



**MOUNT OLIVET  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## **Sunday Worship - Minneapolis Campus**

**Second Sunday of Advent - December 7, 2025**

**Liturgists:**

**9am Pastor Olson Popp**

**10am Pastor Cieslik**

**11am Pastor Hammersten**

## **The Prelude**

**A Carol Fantasy**

**Franklin D. Ashdown**

**(please stand when invited)**

## **The Processional Hymn**

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

**289:1, 2, 3**

**Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.**

**Refrain:**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain**

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. 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: 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 Salutation and Prayer of the Day**

**Pastor: The Lord be with you.**

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

**Pastor and Congregation: Dear God, just as you called John to give witness to the light and life offered by your Son, so you also call us to testify to the grace we have experienced in him. Continue to guide us to grow in faith, hope, and love.**

**In Jesus' name, Amen. (please sing)**

**(please be seated)**

## **The Hymn of Advent**

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

**254:1**

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

## **The Lighting of the Advent Candle**

# **The Hymn of Peace**

**The First Noel**

**300:1**

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

## **The Scripture Reading**

**John the Baptist**

**John 1:6-9, 19-23**

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

**There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said**

**to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord’, as the prophet Isaiah said.”**

**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 Dixon**

**The Prayers of Remembrance**

**The Offertory Anthem**

**The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy**

**John Leavitt**

**Cathedral Choir - 9 and 10am**

**Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

**Howard Helvey**

**Sanctuary Choir - 11am**

**(please stand as you are able)**

**The Offertory Prayer**

**What Child Is This**

**296:3**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;**

**come, peasant, king, to own him.**

**The King of kings salvation brings;**

**let loving hearts enthrone him.**

**Raise, raise the song on high,**

**the virgin sings her lullaby;**

**joy, joy, for Christ is born,**

**the babe, the son of Mary!**

**(please be seated)**



# **The Pulpit Hymn**

**On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

**249:1, 4**

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and make us rise to fall no more;  
oh, let your face upon us shine  
and fill the world with love divine.**

**The Sermon**

**Pastor Dixon**

**John the Baptist**

**The Baptismal Service** (held during the 11am service)

**The following will be named a child of God and receive  
the promise of forgiveness, life, and salvation in Christ  
through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.**

**Louis Backman, son of Greta and Daniel**

**(please stand as you are able)**

## **The Closing Hymn**

**Prepare the Royal Highway**

**264:4**

**Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!**

**Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!**

**Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:**

**Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!**

## **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.**

# **The Sending Prayer**

**Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# **The Benediction and Threefold Amen**

**(please pause for a moment of silent prayer)**

# **The Postlude**

**Ding Dong Merrily on High**

**Jeff Perks**

# **December Altar Flower Dedications**

**In memory of Dick Blenkush on his 90th birthday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, by Joyce and the Blenkush family with love**

**In memory of Lloyd and Frances Engelsma on their 75 wedding anniversary, by the Wilcox Family**

**In loving memory of Larry Gustin, husband to Paulette, father to Timothy (Kate), and Todd (Anne), and grandfather to Flora, Theodore, Livia, and Gianna**

**In memory of AJ Hartzler, by his mom, Belinda Stutzman**

**In loving memory of Jonathan E. Kimball,  
by Kim, Megan, Zack, Molly, and Jack**

**In loving memory of Steve Klein, by Faye Klein**

**In loving memory of George Kotsonas on the anniversary of his birthday, by his wife and family**

**In loving memory of Richard Calvin Marshall,  
by Marcia Marshall**

**In loving memory William and Marilyn Miller on their birthdays, by Eric, Anne, Elle, and Gigi Miller**

**In loving memory of Alice Parson, by Launa and Gary**

**In memory of Gary Riba and in honor of his  
December 25th birthday, by Jane Riba**

**In loving memory of Helen Rydland on the anniversary of her birthday, by her family**

**In memory of my beloved husband Dean on his birthday,  
by Carol Stagnes Skaar**

**In honor of Audrey Cabillot on her birthday, by her children**

# **December Altar Flower Dedications**

**In honor and memory of Elton Falness,**

**by Barry and Carla Becklin**

**In honor of Kay and Rich Kettwig's 65th wedding**

**anniversary, by Rich Kettwig**

**In honor of Muriel Johnson's 95th birthday,**

**by her "pew" friends: Pat, Mary Kay, Linda,**

**Susan, and Marlene**

**In honor of the staff who support the recovery community**

**In appreciation of the Mount Olivet Pastoral staff**

**In celebration of Jean and Jon Albrightson's 59th wedding**

**anniversary, by Jean and Jon Albrightson**

**In celebration of Isabel Barrett Brainerd on her 2nd birthday,**

**by grandma and grandpa with love**

**In celebration of Joanne Lano's December birthday,**

**by her daughter Meta, son-in-law Richard,**

**and grandkids Sam & Coco**

**In celebration of Joyce Lindeman's 100th birthday,**

**by her family**

**In loving memory of James K. Olson,**

**by Phyllis Olson, Kurt, Lizabeth, Blake, and Taylor Halva**

**In celebration of the blessing of daughter-in-law Natalie,**

**by John and Mary**

**In celebration of the anniversary of Jaxtyn Yahn's baptism,**

**by his grandparents Jeffrey and Lisa Quist**

**In celebration of the lives of Fletcher Merkel and**

**Harper Moyski, by the Hammersten Family**

# **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 and Music Staff**

**Beverly Claflin, Director of Worship and Music and**

**Director of Cathedral and Sanctuary Choirs**

**Jordan Buchholtz, Principal Organist**

**Shelley Ohnsorg, Cathedral Choir Accompanist**

# **Mount Olivet General Fund**

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



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