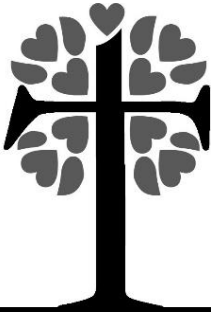


# Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



January 4, 2026 – 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

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## 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.**

The grace of God has been revealed to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Trusting in his grace, let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one-another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God: **You bring light to the world, but we walk in darkness. You bring healing to the world, but we cause harm. You bring goodness to the world, but we live in sin. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us our sins; known and unknown; of thought, word and deed. Shine your light into our hearts and help us, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and Christ Jesus is revealed today to save you. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to 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

**“Morning Has Broken”**

**RED HYMNAL #556**

## ↑ 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



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 crea - 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 God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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 60:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

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

<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

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

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

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

- <sup>7</sup> In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- <sup>10</sup> **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**
- <sup>11</sup> May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.
- <sup>12</sup> **For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**
- <sup>13</sup> He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
and preserves the lives of the needy.
- <sup>14</sup> **From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.**

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12**

A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — <sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



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 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

↑ HYMN      "I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light"      RED HYMNAL #815

### ↑ NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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:

Heavenly Father, the light of your Son brings salvation to all. Grant that your Church in all times and places may reflect your light and show the hope and life that has been revealed in Jesus. God of grace...**Receive our prayer.**

A star revealed your Son's birth, and all creation sings in celebration. Provide for all plants, animals and people in this winter season, and help us to see your glory in all that you have made. God of grace...**Receive our prayer.**

The nations come to your light, as the Magi came from distant lands to worship your Son. Bring a true and just peace among the nations of the world today. Bless our country and those who serve it. Give strength and consolation to the Delaware State Police, as they grieve a colleague killed while protecting others. God of grace...

**Receive our prayer.**

The poor come to the light of your abundance, and the suffering to the healing of your Son. Help all who cry out to you this day with needs of body, mind or spirit. We pray especially for Annalise, Beth, Bill, Bob, Calvin, Chris, Courtney, Dan, Danielle, Elizabeth, Erika, Gail and family, Gary, Joe, Patrick, Paul, Richard, Sarah, William, Winnie and those we name with our lips or in our hearts... (*Time for personal petitions*) God of grace... **Receive our prayer.**

Tree of Life gathers in your light and celebrates the gift of your Son. Make us a community where all people can encounter the living Christ, and may we eagerly offer our charity, worship and faithfulness as our own gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Bless our bishops, Yehiel and William; our pastor, Robbie; Hope Lutheran Church and its vicar, Eric; and Lutheran Community Services. God of grace...

**Receive our prayer.**

All who died in the faith now dwell in your everlasting light. We give you thanks for the recently departed and all who have loved us. Sustain us in the hope of the resurrection, until that day when we are gathered with you forevermore. God of grace... **Receive our prayer.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**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 mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

### ↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 172

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.

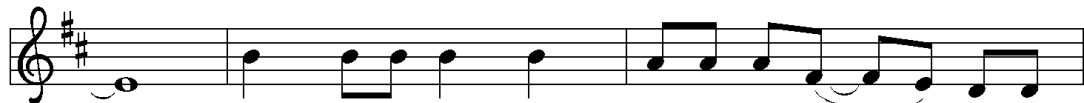
*The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day. The congregation responds:*

## ↑ SANCTUS

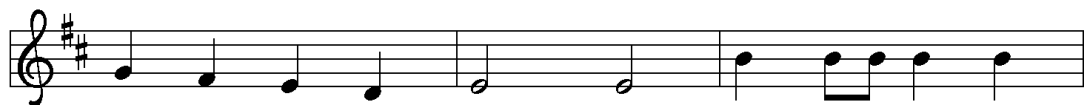
ELW p. 173



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.

## ↑ 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


Taste and see that the Lord is good!

Thanks be to God!

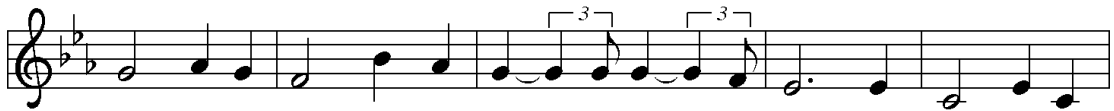
*All baptized Christians are welcome to commune. Wine and white grape juice are in the individual cups. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

## COMMUNION

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

“One Bread One Body”  
“Bread Of Life From Heaven”

RED HYMNAL #496  
RED HYMNAL #474

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together: **Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood, you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

## **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. **Amen.**

### **↑ HYMN                    "I Will Sing Of The Mercies Of The Lord"    BLACK BINDER #21**

### **↑ 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; share the Good News!  
**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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