

Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



May 17, 2026 – Ascension and Parish Anniversary

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Trusting in the Good News of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are bold to come before God in the presence of one-another, confessing our sins. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God our Father: **You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that we sinners might live. For his sake, continue to forgive us all our sins of thought, word and deed; known and unknown; evil done and good left undone. Give us new life in you, just as our Lord Jesus lives in you now and always. Amen.**

When you were baptized in Christ Jesus, you were baptized into his death. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so you too have new life. By the death and resurrection of Christ, your sins are forgiven. May you live out your Baptism with faith in God and love toward one-another. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN

“The Church’s One Foundation”

RED HYMNAL #654

↑ 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

“This is the Feast”

ELW pg. 169


Refrain




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain*



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray: Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

We Hear God's Word

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

A reading from Acts:

[Luke writes:] ¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 47

¹Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with a joyful sound.

²**For the Lord Most High is to be feared: a great king over all the earth,**

³who subdues the peoples under us, and the nations under our feet;

⁴**who chooses our inheritance for us, the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.**

⁵God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the ram's horn.

⁶**Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our king, sing praises.**

⁷For God is king of all the earth; sing praises with a song.

⁸**God reigns over the nations; God is enthroned on high.**

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.

The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23, 2:19-22

A reading from Ephesians:

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

^{2:19}So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; ²¹in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg. 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: Luke 24:44-53

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁴ [Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,] “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

↑ HYMN

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

RED HYMNAL #504

↑ 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

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

Gracious God our Father, your Son Jesus ascended to fill all time and space, and is present with all people. By your Holy Spirit, lead your Church around the world in faith, hope and love, and in sharing the presence of Christ. Lord, in your mercy... **Receive our prayer.**

Majestic God our Father, your Son Jesus reigns beside you over all the earth. Bless the air, land and sea, and make us worthy stewards of all you have made. Lord, in your mercy... **Receive our prayer.**

Almighty God our Father, your Son Jesus sits at your right hand above all earthly rulers and authorities. Bless our nation and those who serve it. Endow our leaders with wisdom, mercy and integrity. Protect members of our armed forces, especially those in the Middle East. Put an end to violence and discord at home and abroad. Grant that your freedom, justice and peace might flourish. Lord, in your mercy... **Receive our prayer.**

Merciful God our Father, your Son Jesus carries with him the scars of suffering as our wounded healer. Bring your healing touch to all who are sick, sorrowful or in any need or trouble. We especially pray for Annalise, Beth, Bill, Bob, the Brookes family, Calvin, Chris, Courtney, Dan, Danielle, Darryl, Dee, Dot, Ed, Elizabeth, Erika, Gary, Jerry, Joe, John, Nina, Patrick, Paul, Quentin, Richard, Sarah, William, Winnie, Yvonne and those we name with our lips or in our hearts... *(Time for personal petitions)* Lord, in your mercy... **Receive our prayer.**

Holy God our Father, your Son Jesus makes Tree of Life part of his body on Earth. Accept our thanksgiving for guiding this congregation over the past 35 years, and grant that we may continue to grow as your people. Make us witnesses to your Son, proclaiming his name and following his ways in Middletown, Odessa, Townsend and the world. 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. Lord, in your mercy... **Receive our prayer.**

Eternal God our Father, your Son Jesus overcame the grave and ascended into glory, preparing the way for our eternal life with you. We thank you for those who now rest from their labors. Sustain us with the sure hope of the resurrection, until the day when we are all reunited in your home. Lord, in your mercy... **Receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and help us, O Lord, as we pray in the name of Jesus your Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

↑ **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We Share God's Holy Meal

OFFERING

↑ **OFFERTORY**

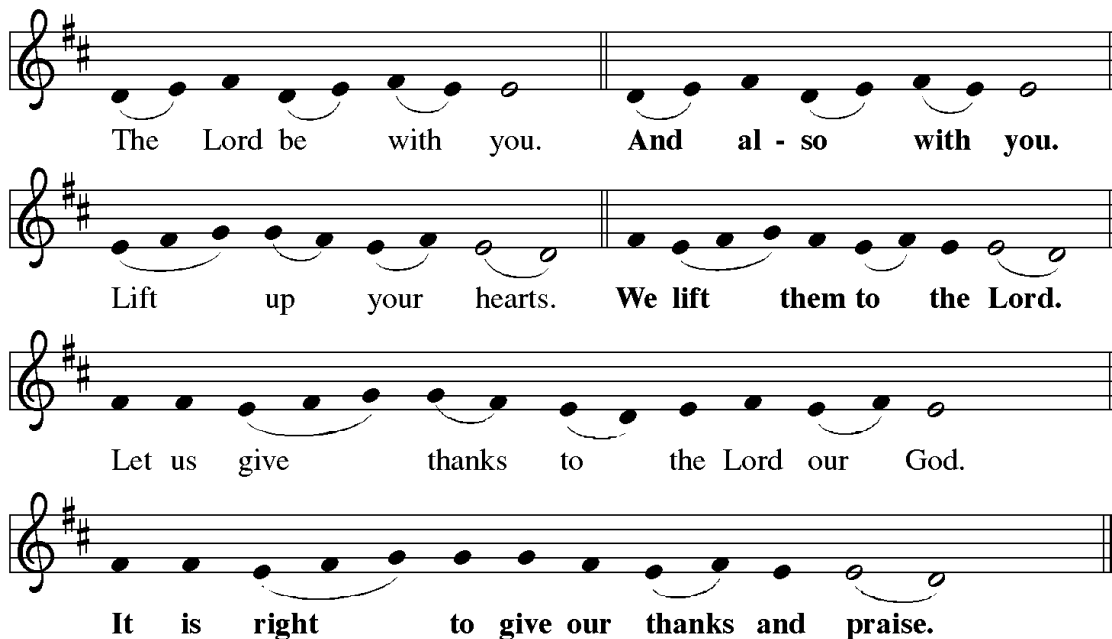
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye Heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost**

RED HYMNAL #884

↑ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together: **Risen Lord, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Be with us in this meal, and make us your risen body in the world. Amen.**

↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING

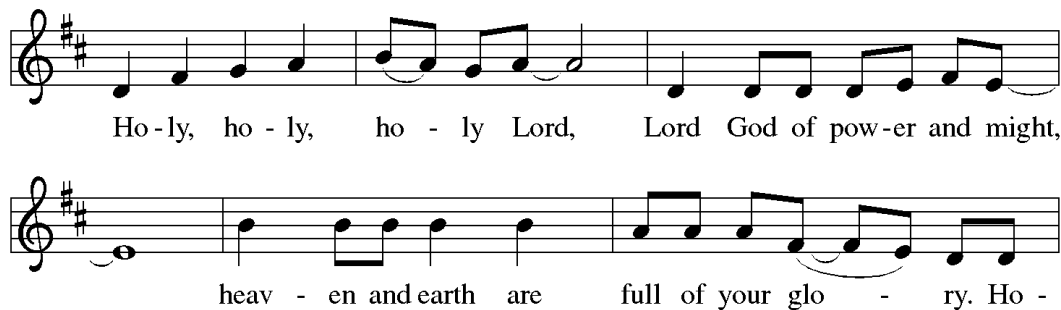


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

↑ SANCTUS

ELW p. 173



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.

↑ EUCHARISTIC 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

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is given for us!

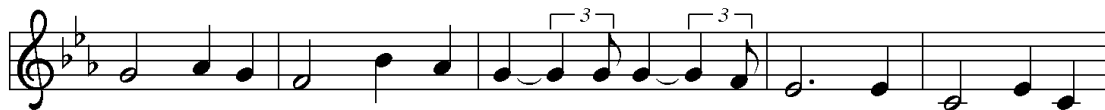
Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

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



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

**“I Received the Living Lord”
“Here Is Bread”**

**RED HYMNAL #477
RED HYMNAL #483**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: **Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son’s resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

God Sends Us in Mission

ANNOUNCEMENTS

↑ BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace. **Amen.**

↑ HYMN

“Jesus Shall Reign”

RED HYMNAL #434

↑ 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! Share the Good News! Alleluia! alleluia!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

We depart to do God's work.

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



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