


*The  
Heavens  
Shall  
Sing!*

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 | MINNEAPOLIS CAMPUS | 2 & 4PM

MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH



n behalf of the pastors and staff of Mount Olivet, let me welcome you to our annual Christmas concert! We are grateful for your presence here this afternoon and we pray that hearing the Christmas story told through song and spoken word fills your heart with peace, hope, joy, and love, the true gifts of the season.

For over a century, Mount Olivet has been living into its mission of sharing the good news of God's grace and love made so evident in the birth of the Christ child. We invite you to become more deeply involved in that mission and in the life we share together here. Should you not have a church home, we hope you will consider becoming part of our family of faith and joining us for worship, fellowship, and service at our campuses in Minneapolis and Victoria.

Please look through our upcoming Advent and Christmas worship services. We invite you to join us for any or all of these meaningful and festive celebrations of the birth of our Lord. Throughout the year, there are always a myriad of service, social, learning, and music offerings at Mount Olivet for you to consider. Please visit [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org) or contact us to keep current on what is available.

Now, enjoy the music of this day and allow it to immerse you in the peace and promise of this holy season. May the music we hear and the hymns we sing today be a reminder to each of us that the Christ child was born so there might be peace on earth and goodwill among all God's children.

Blessed Christmas!

Pastor Lose

Pastor David Lose, Senior Pastor



MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Christmas Concert

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 - 2 & 4PM

This program is offered as a worship experience.  
Please silence your cell phones, refrain from using them during the service,  
and hold your applause between selections. The concert is being live-streamed  
and will be available to watch and share at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org).



## THE THREE CHIMES

### The Narration

*In the stillness of a winter's night,  
when the world was waiting and the heavens were hushed,  
a promise whispered long ago was fulfilled.  
The Word became flesh, and the world was forever changed.  
Into a dark and weary world came light;  
into fear came peace;  
into longing came love.*

*In a humble stable, beneath a canopy of stars,  
God's grace took on human form.  
Fragile, yet infinite; simple, yet holy.  
We gather now to hear that story again,  
the story that never grows old.  
The story that continues to shape our hearts and our hope.  
We come to sing of peace that surpasses understanding,  
to remember light that no darkness can overcome,  
and to welcome Christ once more into our midst.*

Anonymous

*Good people all, this Christmastime, consider well, and bear in mind,  
What our good God for us has done, in sending his beloved Son.  
With Mary holy, we should pray to God with love this Christmas day;  
In Bethlehem upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born.*

*Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs, and feeding sheep;  
To whom God's angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear.  
"Prepare and go," the angels said, "to Bethlehem. Be not afraid.  
For there you'll find this happy morn a princely babe sweet Jesus born."*

*With thankful heart and joyful mind, the shepherds went the babe to find,  
And as God's angels had foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold.  
Within a manger he was laid, and by His side the virgin maid  
Attending on the Lord of Life who came to earth to end all strife.  
With Mary holy, we should pray to God with love this Christmas day;  
In Bethlehem upon that morn, there was a blessed Messiah born.*

Traditional Irish, 12th century

## The Congregational Hymn

### PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY

264:1,4

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:

*Refrain:* Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfill's God's word!

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

Swedish Folk Tune, 17th century

## The Narration

*He did not wait till the world was ready, till men and nations were at peace.  
He came when the Heavens were unsteady and prisoners cried out for release.  
He did not wait for the perfect time. He came when the need was deep and great.  
He dined with sinners in all their grime, turned water into wine.  
He did not wait till hearts were pure. In joy, he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.  
To a world like ours, of anguished shame, he came, and his Light would not go out.  
He came to a world which did not mesh, to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.  
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh the Maker of the stars was born.  
We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice,  
for to share our grief, to touch our pain, He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!*

*First Coming* by Madeleine L'Engle

**O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL**..... DAN FORREST  
Chancel, Cathedral, and Sanctuary Choirs

*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,  
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 exaltation!  
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above.  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.  
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

*Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,  
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

Latin hymn attributed to John Francis Wade (1711-1786)

## The Narration

*And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"*

Luke 2:11-14

**SING GLORIA**..... BECKI SLAGLE MAYO  
Chancel Choir

*Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria allelu.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, sing gloria!  
Come and see the newborn King, hear the choirs of angels sing,  
Lift your voice in joyful praise and sing gloria!  
Sing gloria! Sing, sing gloria! Gloria!*

text by Becki Slagle Mayo (2009)

# The Congregational Hymn

## ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

275:1,2,4

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:

*Refrain:* Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. *Refrain*

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

French Carol, 18th century

**LO, HOW A ROSE/THE ROSE** ..... CRAIG HELLA JOHNSON  
Cathedral Choir

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender step hath sprung.  
(Some say love, it is a river that drowns the tender reed.)  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.  
(Some say love, it is a razor that leaves your soul to bleed.)  
It came, a Flow'ret bright,  
(Some say love, it is a hunger, and endless aching need.)  
Amid the cold of winter  
(I say love, it is a flower, and you, its only seed.)  
When half-spent was the night.*

*It's the heart afraid of breaking that never learns to dance.  
It's the dream afraid of waking that never takes the chance.  
It's the one who won't be taken who cannot seem to give.  
And the soul afraid of dying that never learns to live.*

*This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
(When the night has been too lonely and the road has been too long,  
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
(And you think that love is only for the lucky and the strong,  
True Man, yet very God,  
(Just remember in the winter far beneath the bitter snow,  
From sin and death He saves us  
(Lies the seed that with the sun's love, in the spring becomes the rose.)  
And lightens every load.*

German, 16th century  
*The Rose* text by Amanda McBroom (1978)

## The Narration

*I would have liked to have been the shepherd who saw the star  
shining as a beacon leading to Bethlehem, a stable afar.  
Seeing new born baby son, Joseph following Mary's way  
who lay the babe in a manger of soft warm hay.*

*Oh joyous occasion, son of God has arrived  
as three kings from distant lands traveling survived.  
Bringing gold, frankincense, and myrrh, commended  
for the king of kings and the holy spirit descended.*

*There was peace in that little space  
sheep lay next to the shepherd with grace.  
An all consuming quiet when an angel appeared  
the message that King Herod would not disappear.*

*We now celebrate Christmas day  
as the day Jesus was born to forever stay.*

*The Birth of Jesus Christ* by Marta Green

**THE THREE KINGS** ..... HEALY WILLAN  
Sanctuary Choir

*“Who knocks tonight so late?” the weary porter said.  
Three Kings stood at the gate, each with a crown on head.  
The serving man bowed down; the inn was full, he knew.  
Said he, “In all this town is no fit place for you!”  
A light the manger lit: there lay the Mother meek.  
Said they, “This place is fit: here is the rest we seek!”  
They loosed their latchet strings; so stood they all unshod.  
Come in, come in, ye Kings! And kiss the feet of God.*

text by Laurence Houseman (1928)

The Congregational 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*

French Carol, 19th Century

**BELL CAROL** ..... HEATHER SORENSON  
Cathedral Choir

*Ding! Dong! Ding! Dong!*  
*Sing we Noel, glad tidings tell. Be of good cheer, Christmas is here.*  
*Loudly we're singing, church bells are ringing, children are singing, "Christmas is here!"*  
*Trumpets are sounding, glad earth resounding, nature is shouting, "Christmas is here!"*  
*Dark has gone away and the night has turned to day.*  
*Peace has come to earth from a little baby's birth! Gloria, gloria!*  
*Peace has come from a little baby, holy infant, humble, royal birth!*  
*Ding! Dong! Ding! Dong!*  
*Star shining bright, gone is the night, hope has appeared, Christmas is here!*  
*Prophets foretold, shepherds behold, myst'ry now clear, Christmas is here!*

*Ding! Dong! Ding! Dong!*  
*Dark has gone away, night has turned to day.*  
*Peace has come to earth from a little baby's birth!*  
*Loudly we're singing, church bells are ringing, children are singing, "Christmas is here!"*  
*Trumpets are sounding, glad earth resounding, nature is shouting, "Christmas is here!"*  
*Merry Christmas, merry Christmas!*  
*Sing we Noel, glad tidings tell. Be of good cheer, Christmas is here!*  
*Dark has gone away and the night has turned to day.*  
*Peace has come to earth from a little baby's birth!*  
*Sing we Noel, glad tidings tell. Ding, dong, ding!*

based on *Ukrainian Bell Carol* (1916)  
text by Heather Sorenson (2014)



# The Congregational Hymn

## HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

270:1,2,3

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new born King,  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim: “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

*Refrain:* Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new born King!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the Incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

Hail the heaven-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*

Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

## The Narration

*Christmas, the remembrance of the birth of Jesus, is not a remembrance at all. It is an awareness that grows in us from day to day all our lives. Christmas, this consciousness of eternal life alive among us, is not a feast day, it is [an ordinary] day that never ends. It is a call to make today better than yesterday because on a day just like today, Christ did it before us...*

*Jesus [was] born into the very world in which I myself [am] living. And weathered it and loved it and changed it... The synagogue took issue with him. The state feared him. The people saw in him a figure like no other. Clearly, the face of God had shone upon us. What else could I possibly need to live my life more fully?*

excerpt from *In Search of Belief* by Joan Chittister

**I SAW THREE SHIPS** ..... MACK WILBERG  
Chancel, Cathedral, Sanctuary, and Handbell Choirs

*I saw three ships come sailing in, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day in the morning.*

*And what was in those ships all three, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
And what was in those ships all three, on Christmas Day in the morning?*

*Our Savior Christ and His lady, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
Our Savior Christ and His lady, on Christmas Day in the morning.*

*Pray, whither sailed those ships all three, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
Pray, whither sailed those ships all three, on Christmas day in the morning?*

*O, they sailed in to Bethlehem on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
O, they sailed in to Bethlehem on Christmas Day in the morning.*

*And all the bells on earth shall ring, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
And all the bells on earth shall ring, on Christmas Day in the morning.*

*And all the angels in heaven shall sing, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
And all the angels in heaven shall sing, on Christmas Day in the morning.*

*All the souls on earth shall sing, on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
And all the souls on earth shall sing, on Christmas Day in the morning.*

*Then let us all rejoice and sing! On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;  
Then let us all rejoice and sing! On Christmas Day in the morning!*

Traditional English Carol, 17th Century

The Greeting ~ Pastor David Lose

The Offertory

**JOYEUX NOËL** ..... JOHN LEAVITT  
Piano, String Quartet, Percussion, Sanctuary Choir Section Leaders

## The Narration

*At this Holy Instant, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ  
Into the great religions of the world.*

*We jubilate the precious advent of trust.*

*We shout with glorious tongues at the coming of hope.*

*All the earth's tribes loosen their voices*

*To celebrate the promise of Peace.*

*We, Angels and Mortals, Believers and Non-Believers,*

*Look heavenward and speak the word aloud. Peace.*

*We look at our world and speak the word aloud. Peace.*

*We look at each other, then into ourselves*

*And we say without shyness or apology or hesitation.*

*Peace, My Brother.*

*Peace, My Sister.*

*Peace, My Soul.*

excerpt from *Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem* by Maya Angelou

**PEACE, PEACE** ..... RICK AND SYLVIA POWELL  
Chancel, Cathedral, and Sanctuary Choirs

*Peace, peace, peace on earth and good will to all.*

*This is a time for joy, this is a time for love.*

*Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.*

*Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,*

*'Round yon Virgin Mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild.*

*Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

text by Rick and Sylvia Powell (1969)

Joseph Mohr (1818)

(The congregation is invited to join in singing *Silent Night*)

## The Closing Prayer

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. May God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Amen.

## The Postlude

**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION** ..... JONATHAN SCOTT  
Organ

## CONCERT STAFF AND PERSONNEL

Senior Pastor – Pastor Lose  
Director of Worship and Music – Beverly Claffin  
Principal Organist and Director of Handbells – Jordan Buchholtz  
Directors of Sanctuary Choir – Beverly Claffin (Mpls), Brandon Berger (West)  
Assistant Director of Sanctuary Choir – Brian Ohnsorg  
Assistant Director of Handbells – Sophie Norman  
Directors of Cathedral Choir – Beverly Claffin (Mpls), Samantha Hickox-Young (West)  
Directors of Chancel Choir – Amanda Jenkins (Mpls), Kathryn Gubrud (West)  
Performing Staff Pianists – Jordan Buchholtz, Miriam Jensen, Sophie Norman, Shelley Ohnsorg,  
Susan Steincross  
String Quartet – Heidi Amundson, Claire Loudon, Anne Ainomäe, Diane Loudon  
Percussion – Andy Jensen, Jon Dostal  
Oboe – Brendon Bushman  
Narrator – Pastor Hammersten  
Production Manager – Emmet Kowler  
Audio Engineer – Jason Millard  
Lighting Designer – Trevor Zapiecki  
Broadcast Audio Engineer – Pat Kessler  
Livestream Operator – JoAnna Griffith  
Camera Operator – Tristan Evans-Fargione  
Production Assistants – Mary Bates, Gail Breen, Kris Ericksen, Libby Fotland, Ameer LiaBraaten  
Mount Olivet Youth Staff – Geoff Arenson, Emma Brink, Kate Campion, Carl Engbretson,  
Anna Herd, Julia Jallo, Macey Oliver, Meghan Rickert, Sam Sanda, Angie St. Dennis,  
Charlie Teien  
Program Designer – Libby Fotland  
Narrative Advisor – Elena Stabile



Mount Olivet has a long tradition of placing strong emphasis on the music of the church. We believe that music has a unique power to touch our hearts and to enrich and inspire our faith journey.

The choirs welcome all interested singers who would like to become a part of this special ministry area. For more information or if you have questions, please reach out to Beverly Claffin at [beverlyc@mtolivet.org](mailto:beverlyc@mtolivet.org).

Thank you for your support of the Music Ministry at Mount Olivet.  
Your gifts make it possible for us to continue to provide exceptional musical experiences for the congregation and community.

### WAYS TO GIVE TO MOUNT OLIVET



**Text** “MTOLIVET Music Gifts” to 73256  
**Online** at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org)

Thank you for your generosity!

# Christmas Services

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE**  
10am, Mpls & West Campus & livestreamed at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org)

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES, MPLS CAMPUS**

Hourly 2-10pm & livestreamed at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org)

*All services feature a full orchestra*

1:40pm: Instrumental Prelude

2pm: Cherub & Cathedral Choirs

3pm: Alleluia & Cathedral Choirs

4pm: Hosanna & Cathedral Choirs

5pm: Chapel Choir & Piano Solo

6pm: Chancel Choir & Piano Solo

7, 8, & 9pm: Sanctuary Choir

10pm: Candlelight service with Sanctuary Choir

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES, WEST CAMPUS**

Hourly 2-6pm

*All services feature a string quartet and harp*

2pm: Cherub, Alleluia, & Cathedral Choirs

3pm: Hosanna, Chapel, & Cathedral Choirs

4pm: Chancel & Sanctuary Choirs

5pm: Sanctuary Choir

6pm: Candlelight service with Sanctuary Choir

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE, MPLS CAMPUS**

10am & livestreamed at [mtolivet.org](http://mtolivet.org)  
Christmas hymns led by harp and organ

**MPLS CAMPUS** 5025 Knox Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55419 | 612.926.7651  
**WEST CAMPUS** 7150 Rolling Acres Road, Victoria, MN 55386 | 952.767.1500