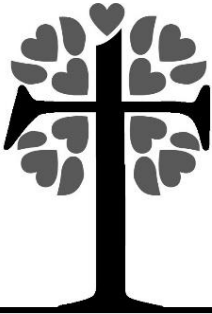


Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



January 26, 2025 ~ Third 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

“O For a Thousand Tongues To Sing”

RED HYMNAL #886


↑ 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.

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

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: Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

A reading from Nehemiah.

¹All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 19

- ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.
- ² **One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**
- ³ Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,
⁴ **their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**
- ⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- ⁶ **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**
- ⁷ The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
- ⁸ **The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**
- ⁹ The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- ¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**
- ¹¹ By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- ¹² **Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**
- ¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
- ¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

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 4:14-21**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

↑ **HYMN**

“We All Are One In Mission”

RED HYMNAL #576

↑ **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; he 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 Lord, your Word of Law and Gospel enlightens the world with your truth. Grant that your Church in all times and places might remain faithful to your Word and fervent in our witness, so that new generations might come to praise your name. Bless and inspire all who share the Word: parents, grandparents and godparents; teachers and mentors; and pastors, missionaries and scholars. God of grace...

Receive our prayer.

The heavens declare your glory, and the sky proclaims your handiwork. Help us to see your glory in all that you have made, and to be good stewards of the world you have entrusted to our care. Be with all who are affected by bitter cold, wildfires, mudslides, floods or other disasters, and bring favorable conditions for all. God of grace... **Receive our prayer.**

You bring Good News to the poor and freedom to the oppressed. Inspire our earthly leaders to follow your ways of freedom, justice and peace. Bless our nation and all who serve it, that our leaders might govern with wisdom, humility, integrity and compassion. God of grace... **Receive our prayer.**

You revive our weary souls. Help anyone experiencing depression, grief, loneliness or other needs of body, mind or spirit. We especially pray for Amanda, Annalise, Bill, Cecelia, Danielle, Edwin, Elizabeth, Erica, Gail, Kimberly, Marilyn, 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.**

Your Spirit blesses us with abundant gifts and unites us as the body of your Son. Bless Tree of Life as we gather for our annual meeting today, that we may discern your will for us. Inspire all of us to embrace our role in your Church, to use our gifts for the good of all, and to work together for your mission. Bless our bishops, Elizabeth and William; our pastor, Robbie; Hope Lutheran Church and its pastor Mark, and Lutheran Community Services. God of grace... **Receive our prayer.**

Your Word reveals your promise of life everlasting. Accept our thanksgiving for all who now rest from their earthly labors, and sustain our hope until that day when are reunited in your Kingdom. 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**

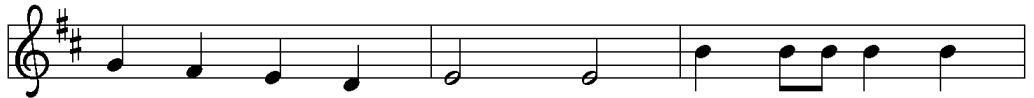
RED HYMNAL pg. 173



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.

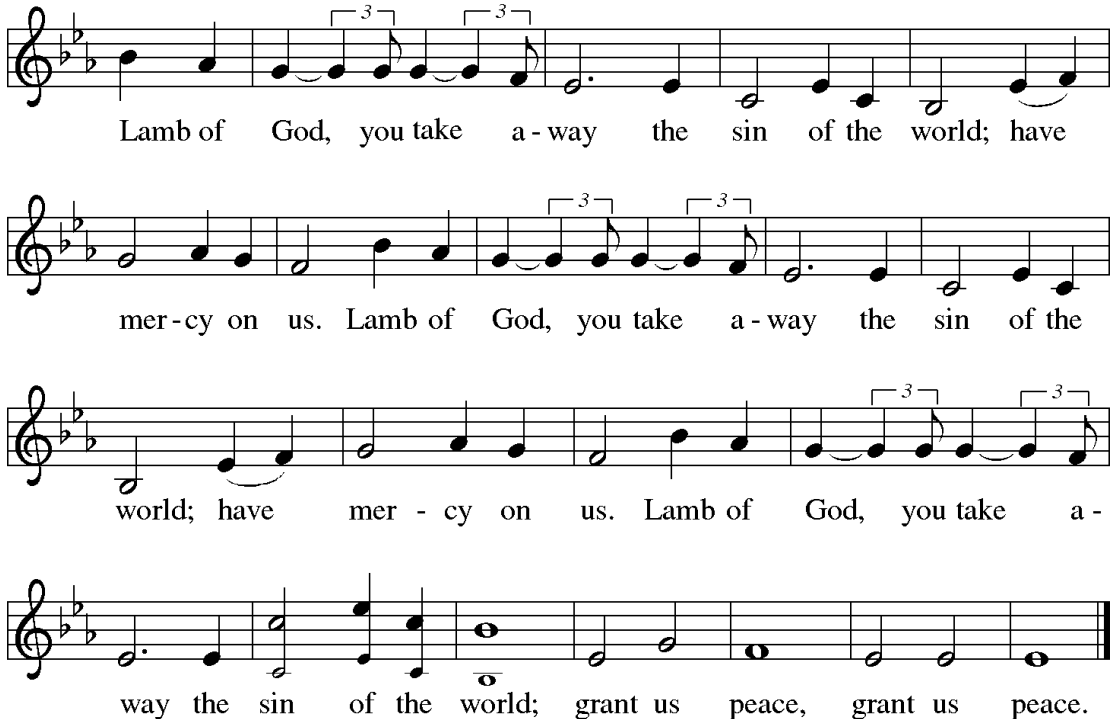
↑ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

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

RED HYMNAL #496
RED HYMNAL #474

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

"I'll Fly Away"

BLACK BINDER #32

↑ 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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