

Mount Olive Lutheran Church



Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 2, 2021

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(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

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

P: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



GATHERING HYMN

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

ELW #379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

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APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



WORD

Fifth Sunday of Easter

FIRST READING

1 John 4:7-21(NRSV)

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent God's only Son into the world so that we might live through God. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent God's Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because God has given us of God's Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that God has sent God's Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as God is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because God first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: Word of God, Word of Life,

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 22

"O Love"

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

GOSPEL

John 15:1-8 (NRSV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint John

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

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²God removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit God prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."



P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Luke Hollander

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Alleluia! Jesus is Risen"

ELW #377



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to the o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!



INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

L: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

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.

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

MEAL

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

P: Let us pray:

C: God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

Gathered at the Lord's table, and around our own, we remember with thanksgiving that "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:

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

With all 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: The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

[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: Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Let us Talents and Tongues Employ"

ELW #674



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ." Words & music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company. Used by permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727717. All rights reserved.

DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen
C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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. Luke Hollander
Presiding Minister	Rev. Dr. Glenn Monson
Organist/Pianist	Deacon Travis Beck
Psalmist	Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
Assisting Minister/Lector	Donna Miller

Congregational prayers for healing and comfort ...

- ◆ Mount Olive members and friends who are ill, grieving, or recovering from surgery.
- ◆ All who are impacted by COVID-19 and the essential workers who continue to respond to this crisis with deep courage and compassion.
- ◆ All who are suffering, those living in fear, and all who have experienced racial violence or discrimination. May we be open to deep learning and discomfort so that our words and actions dismantle racism, not perpetuate it.
- ◆ All homebound members
- ◆ For our companions in ministry in Kijota, Tanzania and Bogota, Colombia. May our partnership expand our appreciation for the work of the church in the world.

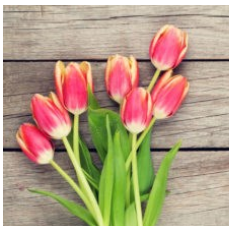
Tailgate Worship this Sunday, May 2

The weather forecast looks great for Tailgate Worship, this Sunday, May 2, at 11:00 am. If you haven't given it a try yet, please join us! As usual, worshippers will be tuning into the service via FM radio or listen by the outdoor speakers. Bring some wine/juice and cracker/bread for Holy Communion. You may bring your lawn chair if you'd like to sit outside. Masks and social distancing will be expected. Look for the week's song sheet and any weather updates on the church website, www.molive.org or the Mount Olive [Facebook page](#).

Spring Clean-up at Mount Olive

Spring is finally here!! We'll have a Spring Clean Up of the church grounds on Saturday, **May 1** beginning at 8:00 am. Your help is needed! Primary tasks will be raking, weeding, cleaning, and mulching the gardens around the building. Bring your gloves, rakes, wheelbarrows, etc. If you are not available on May 1, your help is appreciated any time with the tasks to keep the gardens and grounds looking nice. Contact Bill with any questions— bill.h@molive.org.





Women's Spring Meeting

The Spring Meeting for all women of the congregation will be Monday, **May 3rd** at 6:30 pm on Zoom. The meeting will include an energizing and fun speaker, Rev. Heidi Heimgartner. Pastor Heidi, who also spoke at the fall meeting, will continue her engaging conversation about the ELCA

social statement- Faith, Sexism, and Justice. We will have an opportunity to learn together and enjoy some fellowship time; please join us! Zoom ID: 980 252 5207 or click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9802525207> Please contact Regina Seabrook, Mount Olive Women of the ELCA President, with any questions you may have- rseabroo@gmail.com.

A Return to In-Person Worship for Pentecost!

We are excited to announce that **Sunday, May 23rd**, Pentecost Sunday, is the date when we will once again invite people back to indoor worship at Mount Olive. We know it has been a long time coming, but we feel that the time is right to begin again.

This initial foray into in-person worship is not meant to be the permanent model going forward, but a model that we can live with in this interim time when we are still dealing with coronavirus cases, and many people are not yet vaccinated.

Worship will be offered in the sanctuary every Sunday at 9:00 am and every Sunday at 11:00 am outside in the parking lot in Tailgate style. We will continue to offer a full online service for at-home worshippers. The service will be posted on our YouTube channel on Sundays. A congregational letter will be coming your way which will include everything you will need to know prior to our first gathering. We look forward to seeing you!



SUMMER CAMP

REGISTER TODAY

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

This summer Good Earth Village is offering intergenerational camps and Adventure Days this summer! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic they are unable to offer traditional overnight youth camps. Siblings can save \$10 with code **SIBLING21** on any Adventure Day camp

registrations. Visit goodearthvillage.org/summer2021 to learn more about these great offerings. Please call 507-346-2494 or email info@goodearthvillage.org with any questions or concerns.



Next Chapter Gala is Friday, May 7

Each year, our ministry partner, Next Chapter Ministries hosts the annual *Restoration Celebration* where the work and people of Next Chapter are celebrated. This year will be a bit different, but still a celebration. You may either attend the event in-person at 6:00 pm at the International Event Center, 7333 Airport View Dr. SW, or you may attend online by going to nextchapterrochester.org during the event. Mount Olive is a sponsoring organization, and tables have been reserved for Mount Olive members. If you would like to attend in-person, please contact Pastor Glenn at glenn@molive.org. Thank you.

Prayer-a-thon Thank You!

Mount Olive, you continue to amaze with your generosity. Thank you for your contributions to the Prayer-a-thon youth fundraiser. We have raised over \$2,000 and are getting closer to our goal of \$4,000. It is not too late to donate, and we invite you to consider giving a gift of \$1, \$2, \$5, or even \$10/hour for the youth that prayed on Saturday, April 24. Your gifts will help get 18 youth to Colorado where they will encounter God in all of God's majesty. You can send a check to Mount Olive indicating Youth Trip in the memo or give online by clicking the "[Donate Now](#)" button on the Mount Olive website and select youth program.

Ripe Olives Meets May 14

After more than a year apart, the Ripe Olives, Mount Olive's group for retired folks, will gather **IN-PERSON** on Friday, **May 14** at 9:30 am. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall wearing masks and observing social distance; no food or drink will be served. We will, however, have the opportunity to enjoy one another's company and catch up on the past year.



Meal Donation Opportunities for Homeless Families

Family promise wants to thank all of you who donated money and meals! We are happy to report that the first family has graduated from the new day center—called The Northstar. Meals are still needed, and starting

April 1st a new idea—kitchen connections—began. A few days a week we are asking for ingredients and a recipe to be dropped off for the families. Other days, completed meals may be left. Please see the Signup Genius link for more information and to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4fa4aa22a3f94-kitchen>

Please contact Erin Sinnwell, Mount Olive member and Family Promise Board President with any questions: etracy515@hotmail.com or 507-990-6079.

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. 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:

Acts 10:44-48

*The Spirit poured out
on the Gentiles*

Psalms 98

Shout with joy to the
LORD, all you lands.

1 John 5:1-6

The victory of faith

John 15:9-17

*Christ the friend
and lover*

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

MOUNT OLIVE STAFF

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