

# *Mt. Olive Lutheran Church*

*Sunday, November 22, 2020*

## **OPENING HYMN**

Count Your Blessings 786

**When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged thinking, all is lost  
Count your many blessings name them one by one  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.**

## **REFRAIN**

**Count your blessings, name them one by one.  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done.  
Count your blessings, name them one by one.  
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.**

**Are you ever burdened with a load of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?  
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly,  
And you will be singing as the days go by.**

## **REFRAIN**

**When you look at others with their land and gold,  
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold.  
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy  
Your reward in heaven nor your home on high.**

## **REFRAIN**

**So amid the conflict, whether great or small,  
Do not be discouraged, God is over all.  
Count your many blessings angles will attend.  
Help and comfort you to your journey's end.**

## **REFRAIN**

## **INVOCATION**

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

P: We gather in the name of the Holy Trinity – Father, †  
Son and Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Friends in Christ, come, let us worship.

**C: Let us rejoice in our coming King!**

P: We gather in the name of the Father,

**C: who creates and sustains our life!**

P: We gather in the name of the Son,

**C: who won our victory and will one day return to  
take us home!**

P: We gather in the name of the Spirit,

**C: who fills our hearts with hope as we await our  
Lord's return!**

P: Come let us worship, dear friends, and as we live our  
lives each day let us be alert for the coming of our  
King!

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**All: Lord, we have heard Your words of love, but  
they continue to fall on deaf ears. Your Word of  
forgiveness is clearly for us but instead we  
choose to listen to other lords. We have turned  
away in our desperate search for our own  
fulfillment. We have betrayed ourselves by  
what we think, say and do. We are empty, Lord.  
Fill us with Your Word of Love.**

P: God's Word is clear. If we confess our sin, God is  
faithful, and will forgive our sin and cleanse us from  
the impurities of our life. God's Word is clear. Our old  
self was crucified with Jesus so that the sinful body  
might be destroyed, and we might no longer be

enslaved to sin. God's Word is clear. While we were helpless, Christ died for the ungodly. God loved the world and gave His Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. God's Word is our Word of love. Therefore, as a servant of the Word, I announce that our sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### **SALUTATION**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And with your spirit.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: (We pray together) **Almighty God, we look forward to that great day when Christ will come again in glory and might. By Your Spirit, keep us alert as we watch for His coming, that we may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the eternal Kingdom; where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen.**

### **THE OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Reader: Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24 <sup>11</sup> This is what the Almighty LORD says: I will search for my sheep myself, and I will look after them. <sup>12</sup> As a shepherd looks after his flock when he is with his scattered sheep, so I will look after my sheep. I will rescue them on a cloudy and gloomy day from every place where they have been scattered. <sup>13</sup> I will bring them out from the nations, gather them from the countries, and bring them to their own land. I will take care of them on

the mountains of Israel, by the streams, and in all the inhabited places of the land. <sup>14</sup> I will feed them in good pasture, and they will graze on the mountains of Israel. They will rest on the good land where they graze, and they will feed on the best pastures in the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup> I will take care of my sheep and lead them to rest, declares the Almighty LORD. <sup>16</sup> I will look for those that are lost, bring back those that have strayed away, bandage those that are injured, and strengthen those that are sick. I will destroy those that are fat and strong. I will take care of my sheep fairly. <sup>20</sup> So this is what the Almighty LORD says to them: I will judge disputes between the fat sheep and the skinny sheep. <sup>21</sup> You fat sheep push the skinny sheep with your sides and shoulders, and you knock down all the sick sheep with your horns. You have scattered them all over. <sup>22</sup> So I will rescue my sheep, and they will no longer be prey. I will judge between one sheep and another. <sup>23</sup> Then I will place one shepherd over them, my servant David, and he will take care of them. He will take care of them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup> I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David will be their prince. I, the LORD, have spoken.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **THE EPISTLE READING**

Reader: 1 Corinthians 15: 20-28 <sup>20</sup> But now Christ has come back from the dead. He is the very first person of those who have died to come back to life. <sup>21</sup> Since a man brought death, a man also brought life back from death. <sup>22</sup> As everyone dies because of Adam, so also everyone will be made alive because of

Christ. <sup>23</sup> This will happen to each person in his own turn. Christ is the first, then at his coming, those who belong to him will be made alive. <sup>24</sup> Then the end will come. Christ will hand over the kingdom to God the Father as he destroys every ruler, authority, and power. <sup>25</sup> Christ must rule until God has put every enemy under his control. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy he will destroy is death. <sup>27</sup> Clearly, God has put everything under Christ's authority. When God says that everything has been put under Christ's authority, this clearly excludes God, since God has put everything under Christ's authority. <sup>28</sup> But when God puts everything under Christ's authority, the Son will put himself under God's authority, since God had put everything under the Son's authority. Then God will be in control of everything.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

P: Today's Gospel reading is from the book of Matthew, chapter 25 beginning at the 31<sup>st</sup> verse.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

P: <sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> The people of every nation will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right but the goats on his left. <sup>34</sup> "Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, my Father has blessed you! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a

stranger, and you took me into your home. <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes, and you gave me something to wear. I was sick, and you took care of me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup> "Then the people who have God's approval will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or see you thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you as a stranger and take you into our homes or see you in need of clothes and give you something to wear? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' <sup>40</sup> "The king will answer them, 'I can guarantee this truth: Whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did for me.' <sup>41</sup> "Then the king will say to those on his left, 'Get away from me! God has cursed you! Go into everlasting fire that was prepared for the devil and his angels! <sup>42</sup> I was hungry, and you gave me nothing to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink. <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger, and you didn't take me into your homes. I needed clothes, and you didn't give me anything to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't take care of me.' <sup>44</sup> "They, too, will ask, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or as a stranger or in need of clothes or sick or in prison and didn't help you?' <sup>45</sup> "He will answer them, 'I can guarantee this truth: Whatever you failed to do for one of my brothers or sisters, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you failed to do for me.' <sup>46</sup> "These people will go away into eternal punishment, but those with God's approval will go into eternal life."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH-APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.**

## **SONG OF PREPARATION**

For the Beauty of the Earth 793 v:1,3,4,5

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies.**

**For the love which from which our birth**

**Over and around us lies:**

**Lord of all to Thee we raise**

**This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of the human love,**

**Brother, sister, parent, child.**

**Friends on earth and friends above**

**For all gentle thoughts and mild**

**Lord of all to Thee we raise**

**This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For Thy Church that evermore,**

**lifteth holy hands above**

**Offering up on every shore,**

**Her pure sacrifice of love:**

**Lord of all to Thee we raise**

**This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For Thyself best gift divine  
To our race so freely given  
For that great, great love of Thine.  
Peace on earth and joy in heaven.  
Lord of all to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**SERMON...** Taking Refuge in God...God is the Keeper Psalm 121  
Rev. Kenneth L. Williamson

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

- P:** We offer our prayers to God Almighty, knowing that He hears us as we await Christ is coming in glory. Help us to keep alert, O Lord, and grant that we may be ready to greet You with joy when You come to judge the world in righteousness.
- C: Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.**
- P:** Help us to keep alert, O Lord, and send us Your Spirit, that with boldness we may call all the people of the world to repentance – that they might receive Your forgiveness and love.
- C: Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.**
- P:** Help us to keep alert, O Lord, and give us a heart for service, that we would reach out in love to those who are in need – the poor, the hungry and the homeless.
- C: Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.**
- P:** Help us to keep alert, O Lord, and bring Your comfort and care to those who are sick and suffering. We pray especially for.... Give them strength and courage as they await Your return.
- C: Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.**
- P:** All these things we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All:** 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.

## A SENDING PRAYER

**All:** Father, by the power of Your Holy Spirit open our eyes, ears, hearts, and our very lives to Your presence so that as we leave from this sacred house of God, we may serve You in faithfulness and be a blessing in healing reminders of Your love to all whose lives we touch. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

**C:** Amen!

## DISMISSAL

**P:** Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**C:** We will be devoted disciples by reaching, building, and sending.

## **THE CLOSING SONG**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!**

**O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!**

**Let all who hear**

**Now to His temple draw near,**

**Joining in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things**

**is wondrously reigning**

**And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.**

**Have you not seen**

**All that is needful has been**

**Sent by His gracious ordaining?**

**Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully,**

**wondrously, made you,**

**Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has  
stayed you.**

**What need or grief**

**Ever has failed of relief?**

**Wings of His mercy did shade you.**

**Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work**

**and defend you;**

**Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.**

**Ponder anew**

**What the Almighty can do**

**As with His love He befriends you.**