

# Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



March 10, 2024 ~ Fourth 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.*

### ↑ CONFESSON 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 are on the ways of the world, rather than turning to your will. Our words hurt others, rather than speaking your love. Our deeds center on ourselves, rather than caring 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

**“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”**

**RED HYMNAL #592**

## ↑ 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: O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through 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: Numbers 21:4-9**

A reading from Numbers.

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

### **PSALM: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,  
for God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

<sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;  
through their sins they were afflicted.**

<sup>18</sup>They loathed all manner of food  
and drew near to death's door.

<sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD  
and you delivered them from their distress.**

<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.

<sup>21</sup>**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love  
and your wonderful works for all people.**

<sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

## SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — <sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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 \_\_\_\_

4  
SAVE US AS YOU PRO - MISED WE WILL TRUST YOUR WORD \_\_\_\_

## ↑ GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

The holy gospel according to John.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

### SERMON

#### ↑ HYMN

“Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”

RED HYMNAL #335

#### ↑ 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.

Gracious God, your love unites. Strengthen your Church in all times and places, and foster ecumenical cooperation so that all Christians might work together in your mission. Help the Church make your name known, so that all people might believe and know the gift of eternal life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your love enlivens. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of all that you have made. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, your love liberates. Bring your freedom, justice and peace to this and every nation. Bless those who seek freedom for all, and accept our thanksgiving for Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, whom the Lutheran church commemorates today. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, your love heals. Strengthen health care workers, first responders and caregivers. Comfort all facing illness or suffering in body, mind or spirit. We pray especially for Amanda, Annalise, Anya, Bill, Brian, Carolyn, Cecelia, Christine, Clara, Dale, Danielle, Dallas, Debra, Elizabeth, Erica, Grace, Janet, Kenneth, Kimberly, Marilyn, Mercedes, Patrick, Richard, Sarah, Viola and those we name with our lips or in our hearts... *Time for personal petition* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one-another. Help Tree of Life to grow in our life and mission. Bless our bishops, Elizabeth and William; our pastor, Robbie; St. Stephen's Lutheran Church and its pastor, Sue; and Lutheran Campus Ministries and its chaplain, Mindy. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, your love saves. Accept our thanksgiving for all the faithful in this life, who now enjoy the gift of everlasting life in your presence. Sustain us in your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. 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 musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a single melodic line with lyrics underneath. 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.", and "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 POWR 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 musical score for 'Sanctus' is written for voice in B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The lyrics are: "HO - LY HO - LY HO - LY LORD GOD OF POWR 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 score includes measure numbers 1, 4, and 7 at the beginning of each staff.



10

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

13

HIGH - - - - EST

↑ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

↑ LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa - ther Which art in Hea - ven Hal - lo - wed Be

8

Thy Name Thy King - dom come Thy will be done

16

on Earth As it is in hea ven Give us this day

24

Our Dai - ly Bread And for - give us our debts as

31

We for - give our deb ts And Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion

37

But de - li - ver us From e - vil For Thine is the

44

king - dom and the po - wer and the glo - ry

49

for ev er 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

## 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

“Amazing Grace”

RED HYMNAL #779

#### ↑ 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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# Lent at Tree of Life 2024

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

Noon on Wednesdays

**March 13** at St. Paul’s

**March 20** at St. Paul’s

**March 27** 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