



*New Year's
Eve Service*

**Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
Minneapolis Campus
Wednesday, December 31, 2025 ~ 7pm**

Welcome! Tonight's service is based on the Examen prayer practice designed by Ignatius of Loyola. He was a Spanish priest and theologian who founded the Society of Jesus, who we know today as the Jesuits. He created the Examen as an instrument to deepen one's relationship with God through prayerful reflection of the ordinary events in our lives.

I have found this rhythm of prayer to be an intentional way to mark transitions: the transition to a new day, a new job, a new stage of life, and even a new year. It gives us space to notice how God has acted in our lives through ordinary moments and be opened to how God is leading us forward. My hope is that it allows you a faithful way to reflect on your year, equips you with a new way to pray, and gives you space to listen to God who is speaking to you.

A few logistics: We will stay seated for most of the service so that you can focus on the scripture, music, and your conversation with God. There will be no offering during the service, but you can drop off a gift in the offering plates as you leave or give it to an usher. On your way out tonight, the ushers will give you a small card that walks you through the Examen steps; you are welcome to take it home and use for your own time of prayer.

May you encounter the God who redeemed you, Jesus who came to be near you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells within you. Let us pray.

--Pastor Olson Popp

The Prelude

Beautiful Savior

James Mansfield

The Opening Hymn

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

533:2, 5

**Lord, my God, I come before thee,
come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee,
there a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter thou,
let it be thy temple now!**

**Speak, O God, and I will hear thee,
let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee
while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows,
here is balm for all our woes.**

Open to God's Presence

The Reading

Exodus 3:1-6

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

The Reflection

Pastor Olson Popp

The Hymn

Be Still My Soul

**Be still, my soul; the Lord is on thy side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.**

**Leave to thy God to order and provide;
in every change He faithful will remain.**

**Be still, my soul; thy best, thy heav'nly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**Be still, my soul; thy God doth undertake
to guide the future as He has the past.**

**Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.**

**Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.**

Give Thanks

The Reading

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

**Serve the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.**

Know that the Lord is God.

**It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.**

Give thanks to him; bless his name.

**For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

The Reflection

Pastor Olson Popp

The Meditation

Gabriel's Oboe

Ennio Morricone

For what can I give thanks to God?

**How was the Holy Spirit moving in my life throughout the
year?**

Who showed up as the face of Christ to me this year?

The Hymn

How Can I Keep from Singing?

763:1, 2

**My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.**

**I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.**

Refrain:

**No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is lord of heav'n and earth,
how can I keep from singing?**

**Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.**

How can I keep from singing? Refrain

Confess and Forgive

The Reading

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Meditation

Come Ye Disconsolate

Mark Hayes

*Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish
come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.*

*Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish;
earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot heal.*

Where did I experience despair, failure, or suffering?
What from this year needs to heal, be confessed, or be
reconciled?

Who do I need to reach out to offer or accept forgiveness?

The Hymn

Abide with Me

629:1, 3

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and strength can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

Go Forward with God

The Reading

John 10:1-10

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, **“Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”**

The Reflection

Pastor Olson Popp

The Meditation

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Victor Labenske

With what spirit do I want to enter this coming year?

**How and where might God be leading me in the coming
year?**

How can I join God in God's redeeming work in the world?

The Closing Hymn

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

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**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your Word.**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.**

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

(please stand)

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 Benediction

The Postlude

O God Beyond All Praising

Gustav Holst

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

Susan Steincross, Associate Organist