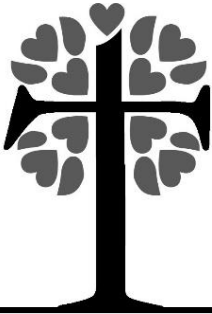


Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



November 30, 2025 – First Sunday of Advent

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.**

Christ has come, and Christ will come again! Trusting in the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one-another.

Silence for reflection.

Most merciful God: **You bring light to the world, but we walk in darkness. You bring peace to the world, but we trust the sword. You bring love to the world, but we show hostility. You bring goodness to the world, but we turn to sin. You bring life to the world, but we follow ways of death. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, of thought, word and deed. Awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and Jesus will come again to vanquish sin forevermore. 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 the +Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

↑ **HYMN**

“I Know Why There’s Christmas”

Paxton

*Led by Walter Van Geffen, guitar and voice; Sylvia Schill, voice
Congregation is invited to join*

Chorus:

I know why there’s Christmas, would you like to know?
Something wonderful happened here, many years ago.
In the town of Bethlehem, on one frosty morn’
In a manger where he lay, Jesus Christ was born.

Shepherds watching flocks by night saw a heavenly light,
All the sky was bright and they were frightened of the sight,
Then the angel said to them, in a voice so mild,
“Follow us to Bethlehem, come and see the child.” *Chorus*

All the skies were filled with song, at the royal birth,
Singing, “Peace to everyone, peace to all on Earth.”
Unto us, a child is born, hear the angels sing.
“Come with us to Bethlehem, come and see the King.” *Chorus*

Shepherds came to Bethlehem, to the stable door.
In a manger, they could feel peace forevermore.
Angels’ watch were keeping eye, on this holy day,
Where the child was sleeping now, in his bed of hay.

So I know why there's Christmas, would you like to know?
Something wonderful happened here, many years ago
In the town of Bethlehem, on one frosty morn’
In a manger where he lay, Jesus Christ was born.
In a manger where he lay... Jesus... Christ... was... born.

↑ **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.**

↑ ADVENT PRAYER

Let us pray: We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

↑ LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Sing verse 1



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, 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: Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah:

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 122

¹I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

²**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;
⁴to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.

⁵**For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.**

⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.

⁷**Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.**

⁸For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.

⁹**Because of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good."**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

A reading from Romans:

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 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: Matthew 24:36-44

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

↑ HYMN

“Rejoice Rejoice Believers”

RED HYMNAL #244

↑ 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

As we faithfully await the new advent of Christ, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all people according to their needs:

The Church awaits your coming, O Lord. Guide your people in all times and places by your Law, and sustain us by your Gospel, until the day of your Son's return. God of grace... **Hear our prayer.**

Creation awaits your coming, O Lord. Protect all creatures from winter's cold, and provide sustenance for all living things. Care for us, as we care for all that you have made. God of grace... **Hear our prayer.**

The nations await your coming, O Lord. Bring about the day when all swords are beaten into plowshares, and your peace, justice and freedom reign upon the earth. Bless our country and those who serve it. God of grace... **Hear our prayer.**

The suffering await your coming, O Lord. Be with the poor, the lonely, the sick, the sad, and anyone in any need or trouble. We especially pray for Annalise, Beth, Bill, Bob, Calvin, Chris, Dan, Danielle, Dot, Elizabeth, Erika, Gary, Judy, Patrick, Paul, Sarah, William, Winnie and those we name with our lips or in our hearts... *(Time for personal petitions)* God of grace... **Hear our prayer.**

Tree of Life awaits your coming, O Lord. Help us to throw off all darkness and put on the armor of light, so that people might see the light of your Son reflected in our discipleship. Bless our bishops, Yehiel and William; our pastor, Robbie; Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church and its pastor, Karen; and St. Philip's Lutheran Church and its pastors, Patrick and Amy. God of grace... **Hear our prayer.**

Eternity rejoices in your presence, O Lord. Be with those who grieve this holiday season, even as we prepare for the coming of that day when grief shall be no more. God of grace... **Hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O Lord, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **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**

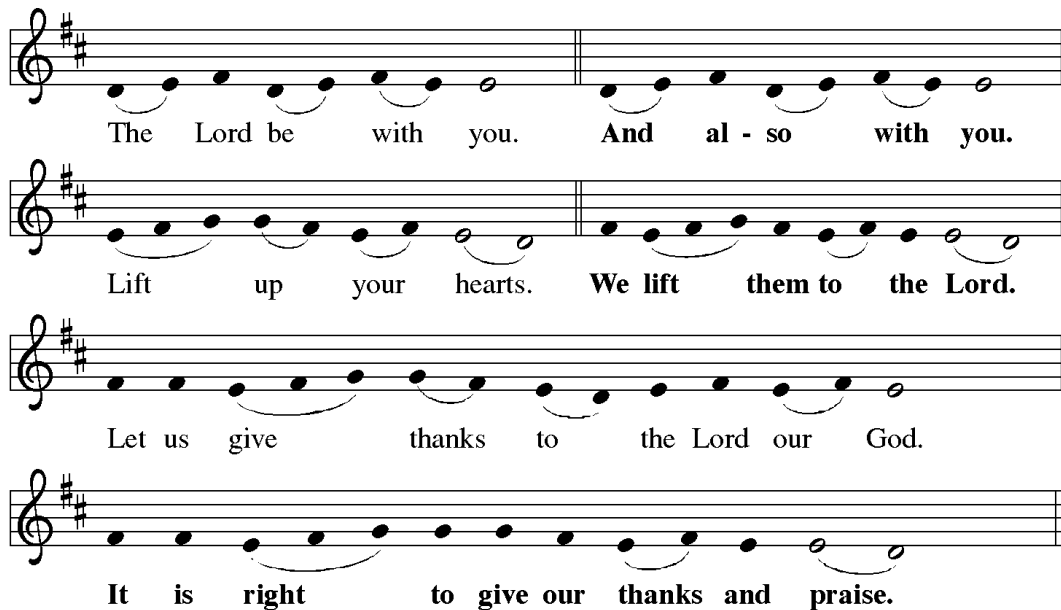
RED HYMNAL #884

↑ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together: **God of abundance, we give you thanks for the fruits of creation. We commit them and all our lives to you. Through this meal, strengthen our love for others and our hope in you, as we await the return of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 152



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

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

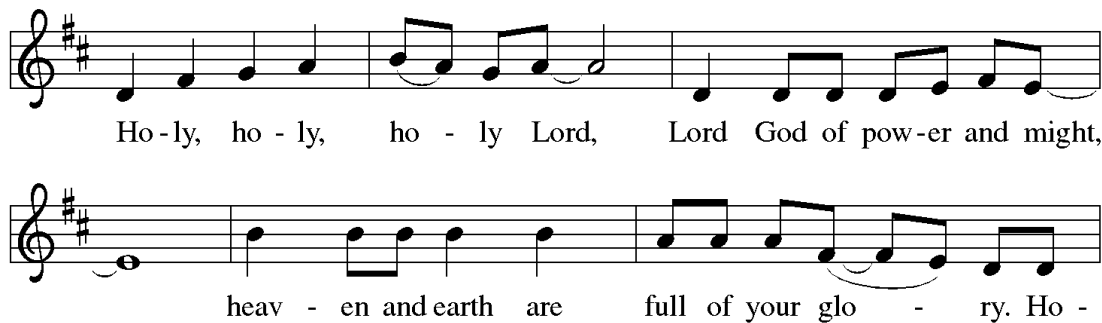
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

↑ SANCTUS

ELW p. 153



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.

↑ EUCCHARISTIC 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

Come and receive the promise of God.

Thanks be to God.

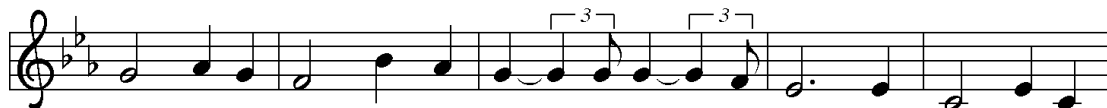
All baptized Christians are welcome to commune. Wine and white grape juice are in the individual cups. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

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

“Change My Heart O God”
“Spirit Song”

BLACK BINDER #4
BLACK BINDER #6

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: **Heavenly Father, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

God Sends Us in Mission

ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑ BENEDICTION

May Almighty God – Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit – grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and joy in the Good News today and always. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN

“Shout To The Lord”

RED HYMNAL #821

↑ 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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Advent and Christmas 2025

Join Tree of Life as we hear the Good News of the Messiah's coming in Advent then celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas! There are several ways that you can join in prayer and praise during this time, so we hope to see you!

Advent Midweek Prayer

Noon Wednesdays: Dec. 3, 10, 17

A 15-minute time of Scripture, prayer and simple song

Live Nativity

2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13

Experience the Christmas story come to life with animals, song and Scripture
Want to be a part of the presentation? Sign up outside the kitchen!

Community 'Blue Christmas' Service

3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21 at St. Paul's UMC-Odessa

Christmas worship especially for those grieving during the holidays
Sponsored by the MOT Ministerium

Christmas Eve Candlelight

7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24

Worship the newborn Christ with Scripture, song, Communion and candlelight

Christmas Lessons & Carols

10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 28

Special Sunday worship for Christmas with songs and Scripture readings