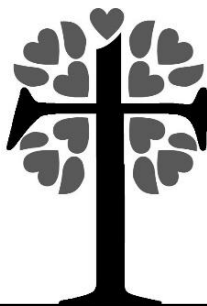


# Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



December 1, 2024 ~ 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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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 the +Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have trusted earthly powers, rather than your true power. We have clung to false comforts, rather than your true comfort. We have turned away from your will for our lives, and from our neighbors in need. In your mercy, forgive us our sins, and come to us with new life. Amen.**

A righteous branch now springs forth: It is Christ the Lord, our Savior, who brings us forgiveness, mercy and life. 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

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”

RED HYMNAL #244

## ↑ 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

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You promise to bring peace, mercy, justice and righteousness to your people, and you proclaim that the night is past and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes again and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. **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 alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, 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: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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

### **PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> **Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup> **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup> **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup> You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup> **All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

## SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

## ↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

RED HYMNAL pg. 205



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## ↑ GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

The holy gospel according to Luke.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

## **CHILDREN’S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

↑ **HYMN**

“My Lord What A Morning”

**RED HYMNAL #438**

↑ **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

United in Christ and preparing for Christ's coming again, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your Son's return. Fill your Church with renewed passion for its mission, and strengthen our unity so that we may proclaim the promise of new life. Lord, in your mercy...

**Receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us see your goodness in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy... **Receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give all in authority hearts for justice, freedom and peace. Bless our nation, and all who serve it. Lord, in your mercy... **Receive our prayer.**

God of compassion, you show steadfast love to all your children. Sustain those who are sick, suffering or in any need of body, mind or spirit. We especially pray for Amanda, Annalise, Anya, Bill, Cecelia, Christine, Cindy, Clara, Dale, Danielle, Elizabeth, Erica, Gail, Grace, Kenneth, Kimberly, Marilyn, Mercedes, Pam, Patrick, Paul, Richard, Sarah and those we name with our lips or in our hearts... *(Time for personal petitions)* Lord, in your mercy... **Receive our prayer.**

God of community, you strengthen us to abound in love for one-another, just as we abound in love for you. Sustain Tree of Life in our care for one-another, and inspire us to lives of holiness and hope. Bless our bishops, Elizabeth and William; our pastor, Robbie; St. Paul Lutheran Church and its pastor Robert; and Grace Lutheran Church and its pastor Jonathon and deacon Mike. Lord, in your mercy...

**Receive our prayer.**

God of eternity, you bring the day of our redemption and salvation. Accept our thanksgiving for all the faithful ones who now rest in you. Sustain us in the hope of the resurrection. Lord, in your mercy... **Receive our prayer.**

Come to us, O Lord, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, all in the name of 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

“Carol Hymn Medley”  
*Tree of Life Choir*

arr. Mauldin

## ↑ OFFERTORY

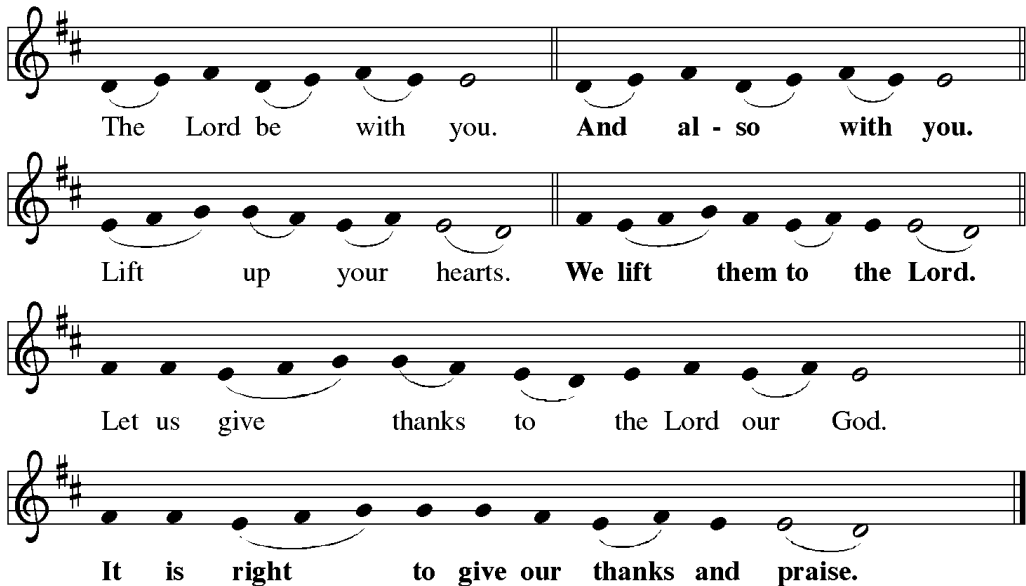
RED HYMNAL #884

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: **Creator God, you made the whole world, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, 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. 207**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n 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, 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. 208



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## HYMNS

“Bread Of Life Our Host Our Meal”

RED HYMNAL #464

“We Come To The Hungry Feast”

RED HYMNAL #479

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: **Generous God, we thank you for this gift of life, the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us and leading us into peace.**

**We thank you for showering us with mercy and sending us into the world.**

**Come, O Lord, and be with us to help us serve in your name. Amen.**

# God Sends Us in Mission

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ↑ BENEDICTION

May God be your hope on the journey, your light in the darkness, and your peace in all the days of your life. In the name of the Father, and the +Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### ↑ HYMN

**“I Found A Friend In Jesus”**

**BLACK BINDER #3**

### ↑ 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.*

# Advent and Christmas at Tree of Life

## **Advent Calendars and Devotionals**

Deepen your daily prayer life this season; see the sanctuary entryway for items

## **Donate Gifts for Families in Need**

Help families through Neighborhood House; see the display in the Fellowship Room

## **December 1: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

9 a.m. – Adult Bible Study on the Magi  
10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion, with special choir anthem

## **December 5: OWLS Holiday Luncheon**

RSVP to Dee Matz by December 1

## **December 8: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

9 a.m. – Adult Bible Study on the Magi  
10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion, with special choir anthem

## **December 15: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

9 a.m. – Adult Bible Study on the Magi  
10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion, with special choir anthem

## **December 21: Live Nativity**

1 p.m. – Farm animals arrive  
1:30 p.m. – Experience the Christmas story through a live re-enactment!

## **December 22: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion, with special choir anthem  
3 p.m. – “Blue Christmas” Worship at St. Paul’s UMC, Odessa

## **December 24: Christmas Eve**

7 p.m. – Candlelight Communion and Worship

## **December 29: Service of Lessons and Carols**

10:30 a.m. – Praise the newborn Savior through Scripture and song, and New Year’s blessing

