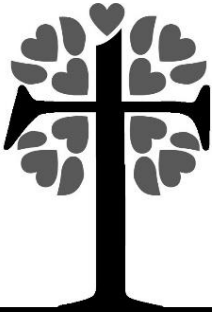


Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



January 5, 2025 ~ Epiphany of Our Lord

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 you 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.**

↑ 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: 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.

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴Lift 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. ⁵Then 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. ⁶A 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

- ¹Give 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;**
³that 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.**
⁵May 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.
- ¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**
- ¹¹ May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.
- ¹² **For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**
- ¹³ He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
and preserves the lives of the needy.
- ¹⁴ **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.

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — ²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In 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: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

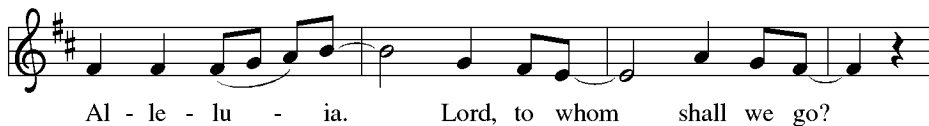
⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

RED HYMNAL pg. 171



↑ **GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “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.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶‘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.’”

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.” ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On 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. ¹²And 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

“Angels From The Realms Of Glory”

RED HYMNAL #275

↑ 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:

Almighty Father, your star brought people from around the world to worship your infant Son. Bless your Church around the world today, that it might reflect your light and reveal your goodness to all people. God of grace... **Receive our prayer.**

Your glory is proclaimed by all creation. Bless all that you have made, and grant that winter's slumber might bring new spring growth in our land. God of grace... **Receive our prayer.**

You guide kings and rulers to govern with justice and righteousness. Grant that all world leaders might follow your ways of freedom, justice and peace. Bless our nation, all who serve it, and all newly elected leaders who are assuming their offices in coming weeks. God of grace... **Receive our prayer.**

You care for those who have no helper. Deliver all who call out to you with needs of body, mind or spirit. Be with the victims of last week's terrorist attack in New Orleans, and last week's explosion in Las Vegas. Be with Amanda, Annalise, Bill, Cecelia, Danielle, Elizabeth, Erica, Gail, Kimberly, Marilyn, Patrick, Paul, Richard, and those we name with our lips or in our hearts... (*Time for personal petitions*) God of grace... **Receive our prayer.**

You inspire kings and peasants to kneel before you. Give to Tree of Life a spirit of discipleship and generosity, that we may give of our own gifts just as the Magi gave their gifts to your newborn Son. Bless our bishops, Elizabeth and William; our pastor, Robbie; Grace Lutheran Church and its pastor, Tara; and Lutheran Volunteer Corps. God of grace... **Receive our prayer.**

You make us all heirs of your eternal life. Accept our thanksgiving for all the saints who now rest in your radiant glory. Make us, with them, sharers in the boundless riches of your Son. 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**

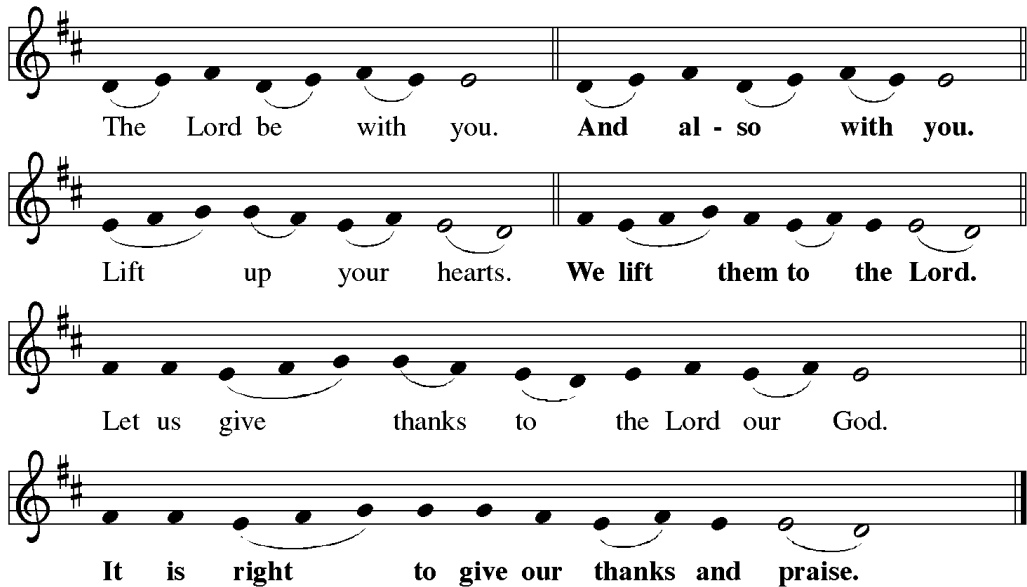
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye Heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost**

RED HYMNAL #884

↑ 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

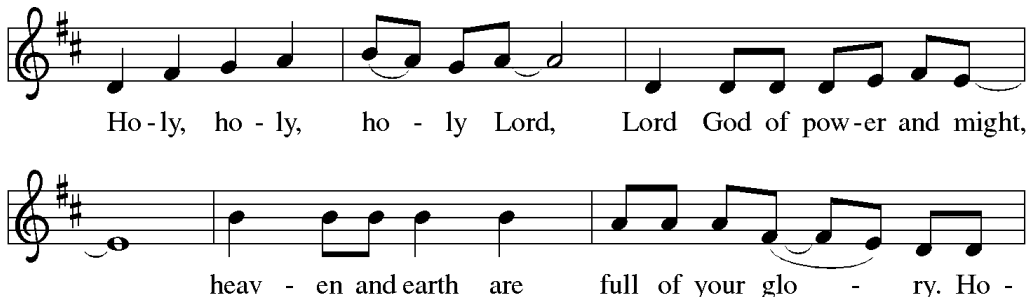


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

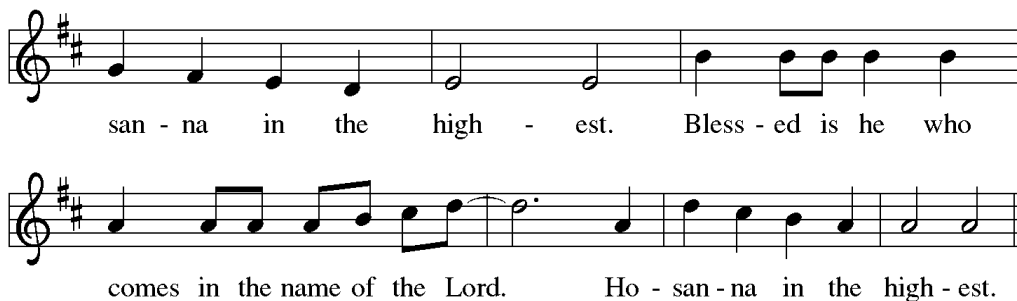
The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day. The congregation responds:

↑ 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 -



↑ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND 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.**

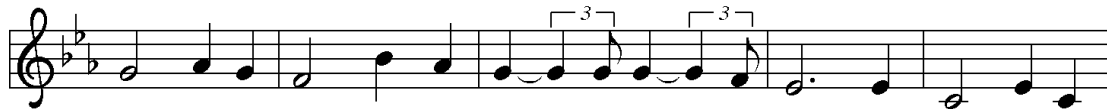
↑ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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.



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 Will Sing Of The Mercies Of The Lord"

BLACK BINDER #2

↑ 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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