

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

July 20th and 23rd

Welcome to Mt. Olive

From all of us at Mt. Olive, welcome to worship. We are so glad that you have joined us today.

A Few Notes Before Worship

- Restrooms are located in the entryway
- We love having children in worship! We realize that can sometimes be challenging. If your child becomes restless, the fellowship hall or the library (across from the restrooms) are great places to regroup.
- Baby changing stations are located in every restroom
- You are our guest. If there is something else we can help you with, please let an usher know. They will be happy to assist.
- Finally, you'll find everything you need for worship printed in this worship folder or as noted in the blue hymnal located in your pew.

The Christian Lives As Wheat Among Weeds

The wheat that grows in the Middle East is a variety that looks much like wild grass or weeds. It is difficult to tell wheat and weeds apart until shortly before harvest time, when the wheat stalks develop a head containing the kernels of grain. Try and pull the weeds out of a wheat field and you will likely pull up a fair amount of wheat accidentally. So you need to wait for the harvest to separate wheat from weeds.

This week Jesus uses that image to illustrate life this side of heaven. Christians are pictured as wheat planted by the Lord. Evil and unbelieving evildoers are pictured as weeds. We might want God to take care of evil now—to pull up all the weeds. But he tells us to wait for the harvest. God is going to fix the problem of evil in this world, but it might not be today or even tomorrow. What does God want us to do while we wait? He wants us to live like wheat among weeds, serving the purpose for which he planted us. That means being faithful, fruitful, and mindful of the coming harvest.

A Prayer Before Worship

Dear Lord, I thank you for giving me this opportunity today to gather together with fellow believers to join in worship and praise. May my worship and meditation this day be pleasing in Your sight and be deserving of Your honor. Amen.

Hymn

873 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray



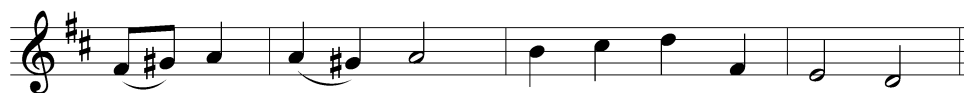
1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; from your sleep a -
2 Watch a - gainst the dev - il's snares lest a - sleep he
3 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world with its lies de -
4 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, lest with grace you
5 But while watch - ing al - so pray to the Lord un -



wak - en! Be not by the e - vil day un - a -
find you; for in - deed no pains he spares to de -
feat you lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled it be -
tri - fle; let not self your thoughts con - trol nor God's
ceas - ing. God pro - tects you day by day, strength and



wares o'er - tak - en; for the foe, well we know, is a
ceive and blind you. Sa - tan's prey oft are they who se -
tray and cheat you. Watch and see lest there be faith - less
mer - cy sti - fle. Pride and sin lurk with - in, all your
faith in - creas - ing, so that still mind and will shall u -



har - vest reap - ing while the saints are sleep - ing.
cure are sleep - ing and no watch are keep - ing.
friends to charm you who but seek to harm you.
hopes to shat - ter; heed not when they flat - ter.
nite to serve him and for - ev - er love him.

Text: Johann B. Freystein, 1671–1718, abr.; (sts. 1, 3–5): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-book, 1907, alt.

Tune: adapt. William H. Monk, 1823–1889; Hundert . . . geistlicher Arien, Dresden, 1694

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

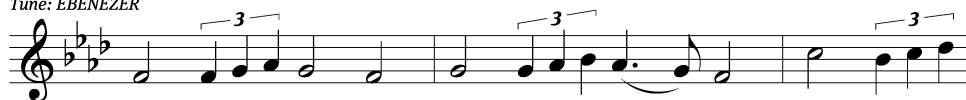
Declaration of Grace

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

Tune: EBENEZER



1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en, peace to
2 On - ly Son of God the Fa - ther, Lamb who



those he loves so well. On the earth let
takes our sin a - way, now with him in



all his peo - ple speak his grace, his won - ders tell:
tri - umph seat - ed— for your mer - cy, Lord, we pray:



Lord, we praise you for your glo - ry, might - y
Je - sus Christ, most high and ho - ly, Sav - ior,



Fa - ther, heav - en's King; hear our joy - ful
you are God a - lone in the glo - ry



ad - o - ra - tion and ac - cept the thanks we bring.
of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

Text: Michael A. Perry

Tune: Thomas J. Williams

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The Word

Salutation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with you in perfect joy hereafter; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 44:6–11

⁶“This is what the LORD says—

Israel’s King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty:

I am the first and I am the last;

apart from me there is no God.

⁷Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and lay out before me

what has happened since I established my ancient people,

and what is yet to come—

yes, let them foretell what will come.

⁸Do not tremble, do not be afraid.

Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago?

You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me?

No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.”

⁹All who make idols are nothing,

and the things they treasure are worthless.

Those who would speak up for them are blind;

they are ignorant, to their own shame.

¹⁰Who shapes a god and casts an idol,

which can profit nothing?

¹¹People who do that will be put to shame;

such craftsmen are only human beings.

Let them all come together and take their stand;

they will be brought down to terror and shame.

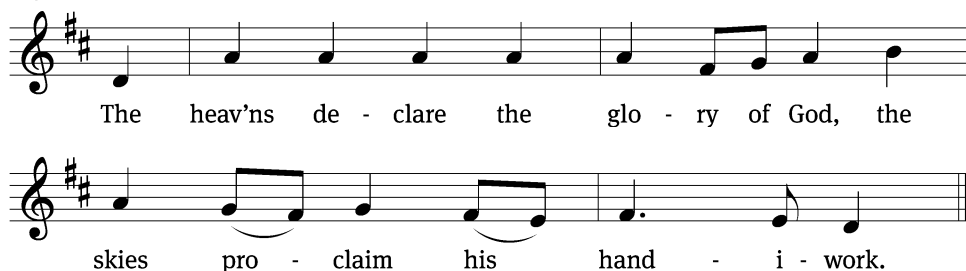
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 19

Refrain



The heav'ns de - clare the glo - ry of God, the
skies pro - claim his hand - i - work.

Tone



They have no speech, they / use no words;
no sound is / heard from them.
Yet their voice goes out into / all the earth,
their words to the ends / of the world. *Refrain*

The law of the LORD is perfect, refresh- / ing the soul.
The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light / to the eyes.
They are more precious than gold, than much / pure gold;
they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the / honeycomb.
By them your servant / is warned;
in keeping them there is / great reward. *Refrain*

May these words of my mouth and this meditation / of my heart
be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my rock and my Re- / deemer.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Tune: Benedetto Marcello; arr. John F. Wilson

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Second Reading

Romans 1:18–25

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The children may come forward for the children's devotion during verse 3

Hymn of the Day

491 *Come, You Thankful People, Come*



1 Come, you thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har-vest home,
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to your fi - nal har-vest home;



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
wheat and weeds to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way,
gath - er all your peo - ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, shall pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied.
First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast,
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in your gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.
but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
Come with all your an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har-vest home.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

Text and tune: Public domain

God's Word In Our Lives

The Christian Lives as Wheat among Weeds

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

²⁴Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

²⁷“The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

²⁸“ ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

²⁹“ ‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’ ”

³⁶Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

³⁷He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

⁴⁰“As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴²They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be seated

Welcome!

Worship Registers

We're so glad you could join us for worship today and would love to have a record of your visit!

Any information you'd be willing to share would be greatly appreciated!

Use the QR Code below for an online worship register



Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless . . . *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*]

Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn

605 From All That Dwell below the Skies

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let the Cre -
2 E - ter - nal are your mer - cies, Lord; e - ter - nal

a - tor's praise a - rise. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
truth at - tends your Word. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Let the Re - deem - er's name be sung through ev - 'ry
Your praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall

land, by ev - 'ry tongue. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
rise and set no more. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623

Text and tune: Public domain

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