

# The Olive Branch

May 21, 2025

## Accent on Worship

*Jim Bargmann*

For the majority of my life, I have been a part of faith communities that utilized the lectionary as the guide for Scripture readings used in worship. And I love that. I love the fact that we have the opportunity to revisit passages over and over and over again on a regular schedule. I find that because of the passage of time and life events, experiences, conversations, and learnings, I see these passages differently each time I read and hear them. But that isn't the focus of this Accent, just a point of introduction.

It was Jesus' words in this week's Gospel reading that provoked these thoughts.

"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe."

As I read over these words, I realized that for much of my life, I have read these words in a very sanitized way, very emotionless, even analytically. What is the original word for Advocate? Paraklētōs, which is beautiful in its own right and worth an article all on its own, but I digress... How will God send the Spirit? What is the Spirit God will send? How will the Spirit remind us of Jesus' teachings? How does the Spirit work at all? And what about this peace Jesus speaks of? What does that mean? What is the nature of this peace? How does Jesus give this peace? Is that connected to the Spirit? Or somehow something different? How is Jesus going away? When? How is Jesus going to God? Where is God that Jesus needs to go there? So many questions, so much study, so much analysis, so many hypotheses, and sometimes no sure answers. Not that any of this is bad. I have loved learning more about the nature and work of the Triune God through looking at this very passage. There is much here. *continued on page 2*

## Sunday Readings

**May 25, 2025**

*Sixth Sunday of Easter, year C*

**SUMMER WORSHIP  
SCHEDULE BEGINS**

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5

John 14:23-29

**June 1, 2025**

*Seventh Sunday of Easter,  
year C*

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Rev. 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26



## Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

But this week, I read this differently. I saw the human.

This is Jesus, very human Jesus. Sitting with his very human friends. They have been together for three or more years, experiencing any number of things together from the very normal parts of everyday life to the incredibly, literally miraculous. They are close. They are friends in the deepest, most real sense of the word. And Jesus is beginning the process of saying goodbye.

I know the feeling that goes along with saying goodbye to someone you love - the very real, physical heartache, the tightness in your chest, the spinning mind that cannot seem to find its grounding in the uncertainty, the longing to somehow find some kind of change that would make this goodbye unnecessary, the terror at the prospect of not being with the one you love, and the fear of loneliness.

I feel certain Jesus knew this feeling, too, and recognized it in his friends. And Jesus offers the comfort that his friends - and all of us in subsequent generations - will not be left alone. The promise that God's very presence in the form of this new (new to Jesus' friends, that is), mysterious being called the Spirit would become a new and consistent part of their lives just as Jesus had been for the past three or more years. Certainly, there would still be a longing for the everyday, physical presence of Jesus. The Spirit would not replace that. But here's where this situation comes full circle, back to the amorphous, uncertain, mysterious, yes, spiritual, action of the Spirit. The very Spirit of God is indeed able to teach us. Is able to give peace. Is able to comfort. How this looks and how it feels and certainly how it happens are mysterious. But that mystery does not negate its reality. And Jesus' promise was not limited to the relatively small group of friends gathered that day, but carries through to us as well. Jesus' promise to send the Spirit to teach, to bring peace, to comfort, are as true for us as it was to those gathered in Jesus' physical presence that day.

- Jim Bargmann

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## 2025 Graduates – Who Are They?

As we come to the completion of the school year, the Mount Olive community would like to take time to recognize the accomplishments of our graduates (high school, college, grad school, etc.) and celebrate the next steps of their journey.

Our Graduate Recognition will take place on Sunday, June 15, as they will be named in prayer at the morning Eucharist and greeted at the coffee hour after the Eucharist. If your Mount Olive graduate graduates this spring, please email the following information to Cha in the Mount Olive office ([welcome@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:welcome@mountolivechurch.org)): Graduate name, the school they are graduating from, any special recognitions or honors, and what they are planning to do next, whether that be job, more education, or something else.

Please invite them to be here on June 15!

## Calendar

### Wednesday, May 21

- 10:00 am Staff meeting  
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal  
7:00 pm Y2 / Y3 Confirmation

### Thursday, May 22

- 9:30 am *Morning Prayer*  
7:00 pm Holy Land Partnership Trip meeting  
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, May 23

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Saturday, May 24

- 9:00 am Gardening Day

### Sunday, May 25 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

- 10:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

### Monday, May 26 – Memorial Day holiday (offices closed)

- 7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

### Tuesday, May 27

- Noon Bible Study

### Wednesday, May 28

- 10:00 am Staff meeting  
7:00 pm Cantorei rehearsal  
7:00 pm Y2 / Y3 Confirmation

### Thursday, May 29 – Ascension of Our Lord

- 9:30 am *Morning Prayer*  
7:00 pm *Ascension Eucharist*  
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, May 30

- 7:00 pm Recovery Group

### Sunday, June 1 – Seventh Sunday of Easter

- 10:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed by coffee and conversation

### Monday, June 2

- 7:00 pm Global Ministry Committee meeting  
7:00 pm Vicar Committee meeting  
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

### Tuesday, June 3

- 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](#).

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## Book Discussion

We'll start the summer on June 14 with *The Bell and The Lake* by Lars Mytting as we once again explore Norwegian life.

Everyone is invited to join whenever you are able, at 10 a.m. in the library, usually on the second Saturday of each 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](#).

## Summer Worship Schedule begins this Sunday, May 25


Beginning Memorial Day weekend (May 25) through Labor Day weekend (Sept. 7), Mount Olive will celebrate ONE Sunday Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

## The Ascension of Our Lord

Thursday, May 29

Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.

*All are welcome.*



By the grace of God,  
the approval of the Saint Paul Area Synod  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
America, and the call of the people,

*Lauren Joy Mildahl*

will be ordained into the  
**Ministry of Word & Sacrament**,  
having been called as a pastor to  
St. Mark Lutheran Church in Circle Pines, MN.

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**Wednesday, June 18, 2025**  
**6:30pm**  
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church  
3930 Rahn Rd, Eagan, MN

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The color of the day is red. Clergy and candidates are invited to vest and process. A dessert reception will follow.

Watch online at [www.youtube.com/@mountcalvaryeagan](http://www.youtube.com/@mountcalvaryeagan)

## **May Neighborhood Ministry Partner of the Month: *Minnesota Council of Churches***

Minnesota Council of Churches seeks to “build strong communities that are made up of meaningful relationships and guided by our deepest values. They seek to partner organizations and individuals to live out faith in their communities. They do this through refugee services programs, social justice work, justice advocacy work, and fostering interfaith connections. In addition, through their Respectful Conversations program, they facilitate respectful conversations between people of varying backgrounds and train others to lead those conversations.

Mount Olive supports 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 volunteer 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 Minnesota Council of Churches, please visit their website at [www.mnchurches.org](http://www.mnchurches.org).

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## **Eighteenth Annual Bach Täge at Mount Olive: June 7-8 *There's still time to register!***

Mount Olive's annual Bach Täge is a unique opportunity to acquire new skills for rehearsing and performing the music of J.S. Bach, to gain insights into music, theology, and liturgical praxis, and to share the joy of singing some of the greatest music of all time. Participants spend the weekend immersed in a Bach cantata. Join outstanding professional vocal soloists and instrumentalists in preparing and rehearsing a cantata from chorus to chorale, then performing Bach's glorious music during Evening Prayer on Sunday.

Bach Täge once again features conductor Kathy Saltzman Romey, this year leading orchestra and chorus in a study and performance of Bach's ebullient Pentecost cantata *Wer mich liebet, der wird mein Wort halten*, Vespers entrance music by Johann Pachelbel, and other works by Michael Praetorius and Johann Heinrich Schein.

New this year, The Mirandola Ensemble joins us in residency for the weekend. This Minneapolis-based professional choral ensemble dedicated to promoting the highest standards of choral music and the aesthetics of the Renaissance will offer musical leadership at Saturday's Vigil of Pentecost and Sunday's Evening Prayer at 4:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to download a complete schedule and [here](#) to register.

## Pentecost Reading of Acts 2 in Many Languages

For a number of years, it has been our tradition at Mount Olive to hear a portion of the Pentecost reading from Acts 2:1-21 read simultaneously in various languages.

Some of you have either participated in this joint reading in the past or are knowledgeable enough in a foreign language that you might be willing to participate this year. Anyone who can read aloud in another language is invited to participate in this corporate reading at the morning liturgy on **Sunday, June 8**.

If you are interested in participating this year, please contact Andrew Stoebig, ([worship@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:worship@mountolivechurch.org)).

## Making Melody to the Lord: A Festival of Song

*Sunday, June 1, 4:00 PM*

*Christ Church Lutheran*

*3244 34th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

In the tradition of the Festschrift (“festival writing”) – a volume of writings by various authors presented as a tribute to an influential scholar and mentor, this Festgesang (“festival singing”), in the year of his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, celebrates the many contributions to Christian liturgical and musical life of Christ Church Lutheran’s former Cantor, Robert Buckley Farlee (who, as you know, is currently serving as Interim Organist at Mount Olive).

Sing and listen as a festival choir, nationally renowned musicians, and assembly come together to lift up the joy of making music in community. Reception to follow. This event is free and open to the public.

## *Olive Branch* Summer Publication

During the summer months, *The Olive Branch* is published every *other* week. This issue will be the last weekly issue until after Labor Day. Information for the next issue is due in to the church office by Monday, June 2, for publication on Wednesday, June 4.

## Attention Sunday Servants!

The Mount Olive Servant Schedule for 2025 Quarter 3 (July-September) will be published in June. Please send any scheduling preferences or dates you will be unavailable to me by **this Friday, May 23**.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you have.

Thank you -

- Greg Murphy [gregmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:gregmurphy@gmail.com)

## Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

### **Summer Sunday Eucharist: 10am**

#### **Contact Us**

Phone: 612/827-5919

On the Web: [mountolivechurch.org](http://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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