



# *Lenten Vespers*

*March 26, 2025*

*7:00 p.m.*

*Mount Olive Lutheran Church  
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

# Love Does No Wrong to a Neighbor

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Jesus summed up all the law and the prophets as “Love God with all you have and are, and love your neighbor as yourself.” This is the heart of the ethics of the other non-Gospel New Testament writers as well, for obvious reasons. Yet in our polarized and angry culture, divisions are the norm: hate speech, discrimination, open bigotry, targeting the vulnerable in multiple ways, this is our world.

We who are Christ, anointed in baptism as Christ ourselves, have no option but to go where Jesus goes, see “neighbor” as Jesus says God does, and love where and whom Jesus loves.

## *This week: Your neighbor is more important than your convictions*

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This powerful parable of Jesus opens our eyes to the challenges to seeing a neighbor in need and acting on their behalf. If what we believe about the world blinds us to someone in pain, keeps us from helping, Jesus would rather we drop our belief and help. As Paul says, “we do not live to ourselves and we do not die to ourselves.” We belong to God in Christ, and that joins us to all who need God’s loving grace.

*Copies of today’s Wednesday noon sermon are on the table with the service folders tonight, and on the church website at [www.mountolivechurch.org](http://www.mountolivechurch.org) and select “Sermons” from the list at the bottom of the page.*



### **Mount Olive Lutheran Church (ELCA)**

3045 Chicago Avenue South • Minneapolis, MN 55407 + Phone: (612) 827-5919

*Musical, Liturgical, Welcoming + A Reconciling in Christ Congregation*

Email: [welcome@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:welcome@mountolivechurch.org) + Website: [www.mountolivechurch.org](http://www.mountolivechurch.org)

### **Staff**

Pastor – Joseph Crippen

Interim Organist – Robert Farlee

Vicar – Natalie Wussler

Interim Choir Director – Andrew Stoebig

Administrative Assistant – Cha Posz

Sexton – Jose Morocho

Coordinator Neighborhood Ministry – Jim Bargmann



Hymn

“O God of Mercy, God of Light”

HYMN 714

## ✝ Word

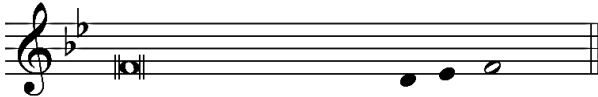
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Readings: Romans 14:7-19; Luke 10:25-37

*(seated)*

*A brief silence follows each reading.*

Dialog



☐ Long ago God spoke . . . | by the prophets.

☑ **but now in these last days God has spoken to us | by the Son.**

Gospel Canticle

*(standing)*

“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

HYMN 251

Prayers and Lord’s Prayer

*(kneeling)* page 318

Blessing

*(standing)* page 319

Hymn

“God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven”

HYMN 564

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### **Participants**

Leader: Vicar Natalie Wussler

Interim Organist: Robert Farlee

Sacristan: Jim Bargmann

Usher: Mike Knudson

Livestream: Eric Manuel