



MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship - Minneapolis Campus

Against All Odds: The Acts of the Apostles

July 20, 2025

Liturgists: 9am Pastor Freeman, 10am Pastor Hammersten

The Prelude

We Shall Overcome

Marianne Kim

(please stand when invited)

The Processional Hymn

Oh, Worship the King

842:1, 4

Oh, worship the King, all-glorious above.
Oh, gratefully sing God's power and love;
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

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: St. John writes, “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:8-9). And so we gather to confess our sin, not because we fear God thinks us unworthy, but because we trust God’s promise to receive us always in mercy and grace. Let us therefore pray together with confidence...

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: Almighty God, in mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, God gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. All this is promised in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen. *(please sing)*

The Hymn of Praise

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

864:1

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; joyfully your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore God’s praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praises everlasting ring!

The Salutation and Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you. *(please sing)*

Pastor and Congregation: Dear God, we give you thanks for the witness of the Apostle Paul. Give us confidence that even those who seem lost are never beyond the reach of your mercy, and remind us that your Word still changes lives. In Jesus' name, **Amen.** *(please sing)*

The Scripture Reading

The Conversion of Saul

Acts 9:1-19a

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

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Praise to you, O Christ. *(please sing)*

The Profession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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

Pastor Cieslik

The Prayers of Remembrance

The Offertory Anthem

Children of the Heavenly Father

Barnwell

Emily Gerard, harp

The Offertory Prayer *(please stand as you are able)*

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

885

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

(please be seated)

The Pulpit Hymn

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

779:1

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

The Sermon

Pastor Cieslik

The Conversion of Saul

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Words of Institution *(please stand as you are able)*

The 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.

(please be seated)

The Distribution of Elements

Communion will be served by cup. Please follow the usher's directions to the altar communion rail. Both white grape juice and red wine are available as well as gluten free wafers. All are welcome.

The Communion Hymn

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

494:1, 4

For the bread which you have broken,
for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.

In your service, Lord, defend us;
in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world to which you send us
let your kingdom come, O Lord.

The Communion Anthem

In the Garden

Susann McDonald

Emily Gerard, harp

The Communion Blessing *(please stand as you are able)*

The Closing Prayer

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life, and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Benediction and Threefold Amen

(please pause for a moment of silent prayer)

The Postlude

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Anna Laura Page

Pastors

David J. Lose, Senior Pastor
Kurt P. Kalland, Monica M. Hammersten,
Mark J. Dixon, Rebecca W. Freeman, Benjamin M. Cieslik,
Jeni F. Grangaard, Jenna L. Olson Popp

Worship & Music Staff

Beverly Claflin, Director of Worship and Music
Jordan Buchholtz, Principal Organist

July Altar Flower Dedications

In memory of Beverly Beveroth on the anniversary of her 98th birthday month

In memory of Vicki Dianne Bielke, by the Bielke Family

In memory of Gerald Dahle, by the Dahle Family

In loving memory of Kathy Hubbard on the first year of her passing,
by Jack Hubbard and family

In memory of Hayes S. McCallum on our wedding anniversary,
by his wife Marcia McCallum

In loving memory of Merle Shult on his birthday,
by Wanda Shult and family

In memory of John Stratton and Jeff Bowers,
by Matt Stratton and family

In memory of Jean and Al TeWinkel, by Leslie and Mark Edlund

In memory of Mary Williams on her birthday,
by Philip Williams and family

In appreciation of the Mount Olivet Pastoral staff

In appreciation of Pastor Cieslik

In celebration of Bill and Shirley Huskins on their 75th wedding anniversary on
June 24, by Deborah and Charles Huskins

In celebration of Steve and Deb Kind's July birthdays

In celebration of Brady Klemmensen's birthday,
by Beth, Todd, and Annie Klemmensen

If you would like to donate to the Mount Olivet Flower Fund please contact Jody
Barbee at jbarbee@mtolivet.org or 952.767.1501.

Mount Olivet General Fund

Thank you for your generous gift to support the many ministries of Mount Olivet.



Online at mtolivet.org/online-giving

Text "MTOLIVET" to 73256