



The Olive Branch

April 2, 2025

Accent on Worship

Vicar Natalie Wussler

Sunday Readings

April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday in Lent, year C

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

April 13, 2025

Sunday of the Passion, year C

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14 – 23:56

*In the presence of God.
Being the presence of God.*

Deliverance from exile? Foolish! Tears turning into joy? Impossible. Forsaking worldly accolades? Ridiculous! Wasting three hundred denarii (a whole year’s income) on helping a friend? Excuse me!!

This week’s lectionary texts push the boundaries of what we consider to be wise. This week’s faithful people boldly trust that what might seem foolish to the world is invaluable in God’s eyes. The Israelites probably received messaging from the Babylonians and other nations that their exile was a hopeless case; no matter what they did they would always be trapped, seeing and reaping tears, cut off from the promised land and the very presence of God forever. We know Mary heard from at least Judas, if not a few other onlookers, that her act of love and service toward Jesus (inching closer to his gruesome death) was simply wasteful. And Paul – a model citizen – cast aside everything that made him successful by the world’s standards; I can’t imagine the ancient rumor mill did him any favors.

This life in God’s reign sometimes looks foolish to the world. We do things, believe things, and keep hope in things that don’t make sense. We are called to build bridges where there have been walls, to go to the margins and invest deeply in people experiencing oppression, to give of ourselves in ways we wouldn’t without our faith in Christ.

Some people won’t get it.

We may experience resistance.

We might find days where we want to give up.

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But these stories today remind us that God shows up in ways that might feel foolish and calls us to love a life following the way of Christ, not the way of the world – to join with our siblings in faith to become the healing that this world so desperately needs.

Today, it might feel ridiculous to be part of the healing – to hope that things could ever get better. But throughout time, Christ has worked through people willing to defy the status quo, work for justice and peace when outside voices said it was hopeless and have changed the world. People have created communities of healing and kindness that have saved lives.

Who says that can't be us? Today might be the day to get a little bit foolish.

- *Vicar Natalie Wussler*

Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter at Mount Olive

Monday-Wednesday, April 14-16

Monday-Wednesday in Holy Week

+ Daily Prayer at Noon, in the side chapel of the nave, near the columbarium

Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday

+ Holy Eucharist, Noon

+ Holy Eucharist, with Washing of Feet, 7:00 pm

Friday, April 18

Good Friday

+ Stations of the Cross, Noon

+ Adoration of the Cross, 7 pm

Saturday, April 19

Holy Saturday

+ The Easter Vigil, 8:30 pm, followed by a festive reception

Sunday, April 20

The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day

+ ONE Festival Holy Eucharist at 10 am

(note difference in Sunday schedule!)

The Olive Branch

Calendar

Wednesday, April 2

- 9:00 am Staff meeting
Noon *Midweek Lenten Eucharist*, followed by Soup Luncheon
No Children's Choirs this evening
6:00 pm Soup supper
7:00 pm *Midweek Vespers*
7:35 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Thursday, April 3

- 9:30 am *Morning Prayer*
7:00 pm MIRAC meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, April 4

- Noon LSS Alumni luncheon
7:00 pm Recovery Group

Saturday, April 5

- 10:00 am Funeral Visitation
11:00 am *Funeral Eucharist*

Sunday, April 6 - The Fourth Sunday in Lent

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation
9:30 am Adult Forum/Godly Play/Youth Conversation
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

Monday, April 7

- Noon Holy Week Planning meeting
5:30 pm Family Music Time (online only)
7:00 pm Vicar Committee meeting
7:00 pm Global Ministry Committee meeting
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

Tuesday, April 8

- Noon Bible Study

Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

The Tuesday Noon Bible Study meets weekly in person in the East Assembly Room. For those who are unable to come in person, the Bible Study is held over Zoom as well.

The link for the Tuesday noon Bible study will be the same every week. To join from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, [click here](#).

Book Discussion

On April 12 the discussion will travel to Nigeria to consider *Under the Udala Trees* by Chinelo Okparanta. In May you can join in learning about Eileen Blair, author and wife of George Orwell, as we read *Wifedom, Mrs. Orwell's Invisible Life* by Anna Funder.

Everyone is invited to join whenever you are able, at 10 a.m. in the library, usually on the second Saturday of the month. The group has been using Zoom to provide remote access to the sessions. If you would like to participate in the group, you can either attend the monthly sessions which meet at the church in person or join remotely via Zoom. To join from your computer, tablet, or smart phone, [click here](#).

Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesdays in Lent

Holy Eucharist at Noon,
followed by Soup Luncheon

Vespers at 7:00 pm,
preceded by Soup Supper at 6 pm

All are welcome.

Godly Play Themes for This Week

We are on the road to Jerusalem and Holy Week. Godly Play Circle 1 will hear about Jesus the King, and Godly Play 2 will learn about Jesus in Jerusalem.



All children ages 3-Grade 1 are welcome to Circle One, and children in grades 2-5 are welcome to Circle Two.

Books Needed!

Hello, people of Mount Olive! My name is Elena Molbert. You may know my parents Tricia and Chandler Molbert.

My friends and I are doing a community service project for a school assignment at Justice Page Middle School in Minneapolis, and we need books. We're trying to get a ton of books to fill Little Free Libraries around town, so people who don't have good access to books or libraries can have the joy of reading. Any and all books will be welcome and appreciated.

Beginning last Sunday, March 30, there is a box with a sign on it for those who want to donate books during coffee hour. The box (hopefully filled with books) will be available for your donations until Easter Sunday, April 20.

Thanks for your help with this important effort!

- Elena Molbert

April Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: *Lake Street Council*

The Lake Street Council is a non-profit organization built to support the diverse community of residents and businesses that call Lake Street home. Lake Street Council does this through programs that support entrepreneurs starting new businesses and grants to help existing businesses thrive. They also work to beautify the streetscape, engage local businesses in policy work that affects the corridor, and encourage new development that aligns with goals of the street and community.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget, and often, like our partners this month, we also volunteer in support of their work. On top of those financial and labor contributions, we encourage any member who wishes to donate over and above our budgeted amount to those partners doing work in their areas of passion and concern. You can do this using your offering envelopes or our online giving system. All additional contributions to our partner of the month will be distributed to the partner for the month in which the contribution is received.

For more information about the work of the Lake Street Council, please visit their website at lakestreetcouncil.org.

Special Congregation Meeting to Call a Cantor

The Vestry has called for a **special congregational meeting on Sunday, April 13, 2025**, following the second liturgy that day (Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday). The sole purpose of this meeting is to consider a candidate for Cantor of Mount Olive and vote whether to call that person.

The Call Committee has recommended a name to the Vestry, who have approved the name and a Letter of Call to be presented to the congregation at this meeting.

Please note that the semi-annual meeting of the congregation is set for April 27. More to follow.

Easter Garden

If you would like to make a donation to help defray the costs of the beautiful flowers which adorn our Easter liturgies, please make your gift payable to Mount Olive, but be sure that "Easter Flowers" is clearly designated on the envelope and your check.

These gifts can be brought or mailed to the church office or placed in the offering plate on Sunday mornings between now and Easter Day, April 20.

Chancel Dusting and Polishing Day

The Altar Guild is hosting a chancel-cleaning event on **Saturday, April 12, beginning at 9:00 a.m.** (Please note the schedule change due to a funeral on April 5 - one week later).

Please join our crew – for an hour, for the morning. The more hands, the faster we'll finish! Come help prepare our worship space for Holy Week and Easter.

Questions? Contact Beth Gaede – bgaede13@gmail.com.

Upcoming Adult Forums

March 30 and April 6: Mount Olive member Tom Schattauer will present a 2-part series on the Rites of Triduum and their liturgical history.

Our worship together as God's people through the cycles of the Church Year forms an imagination for God's presence and purpose for us and for our world. These forum sessions explore how the principle services of the annual Paschal Triduum (or Three Days) – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Vigil of Easter, and Easter Day – help us to imagine, to see, to trust "Christ alive among his people for the life of the world."

The first session looks at the intersection of liturgy and imagination in your own experiences of the Three Days and offers an overview of the development of the Three Days out of the early Christian Pascha (or Passover).

The second session looks specifically at the essential pieces of the liturgies of the Three Days as we have them in our current worship book and asks how they touch on our imagination in order to shape our living in faith, hope, and love.

NO Adult Forum April 13 and 20 (Passion Sunday and Easter)

Reminder: The videos of recorded Adult Forum sessions are available on the Mount Olive YouTube channel, under the "Adult Forum Presentations" playlist.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharist: 8 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

Phone: 612/827-5919

On the Web: mountolivechurch.org

Staff

Pastor - *Joseph Crippen*

Interim Organist - *Robert Farlee*

Interim Choir Director - *Andrew Stoebig*

Vicar - *Natalie Wussler*

Administrative Assistant - *Cha Posz*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry -
Jim Bargmann

Sexton - *Jose Morocho*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.*

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*Lake Street Council***