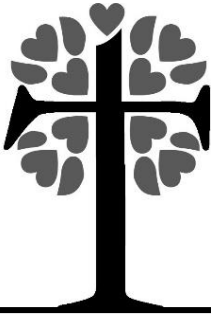


Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



December 8, 2024 ~ 2nd 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.

↑ 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

"He Came Down"

RED HYMNAL #253

↑ 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. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Bless us as we light two candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

↑ LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Sing verse 2



- 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming, give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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: Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight — indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸ Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹ **You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
⁷¹ from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷² **to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

⁷³ This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴ to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear,
⁷⁵ holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

⁷⁷ **to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

⁷⁸ In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹ **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

A reading from Philippians.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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 3:1-6

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah

in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

↑ **HYMN**

“Prepare The Royal Highway”

RED HYMNAL #264

↑ **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.

Refining God, move through your Church around the world. Purify your people from sin, root out any ways that stray from the faith, and kindle a fire for sharing the Gospel, so that all flesh might know your salvation. Lord, in your mercy...

Receive our prayer.

Renewing God, transform your creation. Prepare the winter soil to provide new bounty in the spring, steer us from self-centeredness and wastefulness, and grant that all creatures might thrive. Lord, in your mercy... **Receive our prayer.**

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Burn away all corruption and selfishness, quell the lust for power, and bring an end to injustice and oppression. Guide our nation in the pathways of your righteousness, justice, freedom and peace. Lord, in your mercy...**Receive our prayer.**

Rescuing God, show your tender compassion to those in any need. Shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and provide comfort and strength to all who suffer. 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.**

Reforming God, fill Tree of Life with your presence. Strengthen us in prayer and enlighten us with your Spirit, that our love may overflow and our hearts be enlightened to know and do what is best. Make us fearless in word and deed, for the sake of your glory and our neighbors' welfare. Bless our bishops, Elizabeth and William; our pastor, Robbie; Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and its pastor, Kathy; and Lutheran housing projects throughout Delaware. Lord, in your mercy... **Receive our prayer.**

Resurrecting God, we give thanks for those who have died and now rest in you. As you have set them free from all mortal sorrow, so sustain our hope in that day when the dawn from on high shall break upon us all. 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

↑ 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”
“We Come To The Hungry Feast”**

**RED HYMNAL #464
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

“My Life Flows On In Endless Song”

RED HYMNAL #763

↑ 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 8: 2nd Sunday of Advent

9 a.m. – Adult Bible Study on the Magi

10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion, with special choir anthem

December 15: 3rd 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: 4th 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

January 5: Epiphany Sunday

10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion

