

# Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



December 24, 2023 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Congregation Edition

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

↑ means stand as you are able

Restrooms are located by the kitchen, in the nursery or at the end of the piano wing of the sanctuary.

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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.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God: **We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

**RED HYMNAL #257**



## ↑ 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 would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, 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: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

A reading from 2 Samuel:

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

<sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

## SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

A reading from Romans:

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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 AND PSALM: Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

The holy gospel according to Luke.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God."

<sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

<sup>46b</sup>**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,**

<sup>47</sup>**my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

<sup>48f</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup>**you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.**

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup>**You have shown strength with your arm**

**and scattered the proud in their conceit,**

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>**You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.**

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,**

**to remember the promise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>**the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.**

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### 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

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the Church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration:

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and inspire your Church and the whole world to rejoice in the splendor of your presence. As you promised David a house that will never end, grant that your Church may never end its witness and praise to you.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and sustain your creation in its winter slumber, that it might provide abundant food in due season. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and lead your world to reflect your goodness, justice and peace. Raise up the lowly, and teach humility to all in positions of authority. Protect and comfort those in the Holy Land, Ukraine and all places enduring warfare. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and comfort all who cry out to you. Be with anyone who is afraid, ill, grieving or in any trouble of body, mind or spirit. We pray especially for Annalise, Anya, Carolyn, Clara, Dale, Danielle, Dallas, Elizabeth, Erica, Grace, Jack, Kenneth, Kimberly, Marilyn, Mark, Mercedes, Patrick, Richard, Sarah, and those we name with our lips or in our hearts... (*Silence for personal petitions*)  
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and bring your joy to this season. Make holiday homecomings joyful. Grant safety to all who travel. Bring your presence to all who are alone over the holidays. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and lead Tree of Life to worship and serve in your name. Bless our bishops, Elizabeth and William; our pastor, Robbie, Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Philip's Lutheran Church and its pastors Patrick and Amy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and keep us in the sure hope of your eternal life. Accept our thanksgiving for all your servants in every generation who lived according to your promise of mercy. Strengthen us by their example until the revelation of your glory is made known. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O Lord our Emmanuel, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

↑ **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

# We Share God's Holy Meal

## OFFERING

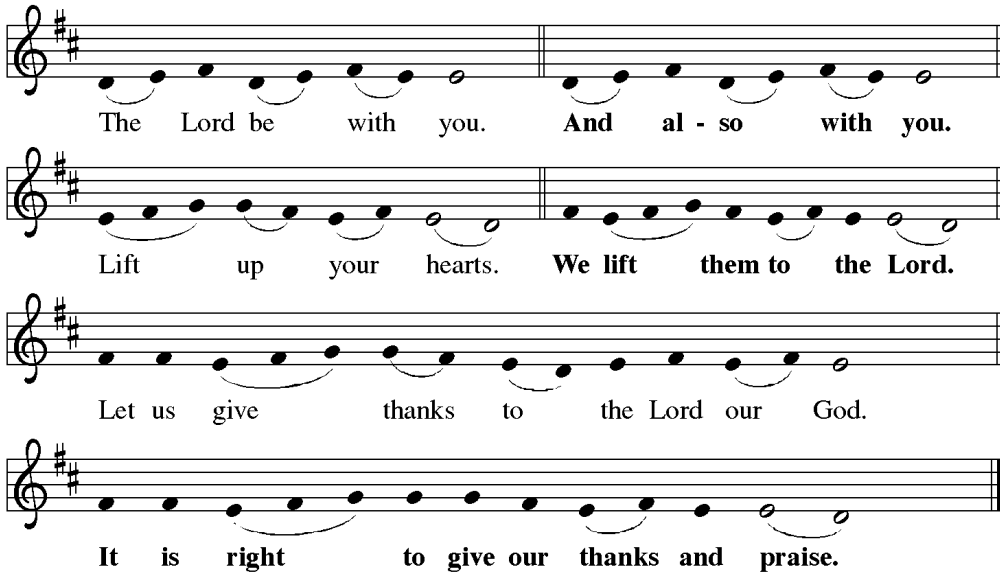
### ↑ OFFERTORY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly hosts;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

### ↑ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together: **God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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

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

### ↑ 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.

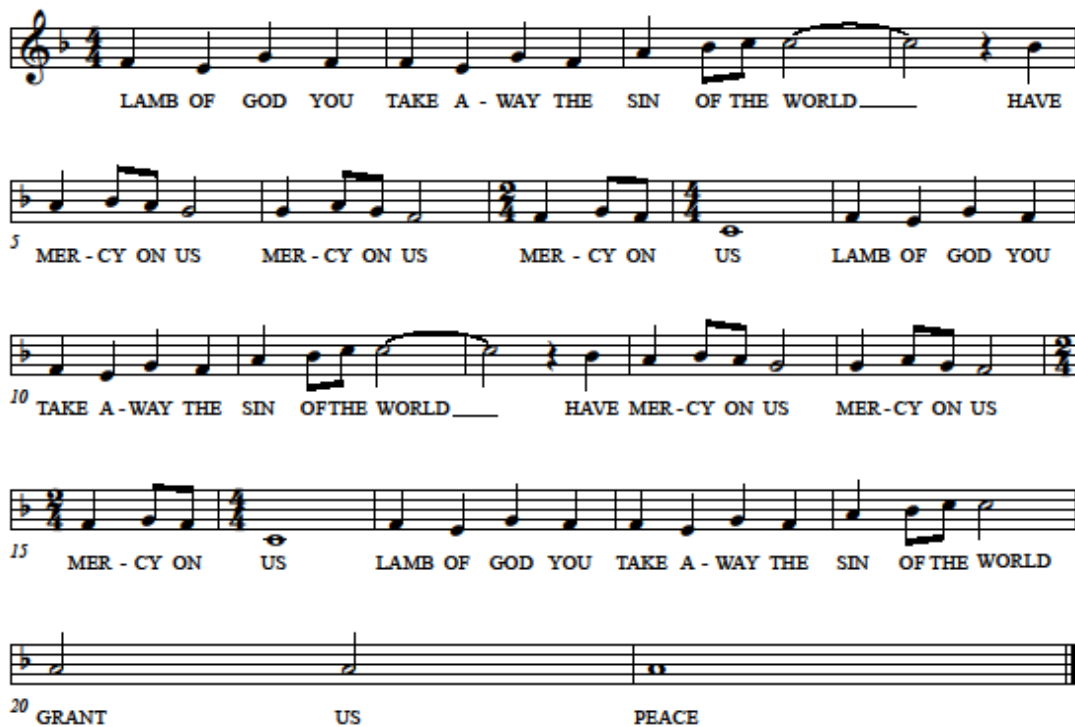
### ↑ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has come in this meal. Come and take your place at God's table.  
**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



Musical score for the Communion hymn, composed by D.D. Dillard. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: LAMB OF GOD YOU TAKE A - WAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD \_\_\_\_ HAVE MER - CY ON US MER - CY ON US MER - CY ON US LAMB OF GOD YOU TAKE A - WAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD \_\_\_\_ HAVE MER - CY ON US MER - CY ON US MER - CY ON US LAMB OF GOD YOU TAKE A - WAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD GRANT US PEACE. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and bar lines.

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

5 MER - CY ON US MER - CY ON US MER - CY ON US LAMB OF GOD YOU

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

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

20 GRANT US PEACE

## HYMNS

“Let us Break Bread Together”

RED HYMNAL #471

“Come to the Table of Mercy”

RED HYMNAL #481

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

# God Sends Us in Mission

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ↑ **BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, and the +Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

↑ **HYMN** "I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord Forever" **BLACK BINDER #2**

### ↑ **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.*

# Christmas at Tree of Life



## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**

December 24 ~ 7 p.m.

## **Christmas Lessons & Carols**

December 31 ~ 10:30 a.m.

## **Epiphany and Baptism of Our Lord**

January 7 ~ 10:30 a.m.