



MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship - Minneapolis Campus

Against All Odds: The Acts of the Apostles

August 17, 2025

Liturgist: Pastor Kalland

The Prelude

Lento assai from Organ Sonata No. 7 Alexandre Guilmant

(please stand when invited)

The Processional Hymn

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus 392:1, 2

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; his the scepter, his the throne;

Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion

thunder like a mighty flood:

“Jesus out of ev’ry nation

has redeemed us by his blood.”

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;

Alleluia! he is near us; faith believes, nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received him

when the forty days were o’er,

shall our hearts forget his promise:

“I am with you evermore”?

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 the One Who Breaks the Darkness

843:1

**Praise the One who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light;**

**praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
turning blindness into sight.**

**Praise the One who preached the gospel,
healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.**

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, remind us that we all are your children and that in you, and you alone, do we live and move and have our being.

In Jesus' name, Amen. (please sing)

The Scripture Reading

Paul in Athens

Acts 17:16-34

Glory to you, O Lord. (please remain standing and sing)

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the market-place every day with those who happened to be there. Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this babbling want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or

hearing something new. Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, “We

will hear you again about this.” At that point Paul left them. But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

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 Freeman

The Prayers of Remembrance

The Offertory Anthem

This Is My Father's World

Duane Funderburk

Claire Loudon, violin and Jordan Buchholtz, piano

(please stand as you are able)

The Offertory Prayer

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

Lord Of All Hopefulness

765:1

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,

whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:

be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,

your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

The Sermon

Pastor Freeman

Paul in Athens

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(please stand as you are able)

The Words of Institution

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

Deep River

Mischa Elman

Claire Loudon, violin and Jordan Buchholtz, piano

(please stand as you are able)

The Communion Blessing

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

Nothing but the Blood of Jesus

Edwin T. Childs

August Altar Flower Dedications

**In loving memory of Dennis “Denny” Dickey on his birthday,
by his wife Corinne and daughters Jodi and Heather**

**In loving memory of Kay Olson Divine, Mike Divine,
and Reed Kenneth Olson, by the Slinde Family**

**In memory of Evelyn Edgecumbe’s birthday,
by the Hanson and Ostlund Families**

**In loving memory of Chuck Ingwalson on his second year of
passing, by Mara Ingwalson and family**

**In loving memory of Richard Calvin Marshall on our
anniversary, by Marcia Marshall**

**In memory of Walter and Marguerite McIlonie, by the
McIlonie Family**

**In loving memory of David Warner Nelson on his birthday,
by Mary Nelson and family**

In memory of Fran Swanson, by Launa and Gary

In loving memory of Howard Wert, by Launa and Gary

**In thanksgiving for Paul Youngdahl, Susan Hogan,
and Stephen Youngdahl, by Nancy, Kristi, Aaron, and Peter**

**In honor of all of the staff and volunteers who make C.O.P.
happen, by Richard and Meta Webb**

In appreciation of the Mount Olivet Pastoral staff

In appreciation of Pastor Grangaard

**In celebration of Steve and Deb Kind’s August wedding
anniversary**

**In celebration of the baptism of Madelyn Signe Stratmoen,
by her family**

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

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

Mount Olivet General Fund

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



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Text "MTOLIVET" to 73256