

How to Get Ready for Christmas – Turn Your Hearts

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

Thursday, December 7th

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.

Assistive Listening System Available

Our assistive listening system is available with the use of the free app, Listen EVERYWHERE (available for both Android and Apple devices). If you are interested in using Mt. Olive's assistive listening system, please pick up an informational card on the table in the entryway or ask an usher for assistance.

How to Get Ready for Christmas - Step 2: Turn Your Hearts

Gabriel announces to Zechariah that his wife, Elizabeth, will have a child who will be very special: He will be the promised servant of God who will prepare the way for the Messiah. How? By turning the hearts of people. Through repentance we, too, turn our heart towards God, our only hope of salvation.

A Prayer Before Worship

Heavenly Father, thank you for forgiving me all my sins by sending Jesus on that first Christmas. But I also thank you for making known to me my deep need of forgiveness. Through your Holy Spirit, prepare my heart for the Christ child by turning me away from sin in repentance towards the peace and joy of your forgiveness and love. Amen.

Remain seated

The Lord Al - might - y grant us a qui - et
night and peace at the last.
A - men.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praise to your name, **O Most High,**
to her - ald your love in the morn - ing,
your truth at the close of day.

The musical score is written in a single system with six staves. The first staff is an instrumental introduction. The second and third staves contain the first line of lyrics. The fourth staff contains the second line of lyrics, including the word 'men.' in bold. The fifth and sixth staves contain the second line of lyrics. The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. It features various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests and slurs.

Tune: Dale A. Witte

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Hymn

326 O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort



1 O Je - sus, grant me hope and com-fort; O let me ne'er in
2 O Je - sus, with thy ad - vent qui - et my rest - less soul and



sor - row pine. My heart, my soul, yea, all my be - ing, O
anx - ious mind. In true hu - mil - i - ty I wel - come thee,



Je - sus, trust a - lone in thee. Thou Prince of Peace, thou
Je - sus Christ, my joy di - vine. My thoughts, de - sires, and



Pearl from heav - en, true God, true man, my Morn - ing Star!
all my long - ings I ded - i - cate, O Christ, to thee.

Refrain



O come, thou pre - cious Sun most ra - diant, thy beams il -



lu - mine my heart, my soul. O come, thou pre - cious



Sun most ra - diant, thy beams il - lu - mine my heart, my soul.

Text: tr. Walter E. Buszjin, 1899–1973; Wilhelm Osterwald, 1820–1887

Tune: Johann Franck, 1618–1677

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Confession

CW 226

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for personal reflection

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
in our thoughts,
in our words,
in our deeds,
and in all that we have not done.
Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Deliver and restore us,
that we may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ,
and in him we are forgiven.

Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun,
when we shall serve him in newness of life.

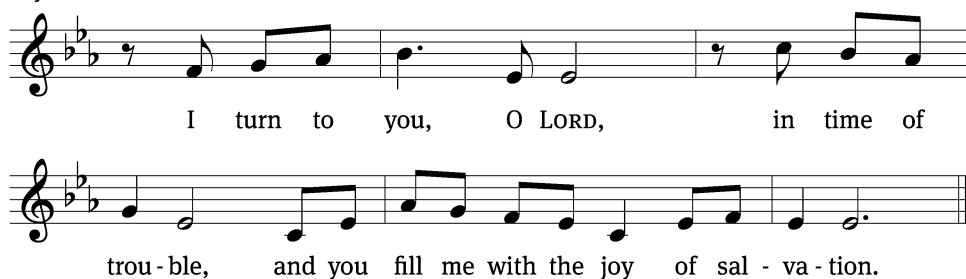
Amen.

Silence for reflection may follow.

Psalm

Psalm 32

Refrain



I turn to you, O LORD, in time of
trou-ble, and you fill me with the joy of sal - va - tion.

Tone



Blessed is the one whose transgressions are for- / given,
whose sins are / covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count a- / gainst them
and in whose spirit is / no deceit.

When I kept silent, my bones wast- / ed away
through my groaning / all day long.

For day and night your hand was heav- / y on me;
my strength was sapped as in the heat of / summer.

Then I acknowledged my / sin to you
and did not cover up my in- / iquity.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions / to the LORD."
And you forgave the guilt / of my sin. *Refrain*

You are my / hiding place;

you will protect me from / trouble.

Many are the woes of the / wicked,

but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who / trusts in him.

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*

**HOW TO
GET READY FOR
CHRISTMAS**

**ON HOW MEDITATING ON THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST
GETS OUR HEARTS READY FOR THE BIRTH OF JESUS**

Step 2: Turn Your Hearts

¹Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ²just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

⁵In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

⁸Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

¹¹Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. ¹⁶He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

¹⁸Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

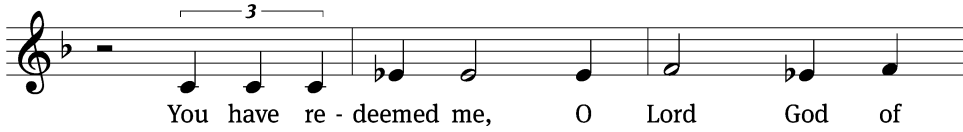
¹⁹The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

²¹Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. ²²When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

²³When his time of service was completed, he returned home. ²⁴After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. ²⁵"The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



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A sermon or brief address may follow.

Hymn

313 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751, abr., alt.

Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer

CW 228



Hear my prayer, O Lord;



lis - ten to my cry.



Keep me as the ap - ple of your eye;



hide me in the shad-ow of your wings.



In right - eous - ness I shall see you;



when I a - wake, your pres-ence will give me joy.

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Lord's Prayer

CW 230

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your
name, your king - dom come, your will be done on
earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our
dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins, as
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de -
liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the
pow - er, and the glo - ry are yours
now and for - ev - er. A - men.

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Song of Simeon

CW 231

Guide us wak - ing, O Lord,
and guard us sleep - ing
that a - wake we may watch with Christ
and a - sleep we may rest in peace.
In peace, Lord, in peace you let your ser - vant
now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my
eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which
you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry peo - ple, a
light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the
glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Guide us wak - ing, O Lord,
and guard us sleep - ing

that a - wake we may watch with Christ
and a - sleep we may rest in peace,
in peace, in peace.

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Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the \dagger Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.

Amen.

Acknowledgments

Prayer at the Close of Day from Christian Worship

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