

*Thank you for joining us as we  
Worship our Lord  
December 5, 2021  
10:15am Service*



The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.” *Luke 3:4b*

### **Mount Olive Lutheran Church**

6965 Chestnut Ridge Road, Lockport, New York

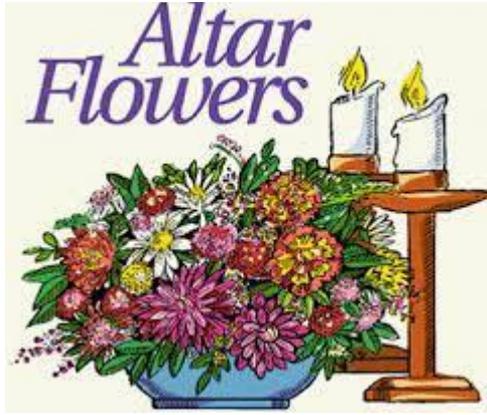
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## STEWARSHIP NOTE. . .

Pray to the Lord with a thankful heart when tempted by anxiety and worry. The Lord is at hand and has long range plans. ***Philippians 4:5-6***



*Hayes Family*  
*"For Blessing Received"*

Sunday, December 5, 2021  
Traditional Communion Service  
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*Divine Service II Lutheran Worship*

**Pre-Service Music**

**WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMM**

**“Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”**

Holy God, we praise Thy name  
Lord of all, we bow before Thee  
all on earth Your scepter claim  
all in heaven above adore Thee  
infinite Your vast domain,  
everlasting is Your reign

Hark, the loud celestial hymn,  
angel choirs above are raising.  
Cherubim and seraphim,  
in unceasing chorus praising,  
fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord

Holy Father, Holy Son,  
Holy Spirit, three we name thee;  
still, one holy voice is heard:  
undivided God, we claim thee,  
and adoring bend the knee,  
while we own the mystery.

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

## **INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

## **OPENING SENTENCES**

*Malachi 3:1, 6; Luke 3:4; Philippians 1:6*

Pastor: The Lord says, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

**People: We thank You, O Lord!**

Pastor: The Lord says, "The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, He is coming."

**People: We adore You, O Lord!**

Pastor: The Lord says, "I the Lord do not change; therefore you are not consumed."

**People: We praise You, O Lord!**

Pastor: The Lord who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**People: We worship You, O Lord!**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*Two Advent candles are lit.*

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## **“Light One Candle for LOVE”**

Light one candle for LOVE,  
one bright candle for LOVE

He brings LOVE to every heart!  
He comes, He comes!  
Light one candle for LOVE,  
one bright candle for LOVE  
Every nation will find salvation  
in Beth'lems baby boy.

Light one candle for LOVE,  
one bright candle for LOVE  
He brings LOVE to every heart,  
He comes! He comes!

### **CONFESSION**

**Pastor:** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People:** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of you holy name. Amen.**

### **ABSOLUTION**

#### **INTROIT**

**Pastor:** The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.”

**People:** **Hear, O My people, while I admonish you! O Israel, if you would but listen to Me!**

**Pastor:** I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

**People:** **But My people did not listen to My voice; Israel would not submit to Me.**

Pastor: Oh, that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways!

**People: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."

**KYRIE**

*(Spoken)*

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

***"This is the Feast"***

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Power, riches and wisdom and strength,  
and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Sing with all the people of God  
and join in the hymn of all creation.  
Blessing and honor and glory and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

For the Lamb who was slain  
has begun his reign. Alleluia.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

### **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord,

People: **to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son,**

Pastor: that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with  
pure minds;

People: **through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and  
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
forever. Amen.**

## **THE WORD**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

***Malachi 3:1–7***

*(English Standard Version)*

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. <sup>3</sup> He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup> “Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

<sup>6</sup> “For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. <sup>7</sup> From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, ‘How shall we return?’

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

***Psalms 66:1–12***

Elder: You have brought us out to a place of abundance.

**People: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;**

Elder: sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!

**People: Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds! So great is Your power that Your enemies come cringing to You.**

Elder: All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”

**People: Come and see what God has done: He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.**

Elder: He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.

**People: There did we rejoice in Him, who rules by His might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations—let not the rebellious exalt themselves.**

Elder: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,

**People: who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**

Elder: For You, O God, have tested us; You have tried us as silver is tried.

**People: You brought us into the net; You laid a crushing burden on our backs;**

Elder: You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet You have brought us out to a place of abundance.

**People: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Elder: You have brought us out to a place of abundance.

**EPISTLE**

***Philippians 1:2–11***

*(English Standard Version)*

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**(Please rise out of respect for the Gospel)**

**VERSE**

***Luke 3:4b, 6***

Pastor: Alleluia! Alleluia!

**People: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord,

**People: make His paths straight;**

Pastor: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**People: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup> As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall become straight,  
and the rough places shall become level ways,

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

<sup>7</sup> He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?”

<sup>11</sup> And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” <sup>12</sup> Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” <sup>13</sup> And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup> As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup> So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. <sup>19</sup> But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, <sup>20</sup> added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

### **NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit  
of the virgin Mary and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again  
according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

And He will come again with glory  
to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian  
and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life † of the world to come.  
Amen.

**FEEDING OF THE LAMBS**     *For the young and the young at heart*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**  
***"On Jordan's Bank"***

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without your grace we waste away  
Like flowers that wither and decay.

All praise to you, eternal Son,  
Whose advent has our freedom won,  
Whom with the Father we adore,  
And Holy Spirit, evermore

**MESSAGE**

***“Preaching till’ the pews get hot”***

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

***(Responsive)***

Elder: As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ’s coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

*A brief time of silence may be observed.*

Elder: O Wisdom from on high, guide Your Church throughout the world to repent—to turn each day to You, confessing our sins and being restored by You to bear the fruit of the Spirit. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to bear fruits in keeping with repentance. We pray,

**People: hear us, coming Lord.**

Elder: O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

**People: hear us, coming Lord.**

Elder: O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us to enter humbly the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

**People: hear us, coming Lord.**

Elder: O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to

love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

**People: hear us, coming Lord.**

Elder: O Lord of might, empower us to hear the words of John the Baptist afresh today. Lead us to repent of those things that hinder our trust in You and fill us by the Holy Spirit to bear much fruit. We pray,

**People: hear us, coming Lord.**

Elder: O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

**People: hear us, coming Lord.**

Elder: You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**Matthew 6:9–13**

***Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:***

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 LORD'S PRAYER ACCORDING TO JOHN 17

Holy Father, protect your church  
by the power of your name.  
The name you gave your Son  
so that we may be one  
as the Father and the Son are one.  
May we have the full measure of joy  
within us through the power of your life-saving spirit.  
Protect us from the evil one  
and sanctify us by the truth of your word.  
Having been sanctified by your word,  
send us out into the world.  
In the name of our triune God.  
Amen.

## FIRST FRUITS OFFERING

## TEACHING ON STEWARDSHIP

### PREFACE

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### PROPER PREFACE

**Pastor:** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**SANCTUS**

*(Sung)*

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of Power and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Pastor:** You, O God, spoke into the vast silence at creation, and the universe was born. Your voice of power and mercy both condemned the sin of Adam and Eve and promised them a Savior. Your voice of power and mercy called Abraham and Sarah to a new land and promised blessing through them to all nations. Your voice of power and mercy plagued the Egyptians and set the Israelites free to journey toward the Promised Land. Your voice of power and mercy was spoken through the prophets, exposing the emptiness of those who turned from You, while at the same time inviting those with ears to hear to repent. Your voice of power and mercy rang out in the wilderness from the lips of John the Baptist, calling us again to repentance. Your voice of power and mercy became flesh in Jesus, whose words challenged the proud and lifted the lowly. By Your voice of power and mercy, Jesus took upon Himself all this world's sin and evil, to suffer and die, and then, in fulfillment of the ancient promise, to rise from the grave. We give You thanks, praise, and worship for Your voice of power and mercy to us, that we may now live in Your kingdom and forever worship and adore You. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**Pastor:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**PAX DOMINI**

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** And also with you.

**Agnus Dei (sung)**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world**

**Have mercy on us**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world**

**Have mercy on us**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world**

**Grant us peace**

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

**DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**

**Thank the Lord (sung)**

**Thank the Lord and sing His praise**

**Tell everyone what He has done**

**Let all who seek the Lord**

**Rejoice and proudly bear His name**

**He recalls His promises**

**And leads His people forth in joy**

**With shouts of thanksgiving**

**Alleluia, alleluia**

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord God, we give You thanks for Your thrilling words of life and salvation, made real and tangible to us today in Christ's body and blood. As You have touched our lips and our hearts with the body and blood of Jesus, so let the words that come from our mouths speak Your message of restoration into this broken world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

**DOXOLOGY**

***Hymn #461***

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him, all creatures here below  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost  
Amen**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

**CLOSING HYMN**

***“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”***

O come, O come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

***Refrain:***

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.***

Oh, come, O Key of David, come  
And open wide our  
heavenly home.  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.

***Refrain***

Oh, come, our Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Your drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

***Refrain***