



Welcome to Mt. Olive Lutheran Church

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2327 17th Ave. Forest Grove, OR 97116

Pastor Nick Koschmann

Office: 503-357-2511

Sunday Worship 10:00am

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 12th, 2026

As We Gather

"Good news; the adoption is final. You are part of the family!" Sweet words for an orphaned heart. Except you and I were never orphaned in the eyes of God. No, we were far worse off than that. Rather than growing up without a parent, we were being raised under the devilish thumb of fear. Not orphans, but slaves to evil. Which makes the Gospel even sweeter. In Christ, your fate has been reversed. You are no longer a slave, and you have been given a family. The Word of God in worship today declares your home is with Christ who welcomes you as brother and fellow heir. May today be a rich reunion as you gather among your fellow sisters and brothers in the family of God!

Welcome and Introduction

Opening Song: *Holy Is the Lord*

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Opening Sentences

1 John 3:1; Romans 8:17; John 8:35-36

Pastor: See what kind of love the Father has given to us,

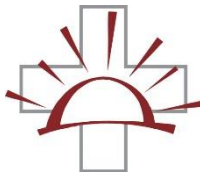
People: that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

Pastor: And if children, then heirs—

People: heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.

Pastor: The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.

People: So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.



Confession and Absolution

Colossians 1:13–14

Pastor: The Lord has delivered us from the domain of darkness

People: and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Pastor: Almighty God and Father,

People: we confess, as Your people, our need for Your merciful kindness. We are prisoners of our own wants, our own fears, and our own inborn sinfulness. Our actions and interactions often fail as reflections of Your kingdom. Our thoughts, desires, and actions are often borne out of love for ourselves, rather than our love for others or for You. Forgive us and free us, Lord, to love what You love and go where You lead, all by the grace of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Song of Forgiveness: *Amazing Love*

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.



Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:10–13

¹⁰"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
¹²"For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the LORD,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 8:12–17

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear. . . .

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon Song: *In Christ Alone*

Sermon



Apostles' Creed

Offering

*Thank you for your continued support of the ministry Mt. Olive Lutheran Church.
If you are a guest (or if your contact info has changed), please fill out a Connect Card
found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.*

Offering Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray

People: Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what You have first given us: ourselves, our time, our possessions, signs of Your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

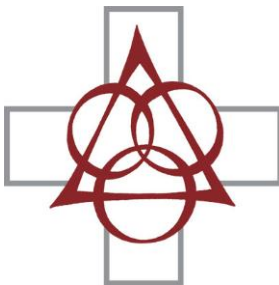
Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

Closing Song: *Who You Say I Am*



Cover Art Explained

From www.fullofeyes.com/romans-813

In this picture the “deeds of the body” are pictured as sickly, death-bearing tendrils that grow from the unregenerate heart. At the sides of the image and in the background, I pictured “mummified” human forms, those who have given themselves wholly to the flesh and are thus spiritually—and soon to be physically—dead. If the Christian were to cease war against these deeds, they too would perish, and so be proven never to have truly been in Christ.

That being said, my primary desire in planning this picture was to show that the Christian’s war against the “deeds of the body” is not something that secures their status as Spirit-filled children of God, but instead flows necessarily from that regenerate nature. To show this I made the new heart of the believer central to the image. Regeneration is pictured by the heart pierced with the cross of Christ (imaging faith in the crucified and risen Lord) and wreathed in flame (imaging the indwelling Holy Spirit). The fire also engulfs the man’s upturned face and radiates outward into a halo because the Spirit leads us on in sanctification by illuminating our hearts and minds to perceive the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (John 16:14-15; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 4:6).

The regenerate status of the man is the visual and conceptual center of this picture. With that established I attempted to show how “putting to death the deeds of the body” is a natural result of being a Spirit-filled, Christ-enamored son of God. To put to death the deeds of the body is just another way to talk about sanctification, and sanctification happens as we are transformed more and more into the image of God as manifest in Jesus Christ, and this transformation happens as we behold more and more the all-satisfying beauty of God in Christ by the Spirit (again, 2 Corinthians 3:18). With this in mind, I pictured the action of “putting to death” the flesh as a side effect of the man’s Spirit-illuminated beholding of Christ. As the man perceives more of the excellencies of the crucified and risen Son by the Spirit (represented by his fire-wreathed, upturned face), the effects of that beholding (pictured by the fiery lances shooting from the left and right of his face) tear away the still-clinging fruits of sin.

But sin is not slain merely by a perception of spiritual beauty, we must also be conformed to that spiritual beauty—if we claim to abide in Christ, we must walk as He walked (1 John 2:6). Thus, the man’s arms are pictured outstretched in the form of a crucifix, the self-giving love of the Lord whom he beholds imaged in the actions of his life. Notice that if the man’s arms were not outstretched in imitation of Christ’s love, then the fires of his Spirit-illuminated beholding would not shear away the deeds of the flesh. It is the combination of beholding the beauty of God in the crucified Christ and being an image of that beauty in the world, of adoring our risen Lord and acting as He acted, that conspires to slay indwelling sin.

So may we walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16), perceiving by His ministry the Father-manifesting beauty of the risen Son who was crucified in love for us (John 14:9, 16:14; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 4:6), and beholding may we be transformed into the same image of self-giving, God-exalting love so that the deeds of the flesh are put to death and we are shown to be children of God, to His eternal glory and our eternal joy. In Jesus’ saving name—Amen!

Announcements

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Acolyte: Wiley Koschmann

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Juanita Lint.

Last Sunday: 48

July Offering

Month to Date: \$3,005

Project Monthly Need: \$13,750



Acknowledgments

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