



Christmas Eve

Morning

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church

Minneapolis Campus

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 ~ 10am

The Harp Prelude

(please stand when invited)

The Processional Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

283:1, 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!

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 Christmas Eve Litany

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

Congregation: All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

Pastor: What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Congregation: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Pastor: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

Congregation: 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.

(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

The First Noel

300:1

**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.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.**

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

Silent Night, Holy Night!

281:1

**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.**

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

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

270:1

**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!”**

(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 Welcome

Pastor Hammersten

The Offertory Anthem

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Elena Stabile, soprano

(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

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 Sermon

Pastor Hammersten

(please stand as you are able)

The Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

267:1, 4

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**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 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

Bring a Torch, Jeanette-Isabella

Keith Chapman

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

Sam Libra, Guest Organist

Anna Koopmann, Harp

Mount Olivet Christmas Fund

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ministries of Mount Olivet.**



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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