



**MOUNT OLIVET  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Sunday Worship - Minneapolis Campus**

**December 28, 2025**

**Liturgists:**

**9 and 10am Pastor Dixon**

**11am Pastor Kalland**

**The Prelude**

**Good Christian Friends Rejoice**

**Matthew H. Corl**

(please stand when invited)

## **The Processional Hymn**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

**270:1, 3**

**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!”**

**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: 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**

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

**289:1**

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

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

# **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, let us follow John's  
example and point others to Christ by what we say and  
do. In Jesus' name, Amen. (please sing)**

**(please be seated)**

# **The Gradual Hymn**

**Joy to the World**

**267:4**

**He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

# **The Scripture Reading**

**John the Witness**

**John 1:19-28**

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

**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. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.**

**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 Grangaard**

**The Prayers of Remembrance**

# **The Offertory Anthem**

**Midnight Noel**

**Mark Hayes**

**Justin Staebell, baritone and Jordan Buchholtz, piano**

**(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**

**Angels from the Realms of Glory**

**275:1**

**Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.**

**The Sermon**

**Pastor Grangaard**

**John the Witness**

**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.**

**Vera Claire Thompson, daughter of Ellen and Zach**

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

## **The Closing Hymn**

**Go Tell It on the Mountain**

**290:2**

**Refrain:**

**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain**

## **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**

**Go Tell It on the Mountain**

**Richard Elliott**

# **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  
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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