

**MUSIC & ART**  
**AT MOUNT OLIVET**

**JOHN RUTTER**  
**REQUIEM**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 12**  
**7PM**



**MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH**

# *Program Order*

Welcome

Dr. Beverly Clafin  
Director of Worship and Music

*Requiem*

John Rutter (b. 1945)

1. *Requiem aeternam*
2. *Out of the deep*
3. *Pie Jesu*
4. *Sanctus*
5. *Agnus Dei*
6. *The Lord is my shepherd*
7. *Lux aeterna*

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**Conductor:** Brandon Berger,  
Director of Mount Olivet Sanctuary Choir, West Campus  
**Soloists:** Elena Stabile, soprano; Rosie Widen, soprano

# Program Notes

## Requiem

John Rutter (b. 1945)

John Rutter's *Requiem* offers musical meditation on death shaped not by fear or judgement, but by trust in God's mercy and the promise of resurrection; themes that are at the heart of Lutheran faith and funeral liturgy. Composed in 1985 in memory of his father, Rutter's *Requiem* speaks as much to the comfort of living as to the commendation of the dead to God's care.

Rather than setting the complete Roman *Requiem* Mass, Rutter selects texts that emphasize God's gracious character and the believer's confidence in Christ. Traditional Latin movements (*Requiem aeternam, Pie Jesu, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei*) are interwoven with English biblical texts, including Psalms 23 and 130 as well as words drawn from the Burial Service in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. This use of scripture in guiding the work aligns closely with Lutheran worship, where God's Word stands at the center of proclamation, consolation, and hope.

The opening movement, *Requiem aeternam*, begins with a prayer for rest and light, not as something earned, but as a gift received from God. Psalm 130 (*Out of the deep*) follows, giving voice to human suffering and repentance, first introduced in an intricate cello melody and later passed on to the singers, while firmly confessing that "with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption." This movement reflects a core Lutheran understanding: salvation rests not in human effort, but in God's steadfast love.

At the heart of the work lies *Pie Jesu*, a movement of extraordinary simplicity and tenderness, functioning almost as a personal prayer for the departed soul, set for soprano solo with choral interjections. What follows in the *Sanctus* movement lifts the listener into the praise of the heavenly host, reminding us that earthly worship is joined to the eternal song of heaven. This jubilation is contrasted significantly in the *Agnus Dei*, a movement that draws attention to Christ, the Lamb of God, whose sacrifice brings peace not only for those at life's end, but for all who live by faith.

In place of the traditional Dies irae, Rutter sets Psalm 23 (*The Lord is my shepherd*), affirming God's abiding presence even in the valley of the shadow of death; imagery that is deeply embedded in Lutheran funeral preaching. The final movement of the work, *Lux aeterna*, gathers earlier themes into a closing prayer of quiet assurance, providing us with the assurance that the departed will ultimately rest in God's eternal light.

Musically, Rutter's clear tonal language and lyrical style support each text without drawing attention away from it. The music serves the Word, allowing the listener to receive the message of consolation and hope. In this way, *Requiem* functions as a proclamation as much as a prayer, announcing God's faithfulness in the face of death.

For us as Lutherans, this work does not speak of death as the final word. Instead, it bears witness to the Gospel. In Christ, death has been met and overcome, and those who die in the Lord rest secure in God's promise of eternal life.

-Brandon Berger (March 2026)

# Program Translations

## **Requiem aeternam**

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine: et lux perpetua  
luceat eis. Te decet hymnus, Deus in Sion: et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem.  
Exaudi orationem meam, ad te omnis caro veniet.  
Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

from *Missa pro defunctis*

*Grant them rest eternal, Lord our God, we pray to thee: and light perpetual shine on them for ever.  
Thou, Lord, art worshipped in Sion: thy praises shall ever be sung in all Jerusalem.  
O hear us; O Lord, hear thy faithful servants' prayer; to thee shall all mortal flesh return.  
Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.*

## **Out of the deep**

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord: Lord, hear my voice.  
O let thine ears consider well the voice of my complaint.  
If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss: O Lord, who may abide it?  
For there is mercy with thee: therefore shalt thou be feared.  
I look for the Lord: my soul doth wait for him, and in his word is my trust.  
My soul fleeth unto the Lord: before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch.  
O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy: and with him is plenteous redemption.  
And he shall redeem Israel from all his sins.

Psalm 130

## **Pie Jesu**

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem.  
Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis sempiternam requiem.

from 'Dies irae', *Missa pro defunctis*

*Blessed Jesu, Lord I pray, in thy mercy grant them rest.  
Lord our God, we pray thee, grant them everlasting rest.*

## **Sanctus**

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt caeli gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.  
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

*Missa pro defunctis*

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and majesty.  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord our God: Hosanna in the highest.*

## **Agnus Dei**

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: dona eis requiem.

*Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world: in thy mercy grant them rest.*

Man that is born of a woman hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up, and is cut down like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem.

In the midst of life we are in death: of whom may we seek for succour?

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem.

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

Latin text from *Missa pro defunctis*;

English texts from the Burial Service, 1662 Book of Common Prayer

## **The Lord is my shepherd**

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me: thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalm 23

## **Lux aeterna**

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours. Even so saith the Spirit.

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine: cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es.

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

*Light eternal shine upon them, Lord, we pray: with saints and angels ever dwelling, for thy mercy's sake, may they rest in peace.*

*Grant them rest eternal, Lord our God, we pray to thee, and light perpetual shine on them for ever.*

English text from the Burial Service

Latin text from *Missa pro defunctis*

English translations by John Rutter

# *Participants*

**Brandon Berger** (he/him) is a Graduate Instructor and Teaching Assistant at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities where he is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree as part of their graduate choral conducting cohort. At the University of Minnesota, he directs the University Treble Chorus and assists with the Chamber Singers and University Singers. Berger holds a Master of Music Degree in Choral Conducting, which he earned from the U of M in 2025, as well as Bachelor of Music Degree in Vocal Music Education, which he earned from St. Olaf College in 2015. Prior to beginning his graduate studies, Berger taught high school choir for 8 years in the Twin Cities area. He also serves as the conductor of the Sanctuary Choir at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church's West Campus in Victoria, MN, a position he's held since 2021.

Choirs under Berger's direction have performed in regional performance tours throughout the midwest, as well as at State and Regional ACDA Conventions, the MMEA Midwinter Clinic, the Luther College Dorian Festival, the Wartburg Meistersinger Festival, the St. Olaf Choral Day Festival, the Concordia College Choir Festival, and as part of the Cantus High School Residency Program. He is an active member of the American Choral Directors Association, the Minnesota Music Educators Association, and the National Association for Music Education. In the fall of 2023 Berger was selected as the recipient of the prestigious Emerging Choral Director award by the Minnesota chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. Berger is a proud resident of Robbinsdale, where he lives with his wife, two daughters, and two dogs.

**Dr. Elena Stabile** (she/they) is a dynamic performer of operatic and contemporary art music, voice teacher, writer, and dramaturg. Elena currently resides in St. Paul, MN and can be frequently seen in collaboration with local and regional ensembles and arts organizations. She serves as the Director of Operations of Opera Reading Project, a Twin Cities-based arts non-profit that fosters holistic opera and vocal arts education opportunities, and is a founding member of the Lake Pepin Chamber Music organization. She received her undergraduate education from Lawrence University and Conservatory of Music, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in English and Creative Writing in addition to a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance, and holds a master's degree in Voice from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities in Voice Performance with a secondary area in Musicology. Website: [elenastabile.com](http://elenastabile.com)

**Rosie Widen** is a fifth grader at Highlands Elementary in Edina and has been singing with the Mount Olivet choirs since she was in Cherub Choir (pre-school). In addition to her participation in church and school choirs, she sings with the Angelica Cantanti Cantabile Youth Choir under the direction of Michelle Gehrz. Her theatre appearances include Young Anna in *Frozen Kids* with Edina Community Musical Theatre, and Shanti in *The Jungle Book Kids* with Morningside Theatre Company. In addition to singing, Rosie plays the flute and loves books, art, and writing.

## **Instrumentalists**

Flute - Charles Gibb\*  
Oboe - Dana Donnay\*  
Cello - Diane Loudon\*  
Percussion - Joel Alexander  
Harp - Emily Gerard  
Organ - Jordan Buchholtz\*

*\*Mount Olivet Music Staff and/or Mount Olivet School of Music & the Arts faculty*

## **Chorus Members**

Erik Adolphson\*  
Mary Alverson\*  
Eric Arlien  
Sarah Bale\*  
Lester Bauer\*  
Ashley Brueske  
Martha Carlson\*  
Nini Crannell  
Doug Daniel  
Siri Drontle  
Karen Duholm  
Tom Dunlap\*  
Dan Elifson  
Nora Elifson  
Doug Erickson  
Camilla Glattly  
Svea Grosz\*  
Bill Gurnon  
Dave Haberle\*  
Jim Halverson\*  
Pat Hanse\*  
Rob Have\*  
Sean LaPointe  
Brendan Hermerding  
Michelle Jewel  
Julie Karlson  
Jennifer Keinath\*

Pamela Kemp  
Mary Knutson\*  
John Kuehn\*  
Sandy Kuehn\*  
Barry Lau  
Carol LeMay\*  
Mary Lindberg  
Peggy Linrud\*  
Randi Lundell\*  
Shiny Mahlum  
Charles Marentette  
Suzanne Mead-Smith\*  
Steve Melin\*  
Geoff Michael  
Martin Mikus  
Suzanne Mills-Rittmann  
Eileen Mitchell\*  
Laura Morrill\*  
Mary Nicol  
Lizzie Norman\*  
Sophie Norman\*  
Hillary Patz\*  
Kim Petersen  
David Peterson\*  
Rosey Peterson  
Tony Potts\*  
Amanda Prutzman

Lisa Quist  
Cheryl Ritenbaugh  
Val Rogosheske\*  
Rick Saumer  
Gillian Schoonover  
Lori Schumacher\*  
Sara Schwiebert  
Cindy Smith\*  
Elena Stabile\*  
Christine Staebell\*  
Justin Staebell\*  
Mark Swenson\*  
Judy Taves  
Abby Tillotson  
Erica Tobola\*  
Vicki Turnquist\*  
Matthew Valverde\*  
Barbara VanDrasek  
Nancy Wasserman  
John Watne\*  
Amanda Welliver  
Jana Whear\*  
John Widen\*  
Adrian Wong  
Tony Zuchora-Walske

*\*Mount Olivet Sanctuary Choir member*

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The Mount Olivet School of Music & the Arts develops and encourages artistic skill and appreciation in each student, regardless of age or ability. For additional information about private lessons and art classes, please visit [mtolivet.org/mosoma](http://mtolivet.org/mosoma) or contact Coordinator of MOSOMA, Sophie Norman, at [mosoma@mtolivet.org](mailto:mosoma@mtolivet.org).

Tuesday, March 24, 6pm, Mpls Campus

**Paper Quilling Flowers**

This class is a fun and unique artistic experience! Dive into paper rolling techniques to create 3-D art, all with step-by-step instructions.

Wednesday, April 1, 7pm, Mpls Campus

**Holy Week Concert: Seven Last Words of Christ** by Theodore Dubois

Presented by the Cathedral Choir and Alumni singers, professional orchestra, and Mount Olivet soloists, Amanda Jenkins (soprano), Brian Ohnsorg (tenor), and Justin Staebell (baritone).

Sunday, April 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11 am, Mpls & West Campuses

**Easter Sunday**

Festival Choirs and instrumental ensemble.

Monday, April 27, 6pm, Mpls Campus

**Paint Like Van Gogh's Sunflowers**

Create an acrylic painting of Van Gogh's famous *Sunflowers* on an 8 x 10" canvas. Learn a bit of history about him and his style of painting as you follow step-by-step instructions.

Monday, May 18, 6pm, Mpls Campus

**Alcohol Ink Garden**

Alcohol ink is unpredictable and so much fun to create with. Learn how to create a simple yet stunning landscape while learning different techniques that create dynamic results.