

# Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



September 1, 2024 ~ 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Leader in regular type, **congregation in bold type**

↑ means stand as you are able

Restrooms are located by the kitchen and at the end of the piano wing of the sanctuary by the Wiggle Room.

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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.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one-another. Most merciful God:

**We confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, and turn us again to you. 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

**"For the Beauty of the Earth"**

**RED HYMNAL #879**

## ↑ 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.**

## ↑ HYMN OF PRAISE

### “What A Fellowship”

Hoffman/Showalter



- 1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
- 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
- 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,  
last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

#### *Refrain*



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

## ↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray: O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## We Hear God's Word

### **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**

A reading from Deuteronomy:

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? <sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

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

### **PSALM: Psalm 15**

<sup>1</sup>Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
who speak the truth from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord.  
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain,  
nor do they take bribes against the innocent

**Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.**

## SECOND READING: James 1:17-27

A reading from James:

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.

<sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.

<sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act — they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

## ↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Composed by D.D. Dillard

Voice

Al-le - u - ia Al-le - u - ia Al-le - u - ia glo-ry to God! A - le-

5 u - ia Al-le - u - ia Al-le - u - ia Glo-ry to God A - le God! For the rit.

10 Lord Most High is *rit.* wor-thy of glo-ry and praise Al - le u - ia Al-le-

*a tempo*

15  
u - ia Al-le - u - ia glo ry to - God! A - le - u - ia Al-le - u - ia Al-le-

20  
u - ia Glo - ry to God!

↑ **GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?”

<sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; <sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’ <sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

<sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. <sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

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

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**

## ↑ 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;  
he 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

Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all people according to their need:

God our Lord, you guide us with a good Law, and when we sin, you sustain us with the Gospel of forgiveness. Strengthen the Church in all times and places to proclaim your Law and Gospel, to be doers of your Word, and to follow your ways. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our creator, you provide food from the earth and water from the heavens. Grant that summer's growth might bring a good harvest, so that all your creatures might thrive. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our ruler, your Law of Liberty shines forth the way of true freedom, justice and peace. Grant wisdom, humility and integrity to the leaders of nations, and bless our nation and those who serve it. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our strength, you give humanity the ability to work for the good of all. On this Labor Day weekend, accept our thanksgiving for honest employment, just wages and the dignity of work. Help those seeking jobs, and support those whose work provides for us all. Help us to promote honest prosperity, good working conditions and fair wages. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our comforter, you draw near to all who are hurting. Tend to those who call out with any needs of body, mind or spirit. We pray especially for Amanda, Annalise, Anya, Bill, Brian, Cecelia, Christine, Cindy, Clara, Dale, Danielle, Elizabeth, Erica, Gail, Grace, Kenneth, Kimberly, Marilyn, Mercedes, Patrick, Paul, Richard, Sarah, and those we name with our lips or in our hearts... *(Time for personal petitions)*  
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our joy, you give us the gift of human love as a reflection of your divine love. Strengthen Jeff Hillwig and Linda Klein in their married life together. Support marriages everywhere, that our faithfulness to those whom we love might show forth your perfect faithfulness to us all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our light, you call our hearts to be true to your will. Help Tree of Life to set aside any minor distractions and conflicts that keep us from our major mission to proclaim your name and follow your ways. Bless our bishops, Elizabeth and William; our pastor, Robbie; Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church and its pastor Zach; and Unity Church and its pastors Melissa and Brian. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our life, you give us the sure hope of eternal joy in your presence. Receive our thanksgiving for Dallas Dean and all who now rest in you. Strengthen us with the promise of that day when we are all reunited in Paradise. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we lift up all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ our 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: **Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here: your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

## ↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also 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

*Composed by D.D. Dillard*

Voice

HO - LY HO - LY HO - LY LORD GOD OF POW'R AND  
MIGHT HEA - VEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLO - RY HO -  
SA - NA IN - THE HIGH - EST BLESS - ED IS HE - WHO  
COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD HO - SA 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

Composed by D.D. Dillard



LAMB OF GOD YOU TAKE A - WAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD \_\_\_\_ HAVE



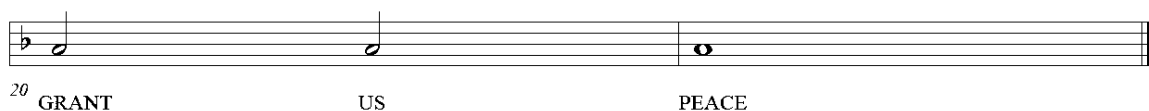
<sup>5</sup> MER - CY ON US MER - CY ON US MER - CY ON US LAMB OF GOD YOU



<sup>10</sup> TAKE A - WAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD \_\_\_\_ HAVE MER - CY ON US MER - CY ON US



<sup>15</sup> MER - CY ON US LAMB OF GOD YOU TAKE A - WAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD



<sup>20</sup> GRANT US PEACE

## HYMNS

“Let Us Break Bread Together”  
“We Plow the Fields and Scatter”

RED HYMNAL #471  
RED HYMNAL #681

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: **We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, 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

**“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. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

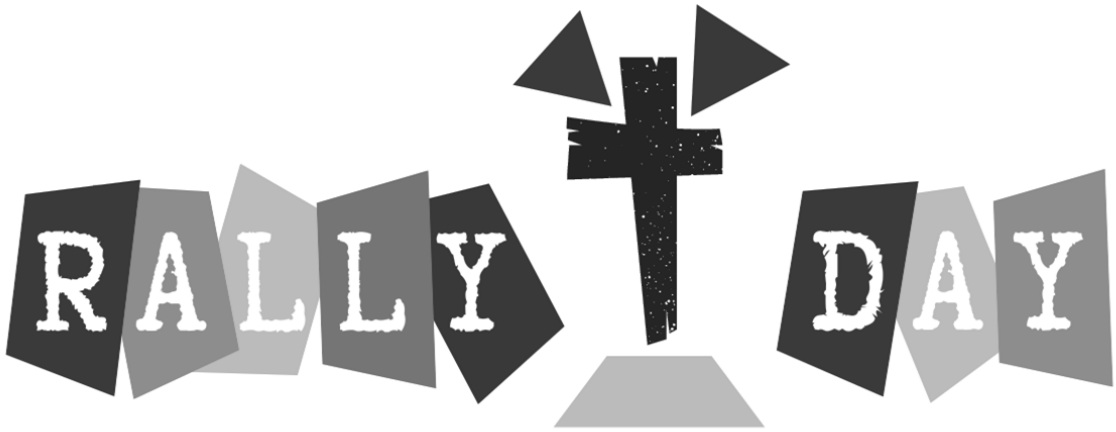
*You may listen to the music or depart to do God's work.*

*Please join us for refreshments in the fellowship room after the service.*

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# **TREE OF LIFE RALLY DAY!**

**NEXT WEEK!!!**

**Sunday, September 8**

Kick off the fall church year!

Festive worship!

Picnic lunch!

Sign up at the kitchen bulletin board to bring a side dish.

Everything else is covered.

Thanks!