

# Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



February 25, 2024 ~ Second Sunday in Lent

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.*

### ↑ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity – Father, +Son, and Spirit, one God – who writes the Law on our hearts and saves us by the Gospel of Jesus. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one-another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God, **we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. Our thoughts follow the ways of the world, rather than turn to your will. Our words hurt others, rather than speak your love. Our deeds center on ourselves, rather than care for our neighbor. For all this and for the sins only you know, forgive us for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us. By the death and resurrection of Jesus, God has broken every snare of sin, washed away our wrongs, and restored us to 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

**“Faith of our Fathers”**


**RED HYMNAL #812**

## ↑ 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.**

## ↑ KYRIE

*Refrain*



Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

*Refrain*



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## ↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray: Good and gracious Father, by the passion of your blessed Son, you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous."

<sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

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

### **PSALM: Psalm 22:23-31**

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.  
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;  
neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;  
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

**<sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

## **SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25**

A reading from Romans.

<sup>13</sup>The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

<sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

<sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup>Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

## ↑ LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Composed by D. D. Dillard*

Voice

LET YOUR STEAD - FAST LOVE COME TO US O LORD \_\_\_\_

SAVE US AS YOU PRO - MISED WE WILL TRUST YOUR WORD \_\_\_\_

## ↑ GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

The holy gospel according to Mark.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## SERMON

## ↑ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the Church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture your Church around the world with the gifts of the Spirit, and let the mind of Christ guide all your people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for renewal, creator God. Bring new life to all that you have made, and protect the earth and all its creatures. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for justice, almighty God. Bless and guide all in positions of authority, that your ways of freedom, righteousness and peace may be known upon the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for healing, comforting God. Befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to those in despair, console those who grieve, and help those with any needs of body, mind or spirit. We pray especially for Amanda, Annalise, Anya, Bill, Brian, Carolyn, Christine, Clara, Dale, Danielle, Dallas, Elizabeth, Erica, Grace, Jack, Kenneth, Kimberly, Marilyn, Mercedes, Patrick, Richard, Sarah, and those we name with our lips or in our hearts... *Time for personal petition* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for purpose, sustaining God. Remind us of your faithfulness to Tree of Life. Increase our trust in your guidance, and keep us near the cross. Bless our bishops, Elizabeth and William; our pastor, Robbie; Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and its Pastor Kathleen; and Lutheran housing projects throughout Delaware. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for life, eternal God. Accept our thanksgiving for all the saints who lived in the faith and now rest in your glory. Inspire us by their example, until you gather us with them into your Kingdom. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## ↑ PEACE

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

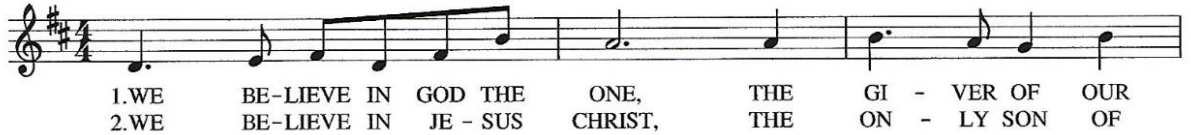
# We Share God's Holy Meal

## OFFERING

### ↑ OFFERTORY

### "We Believe"

Charles W. Platt



1. WE BE-LIEVE IN GOD THE ONE, THE GI - VER OF OUR  
2. WE BE-LIEVE IN JE - SUS CHRIST, THE ON - LY SON OF



4  
SOULS MA - KER OF THE LAND AND SEA AND SKIES.  
GOD WHO DIED AND ROSE TO SAVE US FROM OUR SIN.



9  
3. WE BE-LIEVE THE HO - LY SPIRIT GOD AND CHRIST THE



12  
LORD REIGN SU-PREME AND GIVE E-TER - NAL LIFE.

### ↑ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together: **Jesus our Lord, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered, that all people may know your goodness. We pray this in your holy name. 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 image shows a musical score for 'Great Thanksgiving' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: '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

The image shows a musical score for 'Sanctus' in B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. It is labeled 'Voice' and consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are: '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'. The first staff starts at measure 1, the second at measure 4, and the third at measure 7.



10 COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD HO - SA NA IN THE

13 HIGH - - - - EST

↑ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

↑ LORD'S PRAYER

14 OUR FA - THER WHICH ART IN HEA-VEN

15 HAL-LOW-ED BE THY

16 NAME THY KING-DOM COME THY WILL BE

17 DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEA -

20 VEN GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAI - LY

21 BREAD AND FOR-GIVE US OUR DEBTS AS

22 WE FOR-GIVE OUR DEB-TORS AND

10 LEAD US NOT IN - TO TEMP - TA - TION BUT DE -  
 LI - VER US FROM E - VIL FOR THINE IS THE  
 14 KING - DOM AND THE PO - WER AND THE GLO - RY FOR -  
 18 E - VER A - MEN

**↑ INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness. **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  
 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”  
“Come to the Table of Mercy”**

**RED HYMNAL #471  
RED HYMNAL #481**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together: **Generous God, at this table we have tasted your salvation. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one in your grace, all through Jesus, the Bread of Life and our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **God Sends Us in Mission**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **↑ BENEDICTION**

May Almighty God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and give you peace. In the name of the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **↑ HYMN**

**“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”**

**RED HYMNAL #802**

### **↑ 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.*

# Lent at Tree of Life 2024

## **Midweek Soup & Study: “Holy Lament”**

Noon on Wednesdays

**Feb. 21** at Tree of Life

**Feb. 28** at Tree of Life

**March 6** at St. Paul’s

**March 13** at St. Paul’s

**March 20** at St. Paul’s

## **Palm Sunday Holy Communion and Palm Processional**

10:30 a.m. March 24

Tree of Life

## **Maundy Thursday Holy Communion**

7 p.m. March 28

St. Paul’s, joined by Tree of Life

## **Good Friday Cross-Walk**

Noon March 29

Devotional walk from St. Paul’s to Tree of Life

## **Good Friday Solemn Worship**

7 p.m. March 29

Tree of Life, joined by St. Paul’s

## **Easter Egg Hunt**

11 a.m. March 30

Hosted by St. Paul’s

## **Easter Festive Holy Communion**

10:30 a.m. March 31

Tree of Life