



# MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

## **Sunday Worship - Minneapolis Campus**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 21, 2025**

**Liturgists: 9am Pastor Hammersten, 10 and 11am Pastor Kalland**

### **The Prelude**

**Emily Gerard, harp and Julie Johnson, flute**

**(please stand when invited)**

### **The Processional Hymn**

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

**283:1, 3, 4**

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!**

**O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;**

**come and behold him, born the king of angels:**

**Refrain:**

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,**

**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,**

**sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!**

**Glory to God in the highest: Refrain**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;**

**Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!**

**Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: 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, you come to us in the bread and wine of communion, in the song and Scripture of worship, and in the love of those around us. Encourage us by these things and send us out to share your love with others.**

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

**(please be seated)**

## **The Hymn of Advent**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

**257:1**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

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

# **The Hymn of Love**

**Love Has Come**

**292:1**

**Love has come—a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

# **The Scripture Reading**

**The Word Became Flesh**

**John 1:14-18**

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

**And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.**

**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**

**And Love Was Born**

**Gregg Sewell**

**Cathedral Choir - 9am**

**Sussex Carol**

**Matthew Culloton**

**Sanctuary Choir - 10 and 11am**

**Emily Gerard, harp and Julie Johnson, flute**

**(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 Sermon**

**Pastor Cieslik**

**The Word Became Flesh**

# **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 Anthem (10 and 11am only)**

**Angel's Carol**

**John Rutter**

**Sanctuary Choir**

**Emily Gerard, harp and Julie Johnson, flute**

## **The Communion Hymns**

**The First Noel**

**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.**

**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 Communion Hymns**

**Baby Jesus, Softly Sleeping**

**by John and Rick Widen**

**winners of Mount Olivet's 2019 Christmas Carol Competition**

**Baby Jesus, softly sleeping,  
dreaming dreams I cannot know.**

**Mother Mary, silence keeping,  
pond'ring how her child will grow.**

**Joseph guarding at the manger,  
lost in wonder at the sight.**

**Beasts and angels, kings and shepherds,  
bow in worship on that night.**

**Baby Jesus, gently waking,  
nestles in his mother's arms.**

**Mother Mary, silence breaking,  
prays to keep him from all harm.**

**Beasts and angels, kings and shepherds,  
all the world in need of love.**

**Bearing God's own peace and favor,  
comes this infant from above.**

# **The Communion Blessing**

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

# **The Benediction and Threefold Amen**

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

# **The Postlude**

**Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow**

**David Sims**

# **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 Arthur William Boerner, by Jeff and Kathy Boerner**

**In memory of Lloyd and Frances Engelsma on their 75th 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 Ruby Johnson, by her family, Nancy, Jim, Joe, and Alexa Rys**

**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 of 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**

# **December Altar Flower Dedications**

**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**

**In celebration of Joe and Alexa Rys and an exciting 2026  
ahead, by Dad and Mom**

## **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 Choir**

**Miriam Jensen, Associate Organist**

**Brian Ohnsorg, Assistant Director of Sanctuary Choir**

**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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