



# The Olive Branch

April 1, 2026

## Sunday Readings

**April 5, 2026**

*Resurrection of Our  
Lord, year A*  
Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3:1-4  
Matthew 28:1-10

**April 12, 2026**

*Second Sunday of  
Easter, year A*  
Acts 2:14a, 22-32  
Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
John 20:19-31

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

## Accent on Worship

*Jim Bargmann*

History and contrast. Two words that come to mind as I try to distill my thoughts about the observance of Passion Sunday leading into Holy Week and then to Easter.

Over the course of the past few days, I have been bombarded - in a good way - with photos and videos from the events of this past weekend - the No Kings Rallies around the world for sure - but the photos and videos that resonated with me, at least in terms of thoughts I might share, were those from Sunday. The day we and Christians from around the world observed Passion Sunday. There were two images, however, that stood out from the others because of their contrast. In one, there was a white walled, brightly light modern worship space and in the middle of that space was a person I assumed was a pastor, standing on artificial grass that had been laid on the floor, and by his side stood a cute, fuzzy, very real and very live young donkey. The second was from the Palm Sunday Path march here in St. Paul.

Both events were attempting, I believe, to connect a historical event to the time and place in which we live now. But the contrast was stark.

And please don't take this wrong. I do not wish to criticize a faith community working to make the historical and Biblical events meaningful to the people who are a part of that community. Our own Passion Sunday liturgy includes elements where we physically experience some of the same motion and sounds that were likely experienced on Jesus' march into Jerusalem.

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

But if the experience of liturgy, Passion Sunday or not, does not drive us, move us, to take action as possibly upwards of 10,000 of people did on Sunday afternoon - to work reclaim the expression of our faith in the public square, to work for justice in all its forms, and to loudly express the fact that our faith motivates us to love - does it really serve the purpose for which it is intended? If our learning and experience of historical events, Biblical or not, do not lead us to a greater understanding of our present age and motivate us to both celebrate the good and challenge the wrongs, what is its purpose? (Quick side note... please take this challenge in the context of other things I have shared with you - taking action can and should take many forms - not just marching and protest - Sunday's march was just one expression of how we can work for justice and demonstrate Jesus' love in our community. Side note over.)

Our learning about and our experience of historical events can motivate us to do the very thing Jesus did. As Pastor Crippen so beautifully shared, on his march into Jerusalem, Jesus recreated the historical events surrounding the anointing of kings from Old Testament history. But the week did not end with an anointing or coronation. Rather, the events of Sunday led to Jesus calling out the injustices of the economic system connected to temple worship, demonstrating what true love looks like with the washing of feet, eating Passover with the disciples, giving us with a meal we continue to share, facing betrayal and trial, and ultimately death and Easter's resurrection, leading to even more expressions of love as he moved about with his followers.

And we, too, can take these Biblical and more broadly, historical, events and not only learn about and experience them, but use them to move us to take action, to work for justice, to love our neighbors.

- Jim Bargmann

### **Paschal Triduum at Mount Olive**

#### **Thursday, April 2: Maundy Thursday**

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

#### **Friday, April 3: Good Friday**

+ Stations of the Cross, Noon  
+ Adoration of the Cross, 7 pm

#### **Saturday, April 4: Holy Saturday**

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

#### **Sunday, April 5: The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day**

Easter Carry-In Brunch, 9:00 am  
+ ONE Festival Holy Eucharist at 10 am (note change in Sunday schedule!)

# The Olive Branch

## Calendar

### Wednesday, April 1 - Wednesday in Holy Week

9:00 am Staff meeting

Noon Daily Prayer

### Thursday, April 2 - Maundy Thursday

No Morning Prayer this day

Noon Holy Eucharist

7:00 pm Holy Eucharist

7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

### Friday, April 3 - Good Friday

Noon Way of the Cross

7:00 pm Liturgy of Good Friday

7:00 pm Recovery group

### Saturday, April 4 - Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Vigil

10:00 am Easter Vigil rehearsal

11:30 am Trumpet and organ rehearsal

8:30 pm Resurrection of Our Lord: Vigil of Easter,  
followed by reception

### Sunday, April 5 - Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

9:30 am Easter Carry-in Brunch

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

### Monday, April 6

Church offices closed

5:30 p.m. Family Music Time (online only)

6:30 pm Recorder group

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

### Tuesday, April 7

Noon Bible Study

7:00 pm Shared Ministry Committee meeting

7:00 pm Global Ministry Committee meeting

## Easter Carry-In Brunch

Bring your favorite brunch dish to the Easter Carry-In Brunch! The Brunch will be on Easter Day, April 5 (this Sunday), beginning at 9:00 am.

Following the Brunch, we will celebrate a single Eucharist at 10:00 am.

## Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

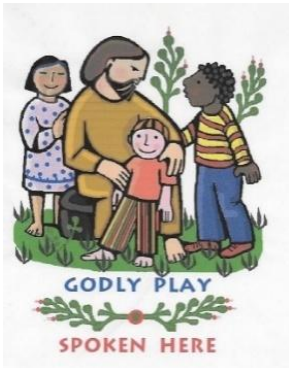
The Tuesday Noon Bible Study meets weekly in person in the East Assembly Room. For those who are unable to come in person, the Bible Study is held over Zoom as well.

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 11, we will get a chance to look at *A Terrible Glory: Custer and the Little Bighorn* by James Donovan, a compelling nonfiction book. For our May gathering we will read *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith on the 25th anniversary of her first and "stunning" novel set in England.

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](#).



## Godly Play This Week

We will NOT meet in Godly Play circles on Easter Sunday, April 5. Of course, all are invited to join in a celebration worship at 10:00 a.m. (note the time change).

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

## 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. They do this through a variety of programs that support entrepreneurs starting new businesses, grant programs to help existing businesses thrive, work to beautify the streetscape, and engage local businesses in policy work that affects the corridor. The Lake Street Council has been instrumental in helping local businesses, many of them family and BIPOC owned, recover from the civil unrest of 2020, giving out 5.5 million dollars in grants to over 300 businesses.

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](http://lakestreetcouncil.org).



*A snapshot of some from Mount Olive who attended the Palm Sunday Faith Action at the capitol this past Sunday, March 29.*

## Help Needed – Two Festive Food Events Coming Up!

We need help with setup, serving, and clean up for the Easter Vigil reception on Saturday night, April 3, and also with the Carry-in Brunch on Easter morning, April 4, before liturgy. If YOU can help on either day - or both days - please sign up at [this Signup Genius link!](#)

## Help us make sure your generosity is appropriately credited

Occasionally, our members make gifts to Mount Olive outside of our usual envelopes and Vanco. These other gifts come to us from financial institutions (trusts, Retirement accounts, stocks or other investments) and some of these are not counted by our offering counters but arrive electronically into our bank. To assure these gifts are credited to you as the source, please notify the Financial Secretary, David T Anderson, ([dtaparkave@aol.com](mailto:dtaparkave@aol.com)) and the Treasurer ([treasurer@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:treasurer@mountolivechurch.org)) that you are initiating such gifts, and the fund(s) to which they should be applied.

## Transportation help needed

The community well-being committee is looking for assistance with driving someone to and from church for who lives in the southern/southwestern suburbs. Please email [community@mountolivechurch.org](mailto:community@mountolivechurch.org) if you are interested in helping out and would like more information.

## Lilies of Gaza Exhibition

Join Mount Olive's supported Global Ministry partner, Bright Stars of Bethlehem, for the **Lilies of Gaza Art Exhibition** on **Wednesday April 15, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.** at Edina Community Lutheran Church, 4113 W 54th St, Minneapolis, MN. Doors open at 6:45 pm.



Dr. Tala Al Raheb, Development Director at Bright Stars, will be speaking about the current situation in Palestine, Dar Al-Kalima's art therapy program, and how art and culture continue to inspire Hope in Palestine. Prints will be available for purchase following the exhibition.

[Register for the free event.](#)

## A Note of Thanks

Thank you to Mount Olive for the beautiful memorial service for my stepmom Harriet Marty. Worship and music were central to Harriet's life, and the service was treasured by the entire Marty clan. The gracious hospitality of the congregation and the wonderful reception and the space for bringing us all together, was memorable and greatly appreciated.

Thanks again,

- John & Connie Marty, on behalf of the entire family

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## Marjorie Sethna, designer of Mount Olive's kneelers, remembered at St. John's

On Monday, March 23, I attended the "Service of Worship Celebrating the Grace of God and the Life of Marjorie Ford Sethna" at St. John's Lutheran Church in south Minneapolis. Sethna, who died December 15 at age 93, was one of the nation's leading designers and creators of sacred and secular fiber-arts pieces. In 1981, she designed nine needlepoint kneelers and two bench cushions for Mount Olive's chancel. Following Sethna's patterns, members of the Altar Guild and others worked on the kneelers and cushions stitch by stitch until the project was completed and the kneelers were dedicated in the spring of 1987.

It was a nice service. Pastor Mark Tiede (who's leaving St. John's to begin a new call), emphasized the "particularities" of Sethna's creations. When it was my turn at the open mike in the Fellowship Hall after the service, I struggled to describe as a particularity Sethna's use of Paul Manz's motet "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" on one of our kneelers. It was composed during a Manz family health crisis, and Manz and his successor, Mark Sedio, would, respectively, stitch the first and last notes. I said we at Mount Olive are grateful for the kneelers and cushions Marjorie Sethna designed for us, and I thanked Anna Carlson, Sethna's daughter, for helping us get the facts right in the display now in Mount Olive's library. The photos here show two of Sethna's stunning paraments at St. John's and prove that you can't claim that her kneelers all look alike.

- Donn McLellan



## Second Annual Mount Olive Fish Fry Pilgrimage

Some photos from the final Fryday, March 27 at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in South Minneapolis.



Thank you Andrew and Sarah Stoebig for organizing the 2026 Fryday Fishfry schedule. It was fun meeting our Mount Olive friends for six Fridays and enjoying a fun fish dinner.



## Mount Olive Lutheran Church

3045 Chicago Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America*

**Sunday Eucharists: 8 & 10:45 am**

### **Contact Us**

Phone: 612-827-5919

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

### **Staff**

Pastor – *Joseph Crippen*

Cantor – *Daniel Schwandt*

Vicar – *Erik Nelson*

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry –  
*Jim Bargmann*

Administrative Assistant – *Cha Posz*

*Mount Olive is a Reconciling in Christ  
congregation.*

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