



March 23, 2020

Dear Mount Olive Family,

*“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

*What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” **Romans 8.28 ff.***

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, THE CONSOLATION OF THE SORROWFUL AND THE STRENGTH OF THE WEAK, MAY THE PRAYERS OF THOSE WHO IN THIS PRESENT TRIBULATION AND DISTRESS CRY OUT TO YOU, GRACIOUSLY COME BEFORE YOU, SO THAT IN ALL THEIR NECESSITIES THEY MAY MARK AND RECEIVE YOUR MANIFOLD HELP AND COMFORT; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON, OUR LORD, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.

How are you? I pray this email finds you well, confident and helping your neighbor in the strength of our God. During His earthly ministry, our Lord Jesus placed a high value on His time alone with God to pray. The Scriptures often describe Jesus as being hard to find, because He slipped out before sunrise or after sunset, for private time alone with God in prayer (cf Mk 1.35; Lk 6.12). Today, it is your time to be hard to find. Many of you are not at work, or at the grocery store and sadly, you are not to be found out to lunch or dining at a friend’s home. That’s the down side. The up side is the wonderful opportunity our circumstance gives us to spend time alone with God! Jesus says, *“But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you”* (Mt 6.6).

God your Father loves to hear from you. Today, the topics of conversation with God are endless: Lord, protect us from covid 19; Father, show me how best to help and pray for my neighbor; Merciful Savior, may this time of uncertainty turn many hearts toward you in faith; Lord of the Church, preserve Mount Olive Lutheran Church in faith, perseverance and health. We could list many, many more topics.

To help you with your prayer life, CPH has been gracious to offer us an electronic version of their Daily Prayer for Individuals and Families. This resource is found on page 294 of our Hymnal, we also offer it as a handout in our Visitor Center at church and now, you can have it as a download on your phone so

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you can use it to help you pray anywhere. You'll find it as an attachment to this email and posted on the church's website.

One last item for this week's letter concerns offerings. I dropped off a prescription for a member on Saturday who made sure to let me know she mailed her offering to Mount Olive. "Pastor" she said firmly, "don't forget to remind the people we need to tithe even when we can't come to church!" She's right of course, but to be honest, I hadn't thought about it. The business, bills and opportunities of the church continue even in times of crisis so I hope you will remember to mail your offering or go online to [mtolc.org](http://mtolc.org) and give. Mike Kallas is available through email to set up a phone call to help you sign up for on line giving.

God is good. Absolutely nothing *"in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Amen.

Pr Harmon