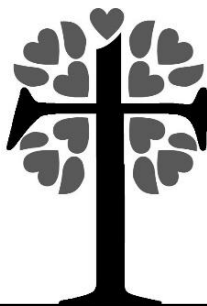


# Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



December 22, 2024 ~ 4<sup>th</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

---

## 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

**“Angels From The Realm Of Glory”**

**RED HYMNAL #275**

## ↑ 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 show us your light and save us from sin through the coming of your Son. Bless us as we light the four candles of this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, and let us share in the life of Christ, for he is our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

## ↑ LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Sing verse 4



- 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. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, 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: Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from Micah.

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

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

### SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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 AND PSALM: Luke 1:39-55**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

**"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."**

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

#### ↑ **HYMN**

**"Savior Of The Nations Come"**

**RED HYMNAL #263**

## ↑ 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.

We magnify you, O Lord, and we rejoice in your salvation. Unite your Church in all times and places to proclaim your praise and follow your ways, so that all people might gather at your Son's manger. Lord, in your mercy... **Receive our prayer.**

We magnify you, O Lord, and we rejoice in your creation. Continue to care for all that you have made, so that your creatures might find sustenance in these winter months. Lord, in your mercy... **Receive our prayer.**

We magnify you, O Lord, and we rejoice in your peace. Cast down the proud and arrogant from their thrones, and raise up earthly rulers who rejoice in your freedom, justice and peace. Protect and guide our nation. Fill our hearts with compassion, that the poor and hungry may be filled. Lord, in your mercy... **Receive our prayer.**

We magnify you, O Lord, and we rejoice in your healing. Comfort the lonely and bereaved, and help the frightened, anxious, depressed and ill. 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.**

We magnify you, O Lord, and we rejoice in your presence. Inspire our hearts to leap with joy at your Son's birth, and enable us to reflect the love of Jesus to all who visit here. Bless our music minister, secretary, worship assistants, Altar Guild, and everyone who helps plan and lead worship during the holidays. Bless our bishops, Elizabeth and William; our pastor, Robbie; Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church and its pastors Micah and Karen; and St. Philip's Lutheran Church and its pastors Patrick and Amy. Lord, in your mercy... **Receive our prayer.**

We magnify you, O Lord, and we rejoice in your life. Accept our thanksgiving for all our kindred who now rest in you. Sustain us in the sure knowledge that you remember the promises you have made to your people. 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**

**"Ring the Bells"**  
*Tree of Life Choir*

**arr. Mauldin**

↑ **OFFERTORY**

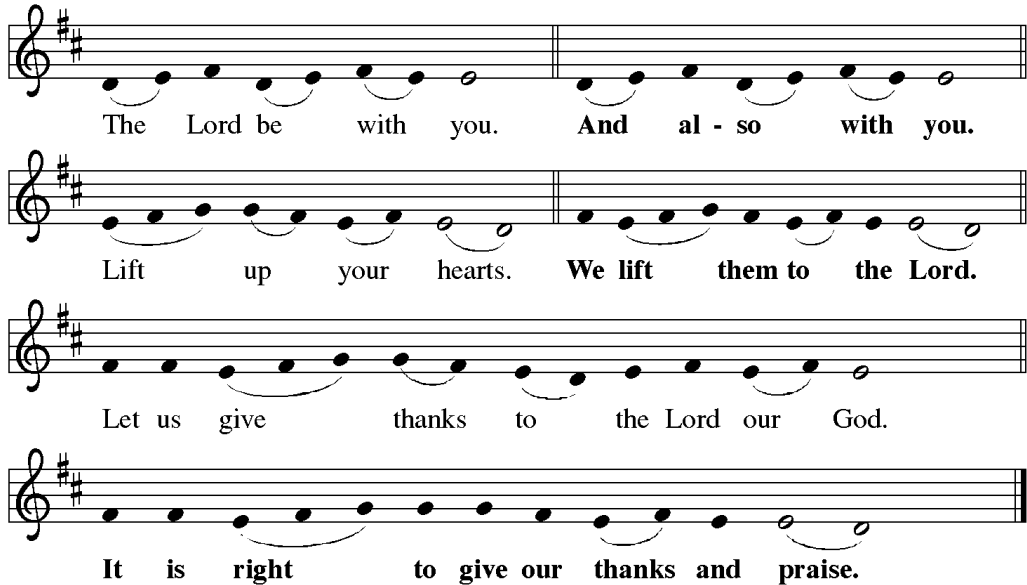
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye Heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost**

**RED HYMNAL #884**

## ↑ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together: **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.

### ↑ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND 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.*





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.**

↑ 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.*



From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #28947.  
New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

# 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 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

## January 5: Epiphany Sunday

10:30 a.m. – Holy Communion

