

# Mount Olive Lutheran Church

THOSE  
WHO *keep  
awake*  
DREAM  
*1<sup>ST</sup> Sunday in Advent*

First Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, November 29, 2020

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

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Travis Beck, piano

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

A: I dream of sunflower fields.

B: I dream of key lime pie with a mile-high meringue.

A: I dream of the days when we could be part of a crowd.

B: I dream of snow days.

A: I dream of empty beds in jail cells.

B: I dream of a world that will let kids be kids.

A: I dream of full tables instead of empty bellies.

B: I dream of schools with enough money to teach.

A: I dream of parents with enough money to feed.

B: I dream to keep awake, because if we don't dream of better days, then we might forget that this is not what God imagined.

A: So today we light the candle of hope, for hope is the very thing that keeps dreams afloat.

B: May this light be an invitation to keep awake.

A: May this light be our invitation to be Advent people—people who dream. Amen.



## KYRIE

ELW #158

Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, verses  
Congregation, refrain

Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

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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:** **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

First Sunday of Advent

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. <sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.



L: Word of God, Word of Life,  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL READING**

Mark 13:24-37 (NRSV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>24</sup>“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. <sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the door-keeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,  
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

“The End is Near”

Pastor Glenn Monson

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“My Lord What a Morning”

ELW #438

*Refrain*



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un - der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: We believe in God.

**All: We believe that God has dreams for humanity.**

One: We believe in the Holy Spirit.

**All: We believe that the Holy Spirit comforts us when our dreams turn to nightmares.**

One: We believe in Jesus.

**All: We believe that Jesus walked this world to wake us up, Inviting us to be the church in the world.**

One: We believe in dreams.

**All: We believe in the power that dreams have to show us a new way.**

One: So in this Advent season,

**All: We are those who dream and those who wake up. May it be so. Amen.**

### INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

L: God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world.  
Hear our prayers for everyone 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.**

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



## MEAL

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

P: Let us pray:

**C: Gracious God, whose mercy endures from generation to generation: in your love and care, nourish and strengthen us through this meal, that through the body and blood of your Son we may all know the hope of your promised coming in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh, who, in the night in which he was betrayed, 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 your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C: Come Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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: Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink.

[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: Let us pray. Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world’s needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

P: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ☩ now and forever.

C: Amen.

### SENDING HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

ELW #244



1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw-ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

### DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

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](http://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
Assisting Minister	Norma Wollenburg
Lector	Jerry Wollenburg

### Congregational prayers for healing and comfort ...

- ◆ Lee and Gail Forstie's daughter, Lynn
- ◆ Edie Schultze's great-nephew, Isaac
- ◆ Kim and Dale Ignatius' friend, Father Ben
- ◆ Edie Schultze's sister, Gloria
- ◆ Renee Kuehl
- ◆ Stuart Vrieze
- ◆ Ginny Miller's mother
- ◆ All homebound members

- ◆ Mount Olive members and friends who are ill, grieving, or recovering from injury.
- ◆ All those feeling the affects of COVID 19, especially the sick, homebound, or grieving.
- ◆ Those affected by fires, hurricanes, floods, and other inclement weather.

We pray that the Spirit of God would inspire all people to works and words of love and compassion, especially our companions in ministry in Kijota, Tanzania and Bogota, Colombia. May God work mightily in them to announce God's grace to all.

### Advent Mid-Week Worship Begins December 2

This is the first Sunday in Advent! That means that Advent Mid-week services will begin Wednesday, December 2, and go through December 23. Each midweek service will include the beloved Holden Evening Prayer, a Bible reading and short reflection by one of the pastors.

Worshippers are encouraged to light candles on an Advent Wreath at home and join in mid-week worship during this contemplative season.



### Advent Packets Available for Families

Pastor Luke has put together Advent Packets for Mount Olive families with kids to go along with a weekly video. They include a devotional, craft supplies, an Advent Calendar and more. Watch your mail for this exciting package. Contact Pastor Luke if you do not receive your copy– [luke@molive.org](mailto:luke@molive.org).

## Advent Devotions

Advent devotion books for adults are available to pick up in the church office. Mount Olive members can watch for an Advent email as well, which will contain a link to a pdf of the devotion. You may request a copy to be mailed by contacting Nancy Britson in the church office—[nancy@molive.org](mailto:nancy@molive.org) or call 507-288-1580. Following the Advent theme, Those Who Dream, this devotional is for the dreamers in all of us—those who dream of a deeper connection with God and those who dream of a better world.

## Children's Christmas Program Plans Underway

The Mount Olive children's Christmas program will be available to watch online starting on Sunday, **December 20**. This year our confirmation students will tell the Christmas story in creative ways. A virtual children's choir will be put together for three of our favorite Christmas songs. And we hope to see a wide variety of Christmas-related musical and other creative offerings from our kids and families. The more involvement we get, the better this program will be! Kids and families, **please send videos** (4 minutes or less) of you/your family singing, playing musical instruments, teaching a craft, showing a secret talent, etc. to Pastor Luke – [luke@molive.org](mailto:luke@molive.org). Pastor Luke sent an email to all families with more specific instruction on video submissions including a link to a folder they can be uploaded to.

## Women's Christmas Gathering December 7

The Women's Virtual Christmas party will be on Monday, **December 7** at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Everyone is asked to put on a Christmas sweater and a hat for a fun evening on Zoom! You don't have a Christmas Hat?? Then it's time to get creative! Silly or serious, tall or small, we'll look forward to seeing all the different hats on Zoom. The evening program will include a Christmas devotion, music, and a presentation by Courtney Dugstad, Executive Director of Next Chapter Ministries. The offering will support Next Chapter's Christmas Sharing Program. There will also be a short business meeting to discuss the budget and planning for the Women of the ELCA in 2021. We hope to see you there! The Zoom Meeting ID: 893 9120 7197



## Mount Olive Prayer Shawl Group

The Mount Olive prayer shawl group will not meet in December. If you would like to request a prayer shawl for someone who is experiencing illness, loss, or a difficult time, please contact Vickie Kubly at 507-282-7696 or you may call the church office at 507-288-1580.



# Olive Branch

**Olive Branch Artist's Studio** - Creative expression is one of the ways we can let all of our life emotions be felt - and set free. Each Monday, 6:30-8:30 pm, we meet in the Fellowship Hall at Mount Olive to practice being creative. We practice careful social distancing, limiting the number of participants so that everyone has their own place to work. Masks are required.

**November 30-Open Studio Time**-bring projects of your choice to work on. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/127904908023>

**Olive Branch "Off the Page"** -An online bible-immersion where we will read a text together and then explore it in creative ways. The first session is full! Our next available session is Thursday, **December 3**, 10:00—11:30 am, focusing on Psalm 27. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/127946329917>

Learn more about each of the above events by visiting the new Olive Branch website, [www.olivebranchcommunity.org](http://www.olivebranchcommunity.org).

## God's Global Barnyard/Good Gifts

Looking for a meaningful Christmas gift this year? Well, look no further! Mount Olive will be taking donations for ELCA Good Gifts (God's Global Barnyard) which helps to fight hunger in 83 different countries. An animal can make a world of difference for a family in need, providing food, fertilizer, and offspring to market. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good. When you purchase an ornament to give to a loved one, the ELCA will then purchase the animals to be given to a village with the most need. Ornaments available include: \$10 for 10 chicks, \$20 for honeybees, \$30 for a pig, or \$50 for a goat. There will be a tree set up in the entryway at church with ornaments for you



Give something **unexpected** this Christmas.

to choose from. Envelopes will be provided for you to submit your payment. You may drop it in the church mailbox or in the office if it is open. The church is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. If you are unable to stop by the church, contact Carrie Fletcher for other pick up and payment options. This is such a wonderful way to give back. We will collect donations through December 1-15, 2020. Please contact Carrie at [cxnfletcher@gmail.com](mailto:cxnfletcher@gmail.com) with any questions. Thank you.



## The Mitten Tree Collection Continues

The Mitten Tree is now on display in the entry to collect cold weather gear for our neighborhood school, Elton Hills Elementary. You may select an ornament from the tree and purchase the item requested. Warm, water-proof gloves of all sizes, winter boots for K-3rd grade, and boys coats of all sizes are especially needed. You may also donate funds that coordinators will use to purchase items requested by the school for specific students.



Envelopes are available on the tree or you may make a gift by clicking the green “Donate Now” button at the bottom of the church website homepage- [www.molive.org](http://www.molive.org); indicate “mitten tree” in the comment.

### Next Sunday's Readings:

#### Isaiah 40:1-11

*Good news of God's coming to a people in exile*

#### Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God.

#### 2 Peter 3:8-15a

*Waiting for and hastening the day of God*

#### Mark 1:1-8

*John appears from the wilderness*

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