The Morning Worship

Liturgists
9:00am – *Pastor Hammersten*
10:00am – *Pastor MacLean*
11:00am – *Pastor Cornils*
12noon – *Pastor Kalland*

The Prelude *Sing We Now of Christmas* - - - - - Brant Adams
Diane Loudon, cello; Richard Owen, piano

The Processional Hymn - - - - - - - - - - - - **270:1, 2, 3**
(Please stand as you are able as the pastors enter the Chancel)

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

The Invocation
Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation: Amen. *(Please sing)*

The Confession of Sins and Assurance of Forgiveness
Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Congregation: Amen. *(Please sing)*

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
Congregation: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.** *(Please sing)*
Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.
Congregation: Amen. *(Please sing)*

(Please be seated)

The Lighting of the Advent Candle - JOY

The Hymn of Advent - - - - - - - - - - - - - **263:1, 6**

Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:
God has chosen such a birth.

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

The Salutation and Prayer of the Day
Pastor: The Lord be with you.
Congregation: And also with you. *(Please sing)*

Pastor and Congregation:
Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen. *(Please sing)*

The Epistle - - - - - - - - - - - - **James 5:7-10** *(page 982)*
In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

The Gradual Hymn - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - **282:4**

For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

(Before the reading, please stand as you are able and sing)
Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel - - - - - - - - - - - - **Matthew 11:2-11** *(page 792)*
John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth. From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this.

(After the reading, please sing)
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Profession of Faith - The Apostles' Creed
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Please be seated)

The Welcome

The Offertory
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - - - - - - - - - - Jon Schmidt
Diane Loudon, cello; Richard Owen, piano

(Please stand as you are able and sing)

The Offertory Prayer
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free spirit.

(Please be seated)

The Pulpit Hymn - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - **300:1, 2**

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Special Christmas Music ***(9, 10 and 11am only)***
Mount Olivet Sunday School Children

(Please sing as the children leave)

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

The Sermon **Dr. Robin Steinke**
Luther Seminary President

"Second Thoughts"

The Baptismal Service *(held during the 12noon service)*

(Please stand as you are able)

The Closing Hymn - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - **248:1**

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

The Lord's Prayer - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - **Page 112**

The Benediction

The Threefold Amen
(The congregation is asked to pause for a moment of silent prayer)

The Postlude *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing* - - - arr. Neil Harmon

Please be so kind as to leave your bulletin at the end of the pew or place in the recycle bin as you leave. Thank you.

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Director of Worship & Music, *Beverly Claflin*
Principal Organist, *Richard Owen*
Director of the Mount Olivet Sunday School Children, *Rachel Wixson*

Welcome Guests

We are delighted you are worshiping with us today. We warmly welcome you and are grateful for your presence and prayers. A pastor will be available in the lounge to greet you following the service. If you have any questions about the ministries of Mount Olivet Church, please come to the Information Desk in the Narthex. Large print bulletins and hearing devices available at the Information Desk located in the Narthex.

Baptisms

Liam Peter Snyder, son of Natalie and Peter; Chloe Jane Kornecki, daughter of Emily and Dave; and Dylan Serena Stockness, daughter of Michelle and Christopher; will be received into the fellowship of Christ and His Church through the sacrament of Holy Baptism today.

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar in the main sanctuary are in loving memory of our parents, Dr. and Mrs. H. P. Linner and the Rev. and Mrs. A. A. Larson; and in loving memory of Dr. John Linner; given by Evodia Linner.

The flowers by the pulpit are in honor and celebration of Cammie and Roy Olson's wedding anniversary, given by their children and grandchildren.

The flowers by the lectern are in loving memory of Michael and Raymond Creighton, given by Marilyn Creighton and family

The flowers by the communion rail on the lectern side are in loving memory of Dean Modig on the anniversary of his birthday, given by his wife, Lois, and daughters, Pam Donley and Susan (Michael) Johnson.

The flowers on the altar in the Serley Chapel are in loving memory of Dee and Bob Ulsaker, given by their daughters, Lori Hilleren, Robyn Leer and Sandy Wiese.

The flowers on the altar in the Youngdahl Chapel are in loving memory of Earl Blocher, given by his wife, Charlotte.

If you would like to donate Sunday morning altar flowers in loving memory or in honor of someone you know, please contact Mary Lindberg, 612-767-2200 or maryl@mtolivet.org. Orders are appreciated two weeks in advance of your desired date. The cost is $50.00.

Next Sunday - Fourth Sunday of Advent: Candle of LOVE

Sunday morning worship services will be at 9, 10, 11am and 12noon. Pastor Hammersten will be preaching on, "*She Will Bear a Son*." Holy Communion will be observed at all four services. At 9, 10, and 11am, nursery will be available for children ages six-weeks through two-years. There will be no Sunday School/The Way December 18-January 1, 2017, (resuming January 8), and you are encouraged to worship as a family.

The Third Sunday of Advent December 11, 2016

Pastors

David J. Lose, Senior Pastor-Elect
Dennis J. Johnson, Interim Senior Pastor
Kurt P. Kalland — Stephen J. Cornils
Eric N. Youngdahl — Monica M. Hammersten
Andrew M. Bakken — William B. MacLean
Gretchen E. Enoch
John D. Hogenson, Pastor-in-Residence