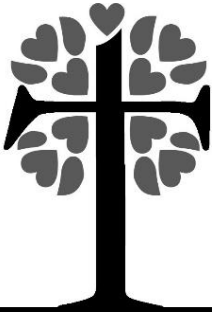


Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



December 7, 2025 – Second Sunday of Advent

Leader in regular type, **congregation in bold type**

↑ means stand as you are able

Restrooms are by the kitchen and by the Wiggle Room

Wiggle Room is available for anyone needing a brief break from worship, at the end of the piano wing of the sanctuary

WiFi is available: Look for TOL-GUEST; password is OdessaTOL1

We Gather as God's People

PRELUDE

You can use this time for quiet reflection, prayer and preparation for worship.

↑ CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Christ has come, and Christ will come again! And so, trusting in the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess our sin in the presence of God and one-another. *Silence for reflection.*

Most merciful God: **You bring light to the world, but we walk in darkness. You bring peace to the world, but we trust in the sword. You bring love to the world, but we practice hostility. You bring goodness to the world, but we turn to sin. You bring life to the world, but we follow ways of death. Forgive us our sins: known and unknown; of thought, word and deed. Awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and Jesus will come again to vanquish sin forevermore. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and the +Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN

“Hark the Glad Sound”

RED HYMNAL #239

↑ APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

↑ ADVENT PRAYER

Let us pray: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light two candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

↑ LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Sing verse 2



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from Isaiah:

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

² **that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;
 and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁸ **Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel;
 you alone do wondrous deeds!**
¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever,
 and may all the earth be filled with your glory.
Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

A reading from Romans:

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰ and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹ and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹² and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope."

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW p. 171



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

↑ **GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

↑ **HYMN**

“My Lord What A Morning”

RED HYMNAL #438

↑ APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator 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;
and descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

↑ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we faithfully await the new advent of Christ, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all people according to their needs:

Holy Lord, with wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. May your Law bring us and all people to repentance. May your Gospel comfort our weary hearts with forgiveness and peace. God of grace... **Hear our prayer.**

With counsel and might, sustain your creation. Provide for us and all creatures in the winter months. Help us care for all living things, even as we await the day when the lion shall lie down with the lamb and all creatures shall flourish together. God of grace... **Hear our prayer.**

With righteousness and equity, guide this and every nation. As we remember those who gave their lives in the Pearl Harbor attack on this day 84 years ago, protect all who serve in our armed forces today. Bring about the day when war shall be no more, and when all people shall know your freedom, justice and true peace. God of grace... **Hear our prayer.**

With faithfulness and encouragement, help the poor, the sick, the grieving and all in any need. We especially pray for Annalise, Beth, Bill, Bob, Calvin, Chris, Dan, Danielle, Dot, Elizabeth, Erika, Gary, Judy, Patrick, Paul, Sarah, William, Winnie and those we name with our lips or in our hearts... (*Time for personal petitions*) God of grace... **Hear our prayer.**

With grace and welcome, lead Tree of Life in your ways. Help us to overcome all earthly divisions and to live in harmony as your people. Make us generous, as you have been generous to us. Bless our bishops, Yehiel and William; our pastor, Robbie; St. Paul Lutheran Church and its pastor, Rob; and Grace Lutheran Church and its pastor, Jonathon. God of grace... **Hear our prayer.**

With joy and hope, accept our thanksgiving for all who have died in the faith and now live in you. Sustain us by the promise of the resurrection, until the day when we are all gathered again in your eternal Kingdom. God of grace... **Hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O Lord, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

↑ PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

We Share God's Holy Meal

CONSECRATION SUNDAY PRAYER

Let us pray: Almighty God, in your love you have given us gifts of abundance beyond what our forebears could know or imagine. Our table is richly furnished, our cup overflows, and we live in safety and security. Make us worthy stewards of all that you have entrusted to us. Use us, along with our offerings and pledges today, to carry out your mission in this place, always to your glory and the welfare of your people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERING AND PLEDGES

As you are able and as you wish, you may come forward to place your offerings and pledges in the plate before the altar table.

ANTHEM

“Awake! Awake, to Greet the New Morn”

ELW #242

Tree of Life Choir

↑ OFFERTORY

RED HYMNAL #884

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye Heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

↑ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together: **God of abundance, we give you thanks for the fruits of creation. We commit them and all our lives to you. Through this meal, strengthen our love for others and our hope in you, as we await the return of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

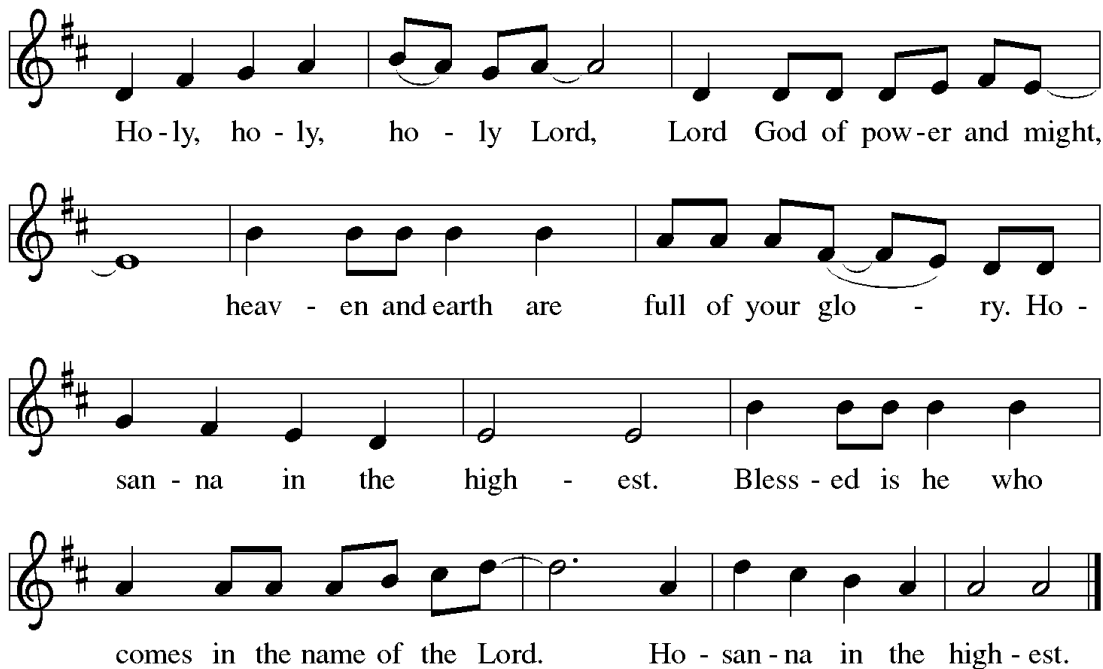
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day. The congregation responds:

↑ SANCTUS

ELW p. 153



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

↑ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

↑ 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.

↑ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive the promise of God.

Thanks be to God.

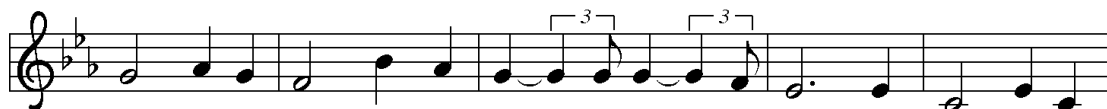
All baptized Christians are welcome to commune. Wine and white grape juice are in the individual cups. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

COMMUNION

ELW p. 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -



way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HYMNS

“Bread Of Life Our Host Our Meal”

RED HYMNAL #464

“We Come To The Hungry Feast”

RED HYMNAL #479

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: **Heavenly Father, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

God Sends Us in Mission

ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑ BENEDICTION

May Almighty God – Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit – grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and joy in the Good News today and always. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN

“Let Us Talents And Tongues Employ”

RED HYMNAL #674

↑ MISSION STATEMENT

What is our Mission? **To be faithful children of God, called by grace through Christ, and sharing this gift with Middletown, Odessa, Townsend and the World.**

↑ DISMISSAL

Go in peace; live in hope!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

You may listen to the music or depart to do God's work.

Please join us for refreshments in the fellowship room after the service.

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Advent and Christmas 2025

Join Tree of Life as we hear the Good News of the Messiah's coming in Advent then celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas! There are several ways that you can join in prayer and praise during this time, so we hope to see you!

Advent Calendars

Available in the church entryway

Adopt-a-Family through Neighborhood House

Pick a tag in the fellowship room; buy the gift; drop off the wrapped gift to the church by December 15

Advent Midweek Prayer

Noon Wednesdays: Dec., 17

A 15-minute time of Scripture, prayer and simple song

Live Nativity

2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13

Experience the Christmas story come to life with animals, song and Scripture
Want to be a part of the presentation? Sign up outside the kitchen!

Community 'Blue Christmas' Service

3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21 at St. Paul's UMC-Odessa

Christmas worship especially for those grieving during the holidays
Sponsored by the MOT Ministerium

Christmas Eve Candlelight

7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24

Worship the newborn Christ with Scripture, song, Communion and candlelight

Christmas Lessons & Carols

10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 28

Special Sunday worship for Christmas with songs and Scripture readings