lent, every person from every congregation in our synod is asked to give one dollar for every day of the Lenten season. If every member of Mount Olive gave at least \$40, our gift would be nearly \$3000. **We can do this!** Make your gifts to Mount Olive, memo: Lenten offering. Thank you.

40 Together
1 Body, 1 Dollar, 40 Days

February Reading Challenge

February is Black History Month - a time to celebrate the influence and achievements of Black Americans who have shaped our country. As part of Mount Olive's commitment to racial justice, we kicked off a year of great book suggestions in the February *Messenger*. Each newsletter will feature two or three books recommended by people in our community. If one of the books catches your eye, maybe it's your next read. At the end of the year, we'll have built a Mount Olive bibliography that has shaped our journey in our work of racial justice. Here are the February book recommendations:

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan - ***Jesus and the Disinherited*** by Howard Thurman

Pastor Luke - ***The Hate U Give*** by Angie Thomas

Pastor Glenn - ***Stand Your Ground*** by Kelly Brown Douglas

For a detailed summary of the February recommendations, see this month's newsletter:

<http://molive.org/wp-content/uploads/February-2021-Messenger.pdf>

Would you be willing to provide a 2-3 sentence book summary/recommendation for a future newsletter? It may be a book from the list in the February newsletter or another of your choosing. Contact Nancy Britson at nancy@molive.org to share your review.



Artist's Studio Continues

Olive Branch continues to gather each



Olive Branch

Monday from 6:30 – 8:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for Artist's Studio. Currently we are offering Open Studio nights, where you may work on any project you choose. This coming Monday, February 22, is an open studio night. Click here to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/127904908023>

Sunday Psalm Prayer Service



Join Olive Branch Cantor Richard Bruxvoort Colligan every Sunday at 4:30 pm for engagement of the psalms with music, reflection, silence and prayer. This will be a live event on YouTube. You can connect with the livestream link each week through the Olive Branch YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPRunOmryq5TCrOsrxM5Otw>

Offerings

Your financial gifts to Mount Olive are more important than ever during this time. You may make a gift by clicking the green “Donate Now” button at the bottom of the church website homepage-



www.molive.org or simply put a check in the mail to the church office at Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 2830 18th Ave. NW, Rochester, MN 55901. Offering envelopes for any members who do not use *Simply Giving* have been made available to pick up in the church entry. If you are interested in learning more about electronic giving, please contact Bill Hollander in the church office and he can answer your questions. bill.h@molive.org. Thank You!

Next Sunday's Readings:

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

God blesses Abraham and Sarah

Psalms 22:23-31

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD.

Romans 4:13-25

The promise to those who share Abraham's faith

Mark 8:31-38

The passion prediction

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Worship, Service, Education, and Fellowship.***

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