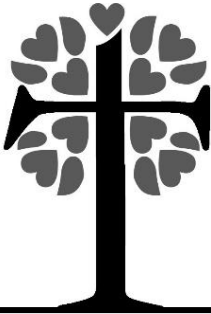


Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



February 23, 2025 ~ 7th Sunday After Epiphany

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.**

Trusting in the light of Christ that has been revealed to us, let us now come before God and one-another, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God: **We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. You came to the world bringing grace and truth, but our words bring judgment and lies. You came to the world bringing kindness and love, but our thoughts bring sin and malice. You came to the world bringing light and life, but our deeds bring darkness and death. Have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may walk in your light and follow your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the Good News and rejoice: Jesus Christ was born, lived, died and rose again to take your sins away. 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 of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN

“Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer”

RED HYMNAL #618


↑ 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.**

↑ THIS IS THE FEAST

RED HYMNAL pg. 169


Refrain




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



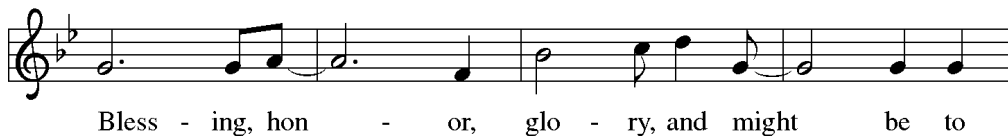
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain*



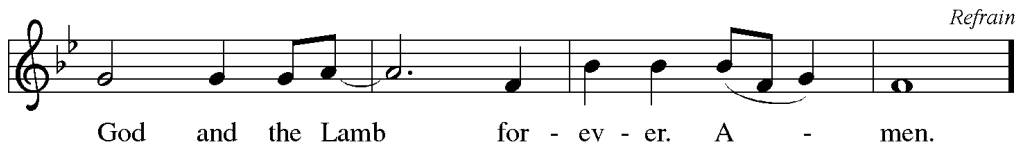
2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to



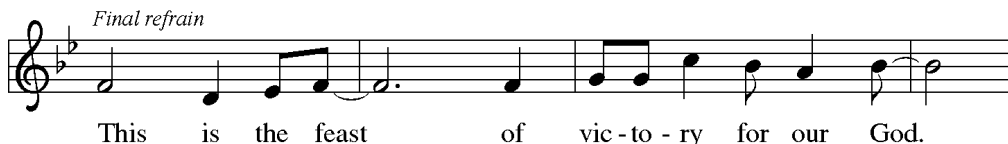
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



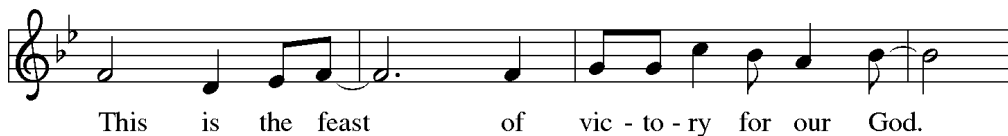
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



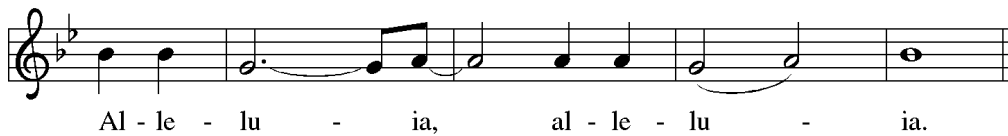
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. *Final refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray: O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, make us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; and where there is despair, hope. Grant that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

A reading from Genesis:

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

⁹"Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there — since there are five more years of famine to come — so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'"

¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

- ¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- ² **For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.**
- ³ Put your trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
- ⁴ **Take delight in the Lord, who shall give you your heart's desire.**
- ⁵ Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord,
and see what God will do.
- ⁶ **The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**
- ⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers,
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- ⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**
- ⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.
- ¹⁰ **In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**
- ¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.
- ³⁹ **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord;
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**
- ⁴⁰ You, O Lord, will help them and rescue them;
**you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,
because in you they seek refuge.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

A reading from 1 Corinthians:

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

⁴⁵Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

RED HYMNAL pg. 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: Luke 6:27-38**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you

hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

↑ **HYMN**

“Blest The Tie That Binds”

RED HYMNAL #656

↑ **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

Gathered in the light of Christ, let us offer our prayers for the Church, the world, and all people according to their need:

Holy God and Father, you call your people together in mercy and concord. Help your Church in all times and places to be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace... **Receive our prayer.**

You renew the world during winter's cold, so that new life may flourish in springtime warmth. Bless the birds of the air and the animals of the field, the forests and the farmlands, that all your creation might thrive. Be with those suffering the effects of frigid weather, and with those suffering the effects of any natural disaster. God of grace... **Receive our prayer.**

You inspire rulers to resist the temptation of anger, rage, vengeance and evil, and to instead govern with justice, peacefulness and mercy. Bless our nation and all who lead it with your wisdom and compassion. God of grace... **hear our prayer.**

You rescue all who seek refuge in you, and comfort all who are in need. Be with the poor, the lonely, the grieving and everyone who faces troubles of body, mind or spirit. We especially pray for Amanda, Annalise, Bill, Cecelia, Chris, Danielle, Edwin, Elizabeth, Erica, Gail, Kimberly, Marilyn, Noretta, Patrick, Paul, Sarah, William and those we name with our lips or in our hearts... *(Time for personal petitions)* God of grace... **Receive our prayer.**

You make Tree of Life a sign of your gracious love. Make us eager to seek out those estranged from us, and patient in the work of reconciliation. Heal any conflicts or divisions, and help us work together for your mission. Bless our bishops, Elizabeth and William; our pastor, Robbie; Community Lutheran Church and its pastor, Karis, and Grace of God Community Church. God of grace... **Receive our prayer.**

You promise that we mortals will one day bear the heavenly image of your Son, when we are raised as spiritual bodies in your eternal Kingdom. Accept our thanks for those who have died and now know the fullness of your life. Sustain us in our earthly sojourns with the hope of the resurrection. God of grace... **Receive our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we lift up all for whom we pray, trusting in your grace made known to all through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

↑ PEACE

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

We Share God's Holy Meal

OFFERING

↑ 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 grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.**

↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

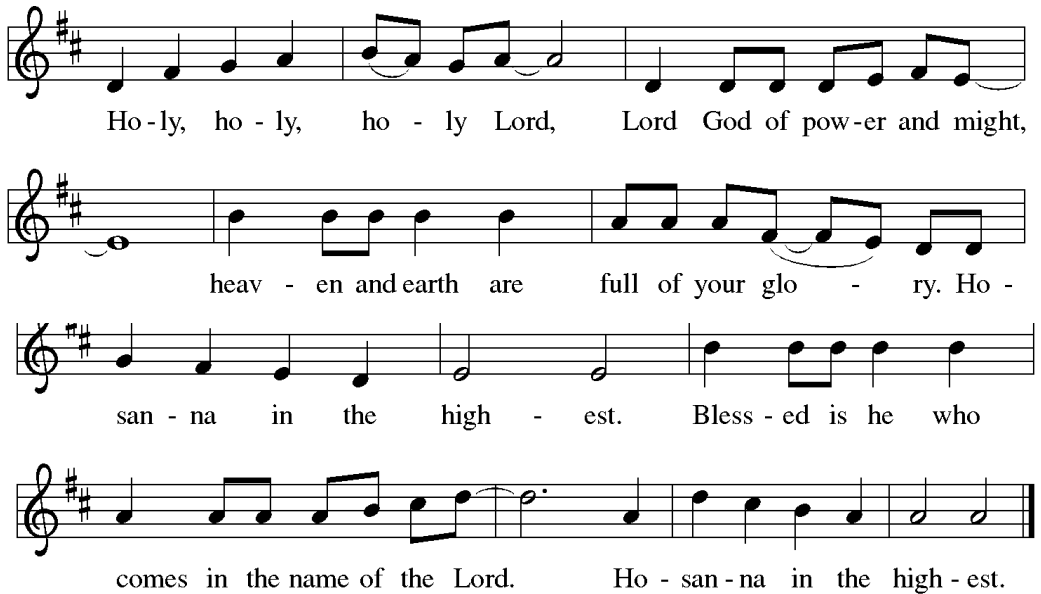
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

↑ **SANCTUS**

RED HYMNAL pg. 173



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.

↑ **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

Taste and see that the Lord is good. **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

RED HYMNAL pg. 174



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

“Change My Heart O God”
“Spirit Song”

BLACK BINDER #4
BLACK BINDER #6

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: **Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God Sends Us in Mission

ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑ BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and the +Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN

"My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less"

RED HYMNAL #596

↑ 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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