



The Olive Branch

March 25, 2026

Sunday Readings

March 29, 2026

*Sunday of the Passion,
year A*

Isaiah 50:4-9

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14 – 27:66

April 5, 2026

*Resurrection of Our
Lord, year A*

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

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

Accent on Worship

Cantor Daniel Schwandt

I don't really remember the first time I saw a dead person. My family was deeply involved in our church, and funerals seemed to be a regular, almost ordinary occurrence, so it wouldn't have been out of the ordinary for me, even as a young child, to have been in the presence of a coffin. My mom would sing, and my brother John or I, when I was older, would play the organ. We got to know the local funeral directors, and we heard "How Great Thou Art" and "In the Garden" more times than we could count. When friends or relatives died, we were a family that always participated in the familiar three-part rituals of visitation, funeral, and lunch (of course, my favorite part was always the funeral lunch). Even if I didn't fully understand it then, we were taught what it meant to show up and attend to the "ministry of presence."

We also became at ease with the idea of seeing dead people, even though I will always have a sort of anxious discomfort about approaching a casket and viewing the deceased. The beloved person in the coffin is clearly dead. No matter the skill of the mortician, there is something very basic that we can always recognize: what death looks like. Humans are curiously drawn to it. We rubberneck on the highway to see how bad the accident was. We watch horror movies, read murder mysteries, and follow true-crime podcasts. We can't turn away from staring at death.

Holy Week invites us to stare at death. This Sunday, we hear again of Jesus' triumphal entry and then swiftly, how the fickle

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Accent on Worship, *continued from page 1*

crowd turns to cries of “crucify.” We contemplate Matthew’s version of the Passion that emphasizes the Jewish Jesus as fulfillment of the scriptures, and later, on Good Friday, we will hear John’s Passion account and the glorification of the Word-Made-Flesh in the triumph of the cross. It bears repeating that nothing we do ritually or liturgically these days of Holy Week is a “reenactment.” We are not repeating the steps of Jesus in a sort of “You Are There” episode.* There is no magic moment on Saturday night when Jesus is suddenly alive again. The entirety of the Paschal Mystery: the suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus is celebrated in each of these holy days. We are invited into prayer and worship to sit with these stories, to look at the suffering servant, to behold the Lamb of God, to stare death right in the face. What stares back at us, however, is Life. Where we see death, resurrected truth returns the gaze, beholds us in our tombs of sin, and invites us into the mystery of life where death is no more and love conquers evil. Be comfortable looking at the dead, for the One who is dead is now very much alive.

*My liturgy teacher, Max Johnson, always imitated the booming introduction to the old radio and TV show “You Are There” (from before my time) when describing such liturgies:

https://youtu.be/-wAO2gAz9qc?si=U2M34HHUr_k0tpgI&t=37

Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter 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, March 25

- 9:00 am Staff meeting
Noon *Midweek Lenten Eucharist*, followed by
Soup Lunch
5:30 pm Children's Choir supper
6:00 pm Children's Choir rehearsals
6:00 pm Soup Supper
7:00 pm *Midweek Lenten Vespers*
7:30 pm Cantorei rehearsal

Thursday, March 26

- 9:30 am *Morning Prayer*
11:30 am Holy Week Planning meeting
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, March 27

- 7:00 pm Recovery group

Saturday, March 28

- Noon Funeral Visitation: Harriet Marty
1:00 pm *Funeral Eucharist*

Sunday, March 29 – Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday

- 8:00 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed coffee and
conversation
9:30 pm Godly Play/Youth Discussion
10:45 am *Holy Eucharist*, followed coffee and
conversation

Monday, March 30 – Monday in Holy Week

- Noon *Daily Prayer*
5:30 p.m. Family Music Time (online only)
7:00 pm Monday Night WAVE (N.A.)

Tuesday, March 24 – Tuesday in Holy Week

- Noon *Daily Prayer*, followed by Bible Study

Easter Carry-In Brunch

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

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

Tuesday Noon Bible Study Link

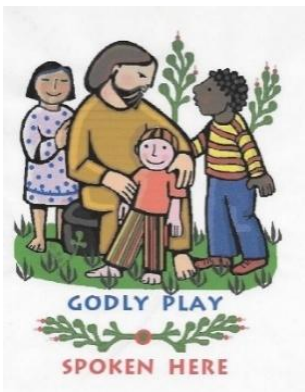
The Tuesday Noon Bible Study meets weekly in person in the East Assembly Room. For those who are unable to come in person, the Bible Study is held over Zoom as well.

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.

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

As we move through Lent, this Sunday Godly Play 1 children will hear about the Last Passover, while Godly Play 2 will learn about Jesus and Jerusalem.

On Wednesdays during Lent, following the children's choir rehearsals, families are invited to join the Lenten Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm.

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

March Neighborhood Ministries Partner of the Month: *Sabathani Community Center and Community Emergency Services*

In March, we highlight two of our partners that work on issues of food insecurity in our south Minneapolis community as a part of the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, a state-wide initiative intended to bring together “organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals” to raise awareness about the issue of food insecurity and support for local food programs.

“Sabathani Community Center is one of Minnesota’s oldest African American-founded nonprofits... [and] helps equip approximately 32,000 South Minneapolis residents annually” through their food shelf, clothes closet, seniors’ programs, workforce initiatives, support for school- age children, and more.

Community Emergency Service, or CES, works to alleviate hunger and food insecurity through an on-site food shelf, food delivery programs, a partnership with Meals on Wheels, and its unique Ani-Meals program, providing food for pets and service animals.

Mount Olive has chosen to support each of our Partners of the Month through a yearly contribution from our budget. On top of those financial 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.

In addition, we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items in the cart located in the West Assembly to be divided between our two food shelf partners. However, for those who are able, we strongly encourage monetary donations. Because our food shelf partners have access discounts and bulk purchase opportunities not available to regular consumers, monetary donations allow our partners to purchase much more food than if we were to purchase the same food through a retail store.

For more information about the work of the Sabathani Community Center, please visit their website at sabathani.org. For more information about CES, please visit cesmn.org.

Major Faith Action Event on March 29

On the Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday), March 29, 2026, Christians across the country will gather together in a “Christian public action and worship rooted in our gospel-centered values: caring for the sick, feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, and loving all of our neighbors. Together, we will renounce abusive power, cruelty and greed and proclaim a better way.” (Quote is from the organizers.) Locally our action will be at the State Capitol Mall.

This Palm Sunday Faith Action in the Twin Cities is the flagship action of 25 other similar events planned across 14 states (palmsunday2026.com). From the organizers again, here is the emphasis of this worship and action event: “We will push back against authoritarianism and white Christian nationalism. Our democracy is at stake. For ourselves and the dignity of our neighbors, we are standing up and speaking out.”

This event is led by our Black Christian siblings in our community and will be musically led by the Black Church Power Project congregations. The time together at the Capitol will include diverse and dynamic speakers from across denominations, Scripture, prayer, music, and children's activities.

A procession to the Capitol is planned, starting at three different churches, at 1:30 p.m., with the main event on the Mall scheduled for 2:30-4:30 p.m. All are encouraged to bring palms from the morning, and signs if you wish (but there are instructions about making them appropriate for a Christian faith action). If you wish to meet at the Capitol at 2:30 instead of processing, that's fine, too.

It would be wonderful to have a large Mount Olive contingent present. As an incentive, our siblings to the north, Our Saviour's, are trying for 100% of the congregation coming - a worthy goal!

The organizers would like to have anyone attending register. There are links to that and other social media suggestions, along with full information about the timeline, where to gather for procession, what kinds of signs are encouraged, and so on, in the TWIG sent out next week, or you can also link to it through the national website.

Easter Garden

As the Three Days and Easter approach, it's time to think flowers again! Over-and-above giving in support of the Easter Garden helps make this beauty possible. As you are able, consider making a special gift toward it.

Gifts can be placed in the offering plate or brought directly to the office. Be sure to mark your check or envelope as Easter Garden.

Second Annual Mount Olive Fish Fry Pilgrimage

Back by popular demand, Mount Olive's Second Annual Lenten Fish Fry Pilgrimage schedule is listed below. Check each host church's website for discount pricing, payment options, and other events on offer. Mount Olive folks typically arrive between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m. each week. Come join the fishy fun!

Final Fryday, March 27: [Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church](#), 5426 12th Ave. S., Minneapolis, \$20, 5:00-7:00 p.m. OLP was last year's overall favorite, so don't miss it!



Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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Minneapolis, MN 55407

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

Sunday Eucharists: 8 & 10:45 am

Contact Us

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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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