Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



March 17, 2024 ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent

Leader in regular type, congregation in bold type

1 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.

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 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

"My Song is Love Unknown"

RED HYMNAL #343

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.**



↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray: O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-12

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

- ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
- ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

A reading from Hebrews.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; ⁶as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

↑ LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Composed by D. D. Dillard





↑ GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

† HYMN "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" RED HYMNAL #843

↑ 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.

God of the covenant, you draw us into the community of the Church. Strengthen us by your grace through Word and Sacrament, and inspire all people to be drawn to the cross of your Son. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of creation, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things, and inspire us to be good stewards of all that you have made. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Bless this and every nation with your freedom, justice and peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict or abuse in families and relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable or have any needs of 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 petitions* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, you show us steadfast love and boundless compassion. Write your Law and Gospel on all our hearts at Tree of Life, show us your forgiveness when we err, and help us to always know and proclaim your glorious name. 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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of salvation, you bring eternal life for all through the death of your Son. Accept our thanksgiving for Patrick, Missionary to Ireland, and all the saints who now rest in your everlasting presence. Sustain us in hope until that way when we are all reunited in your Kingdom. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

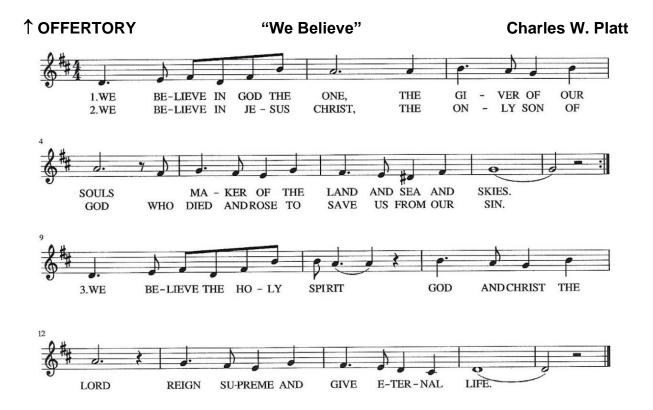
Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

↑ PEACE

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

We Share God's Holy Meal

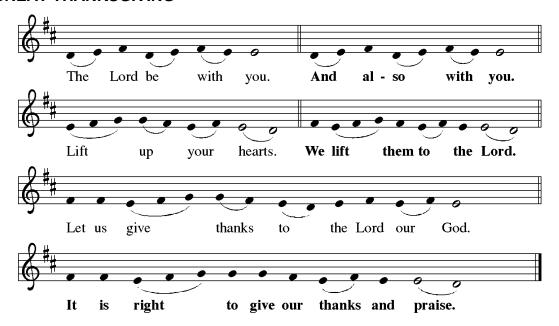
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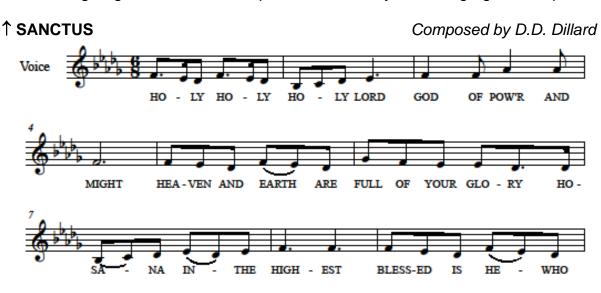
↑ OFFERING PRAYER

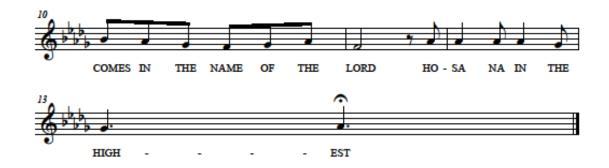
Let us pray together: Jesus our Lord, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered, that all people may know your goodness. We pray this in your holy name. Amen.

↑ GREAT THANKSGIVING



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





↑ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

↑ LORD'S PRAYER

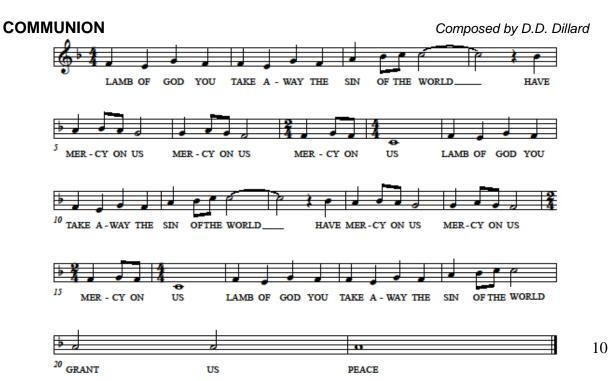




↑ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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.



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 (Based on 'St. Patrick's Breastplate')

May Christ be with you, Christ before you, Christ behind you.

May Christ be in you, Christ beneath you, Christ above you.

May Christ be on your right, Christ on your left, Christ when you lie down, Christ when you sit, Christ when you stand.

May Christ be in the heart of everyone who thinks of you,

Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of you,

Christ in every eye that sees you,

Christ in every ear that hears you.

In the name of the Father, and the +Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

↑ HYMN "Here I am Lord" RED HYMNAL #574

↑ 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 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