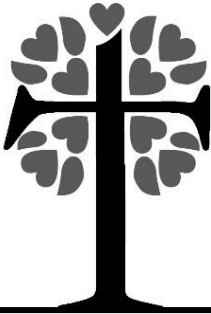


Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



March 9, 2025 ~ First Sunday in Lent

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.

↑ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be God who forgives all our sin, and whose mercy endures forever. Trusting in God's mercy, let us now return to our Lord, confessing our sin in the presence of God and one-another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God: **You are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. But we fail to reflect your love and righteousness. You show us selfless mercy, but our thoughts are selfish and cold. You speak the Word of Life, but our words are callous and cruel. You work for our salvation, but our works are corrupted by sin. For the sake of your Son's suffering and death, forgive us. Turn us again to you, and guide us in the way of the cross. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore 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

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"

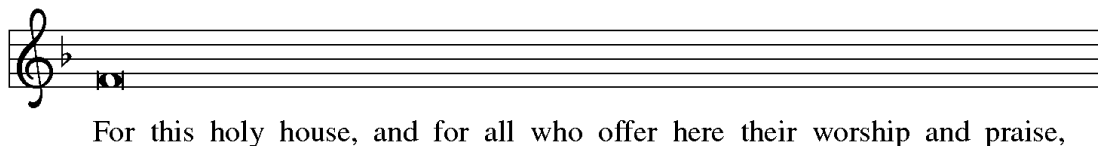
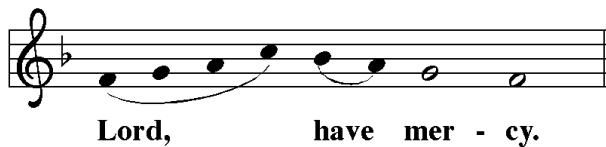
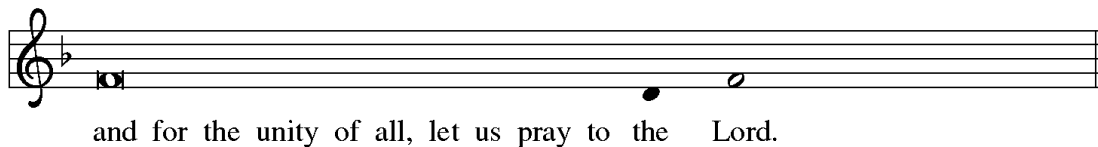
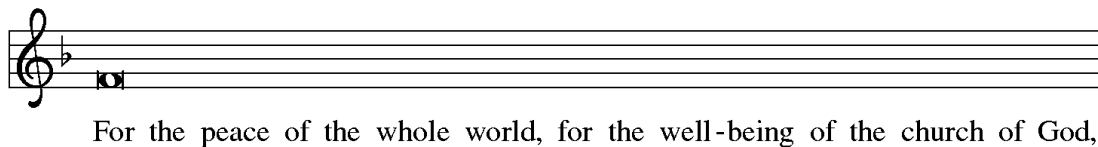
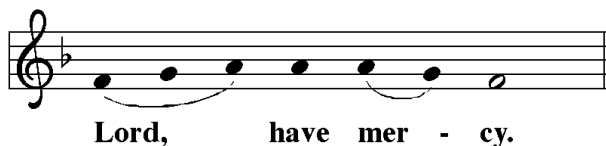
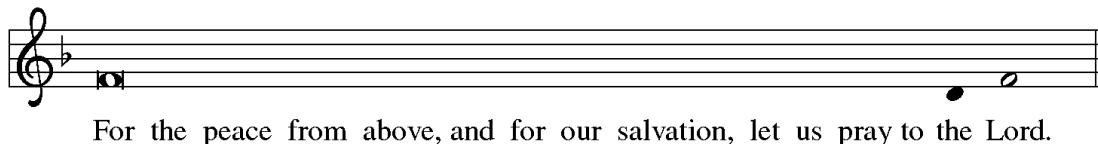
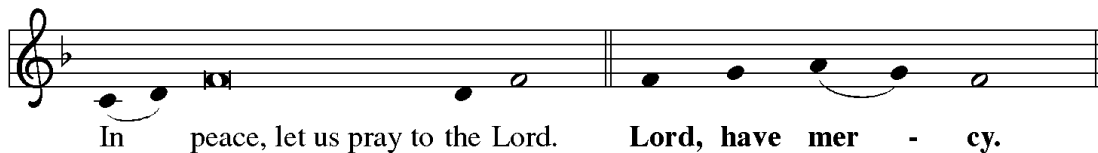
RED HYMNAL #774

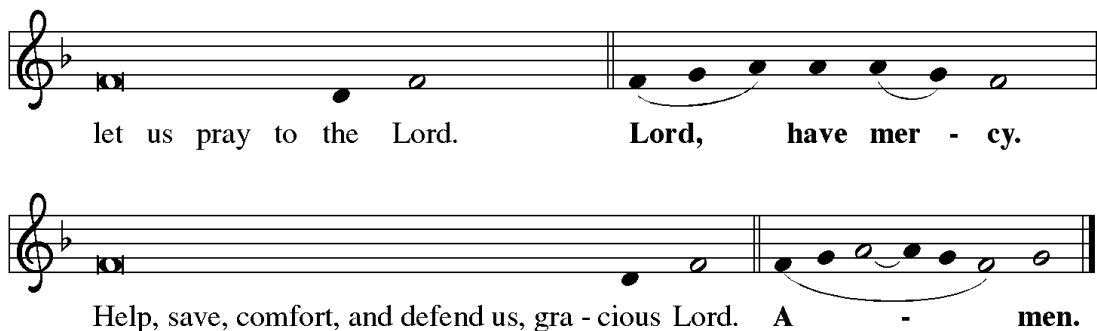
↑ APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

↑ KYRIE

RED HYMNAL pg. 138





↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray: O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, 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: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

A reading from Deuteronomy:

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us."

⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out

of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.”

You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

¹You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty —

²**you will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust.”**

⁹Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,

¹⁰**no evil will befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**

¹¹For God will give the angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways.

¹²**Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

¹³You will tread upon the lion cub and viper,
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

¹⁴**I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

¹⁵They will call me, and I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

¹⁶**With long life will I satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13

A reading from Romans.

^{8b}“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.”

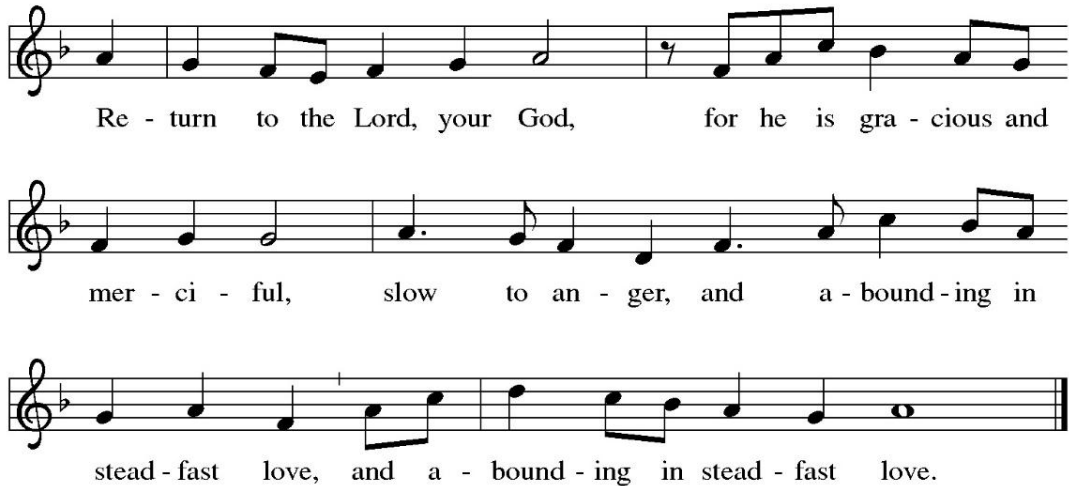
¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

↑ LENTEN ACCLAMATION

RED HYMNAL pg. 142



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

↑ GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.”

⁴Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' ¹¹and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ¹²Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

↑ **HYMN**

"O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"

RED HYMNAL #319

↑ **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

Let us turn to God in prayer for the Church, the world, and all those in need.

Steadfast God and Father of all, your Son resisted the devil's temptations in the wilderness, and walked the path of the cross. Strengthen your Church in all times and places to resist temptation and remain faithful to your Word and your ways. Bless missionaries and all who risk their welfare and safety for the faith. Be with anyone affected by the reported attacks on Christians in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Lord, in your mercy... **Receive our prayer.**

Creator God, the land you give provides an abundance of fruit and grain, water and shelter. Teach us to be grateful for all that you provide, and make us good stewards of everything that you have made. Lord, in your mercy... **Receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, you call the kingdoms of the world to follow your ways of freedom, justice and peace. Bless our nation and all who serve it, that our leaders might withstand all temptation to self-serving arrogance or vitriol, and instead govern with truth and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy... **Receive our prayer.**

Loving God, your holy angels guard us, and your shelter protects us. Be with all who call upon you with troubles of body, mind or spirit. We especially pray for Amanda, Annalise, Bill, Bob, Cecelia, Chris, Danielle, Edwin, Elizabeth, Erica, Gail, Jerry, Kimberly, Noretta, Patrick, Paul, Sarah, Sue, William and those we name with our lips or in our hearts... *(Time for personal petitions)* Lord, in your mercy...
Receive our prayer.

Gracious God, you are with us throughout our journey of faith. Bless Tree of Life as we enter this Lenten season. Help us to share your Word of life with others, care for our neighbors as you care for us, and grow in faith and love as we worship your Son's perfect faithfulness and love. Bless our bishops, Elizabeth and William; our pastor, Robbie; St. Stephen's Lutheran Church and its pastor Sue, and Lutheran Campus Ministries and its chaplain Mindy. Lord, in your mercy...
Receive our prayer.

Everlasting God, you promise to save all who call upon your name. Accept our thanksgiving for the saints who now know the fullness of your salvation. Comfort those who grieve, and sustain our hope in the resurrection. Lord, in your mercy...
Receive our prayer.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through 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

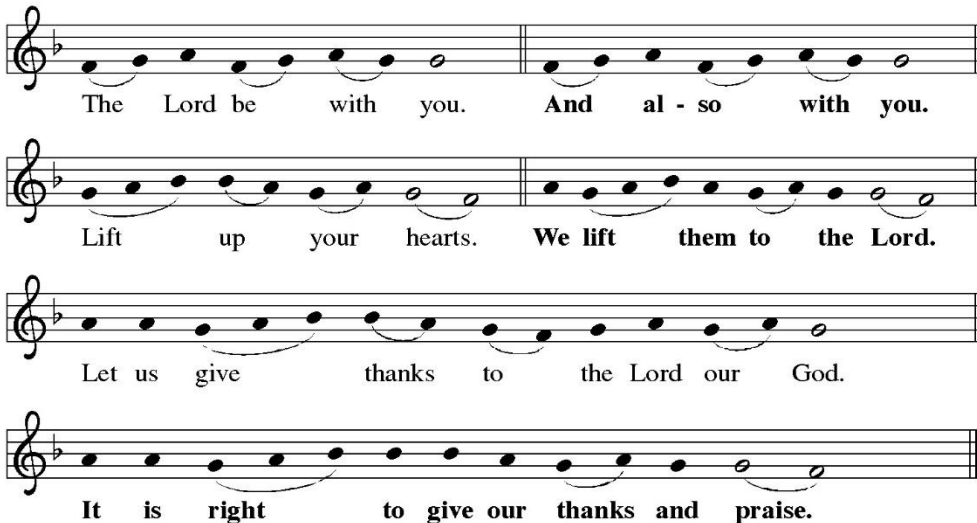
RED HYMNAL #884

**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: **Blessed are you, O God our Father, maker of all things.
Through your goodness, you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our
time, and our possessions. As we prepare to share the holy feast of your Son,
deepen our commitment to share your goodness with others. All this we pray
through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

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

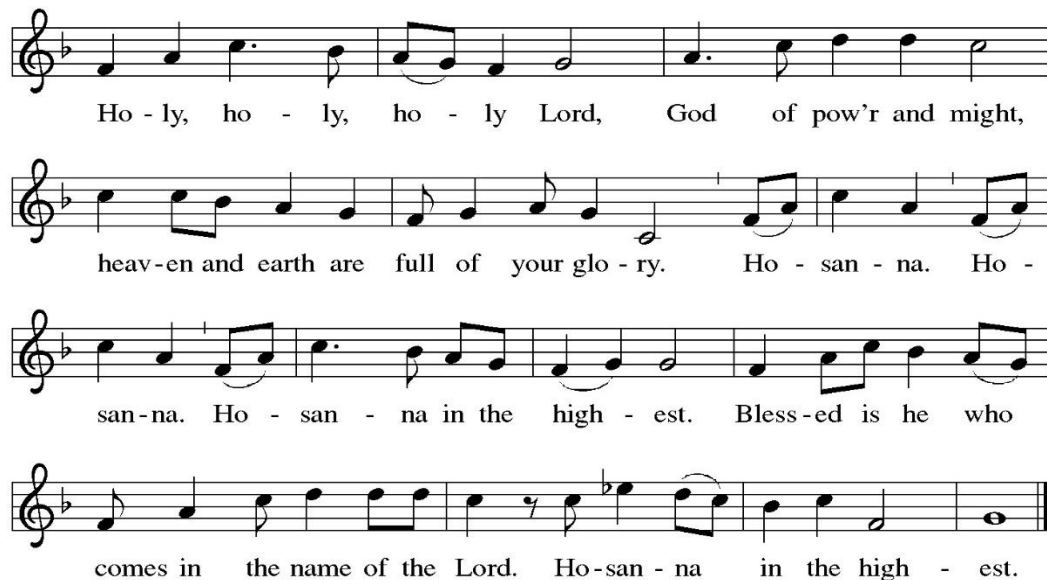
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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

Malotte

Our Fa - ther Which art in Hea - ven Hal-lo-wed Be

8 Thy Name Thy King - dom come Thy will be done

16 on Earth As it is in hea - ven Give us this day

24 Our Dai - ly Bread And for - give us our debts as

31 We for - give our deb ts And Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion

37 But de - li - ver us From e - vil For Thine is the

44 king - dom and the po - wer and the glo - ry

49 for ev er A - men

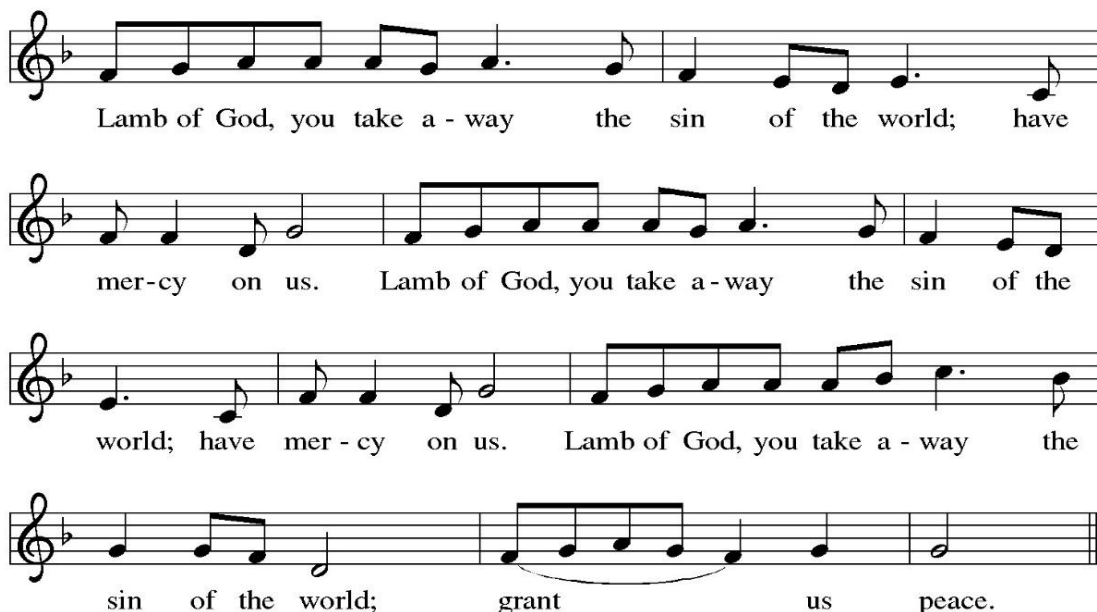
↑ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ our salvation is given for us. **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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Let Us Break Bread Together”
“Here Is Bread”

RED HYMNAL #471
RED HYMNAL #483

↑ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: **Compassionate God, you have fed us with the Bread of Heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage. May our fasting be a hunger for righteousness, our almsgiving be a sign of your love, and our prayers be a song of thanksgiving for the grace won through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God Sends Us in Mission

ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑ **BENEDICTION**

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. And may Almighty God – Father, + Son and Holy Spirit – bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

↑ **HYMN**

“Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus”

RED HYMNAL #802

↑ **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, Christ is with you. **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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