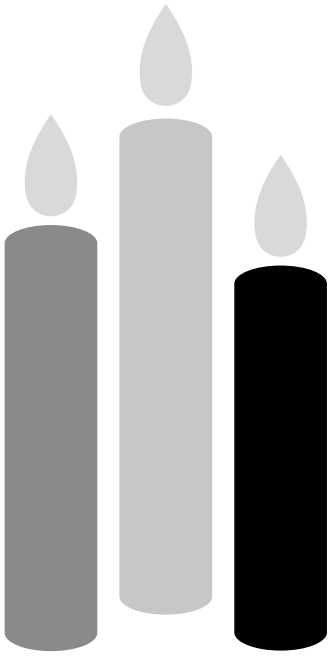

Christmas Eve Candlelight

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church

Minneapolis Campus

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 ~ 10pm

The Orchestral Prelude

Carol of the Bells/God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen M. Riley

(please stand when invited)

The Processional Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful 283

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!

The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! Refrain

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

(please be seated)

The Christmas Story in Word and Song

The Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-4

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

The Christmas Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem **279:1**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

The Scripture Reading

Luke 2:5-7

And so Joseph went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Christmas Hymn

Away in a Manger **277:1**

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-12

Now in that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But 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.”

The Christmas Hymn

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly **276:1**

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

The Scripture Reading

Luke 2:13-20

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!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Christmas Hymn

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.

(please stand as you are able)

The Christmas Eve Prayer

Pastor and Congregation: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light that the darkness cannot overcome. Grant that in this world we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence, and that we may know the full joy of his glory in the world to come. Through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, we pray, Amen.

(please be seated)

The Christmas Eve Hymn

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve **271:1, 5**

I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
and angels sang on earth.

And so I love each Christmas Eve,
and I love Jesus too;
and that he loves me ev'ryday
I know so well is true.

The Welcome — Pastor Lose

The Offertory Anthem

The First Noel — **Dan Forrest**

Sanctuary Choir

(please stand as you are able and sing)

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

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!”
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.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

The Sermon — Pastor Lose

(please stand as you are able - candles will be lit pew by pew)

The Closing Hymn and Lighting of the Candles

Silent Night **281:1, 2, 3**

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.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

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 and Threefold Amen

(please pause for a moment of silent prayer)

The Postlude

A Christmas Fantasy **Jonathan Scott**

Candles may be left in the narthex as you exit.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

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 Sanctuary Choir

Jordan Buchholtz, Principal Organist

Mount Olivet Christmas Fund

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

Online at mtolivet.org/ways-to-give/

Text "MTOLIVET" to 73256

Christmas Welcome

The picture most of us hold of the Christmas scene is so beautiful and calm that it's easy to forget that those gathered around the manger were a peculiar bunch. A young mother, chosen by God, likely experiencing a mix of fear, joy, and wonder in equal measures. A protective father, initially skeptical yet charged by angels to care for his wife and newborn. Lowly shepherds, unexpectedly summoned to witness the unfolding of God's salvation. Visiting foreign dignitaries, come seeking answers to their deepest questions. And angels, God's messengers sent to herald peace to all. High and low, wealthy and poor, skeptic and seeker, fearful and courageous, people from far away and right in the neighborhood: everyone was invited to gather around the Christ child, God's gift and promise of peace, love, and goodwill.

At Mount Olivet, we believe God is still inviting everyone to gather around that same gift and promise. And so we want you to know more than ever that, wherever you come from, whatever hopes and fears you may harbor, whatever gifts and needs you bring, whatever questions you hold and answers you seek, there is a place for you here. Our mission is simple: to continue to invite people to hear, learn about, and, most especially, experience the love of God. Join us – we've been waiting for you!

~ David J. Lose, Senior Pastor