

Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



December 10, 2023 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

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.

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

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

RED HYMNAL #254

↑ 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

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

↑ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH



- 1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.
- 2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.
they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

Refrain, to be sung twice



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; 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: Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

PSALM: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

¹You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people
and blotted out | all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts
to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell | in our land. R**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD
and shall prepare for | God a pathway. R**

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from 2 Peter.

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

↑ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Composed by D.D. Dillard

Voice

The musical score is written for voice in a single system with five staves. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The score includes a repeat sign at the beginning, a first ending bracket labeled '1.' and a second ending bracket labeled '2.', and various performance markings such as 'rit.' (ritardando) and 'a tempo'. The lyrics are: 'Al-le - u - ia Al-le - u - ia Al-le - u - ia glo-ry to God! A - le - u - ia Al-le - u - ia Al-le - u - ia Glo-ry to God A - le God! For the rit. Lord Most High is rit.wor-thy of glo-ry and praise Al - le u - ia Al-le - a tempo u - ia Al-le - u - ia glo ry to - God! A - le - u - ia Al-le - u - ia Al-le - u - ia Glo - ry to God!'.

Al-le - u - ia Al-le - u - ia Al-le - u - ia glo-ry to God! A - le - u - ia

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: Mark 1:1-8

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild

honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

↑ **HYMN**

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”

RED HYMNAL #244

↑ **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:

Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your Church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and the wintry wilderness. Heal the earth where it needs renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation among countries, commonwealths, political parties and diplomatic leaders. Protect and comfort those in the Holy Land, Ukraine and all places enduring warfare. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, all who feel lonely or forgotten, and all in any need or trouble. 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.**

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment, awaiting new treatments, and awaiting new growth. Bless Tree of Life as we continually await your blessing and vitality. Bless our bishops, Elizabeth and William; our pastor, Robbie, Community Lutheran Church and its pastor Karis, and Grace of God Community Church. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

With you a thousand years is like a day. Accept our thanksgiving for the saints from ages past, and inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, 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
4 MIGHT HEA - VEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLO - RY HO -
7 SA - NA IN - THE HIGH - EST BLESS - ED IS HE - WHO
10 COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD HO - SA NA IN THE
13 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.

COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to commune. Wine and white grape juice are in the individual cups. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

LAMB OF GOD

Composed by D.D. Dillard

Musical score for "Lamb of God" by D.D. Dillard. The score is written in G major and 4/4 time. 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".

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”
“Come to the Table of Mercy”

RED HYMNAL #471
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**

"This Little Light of Mine"

RED HYMNAL #677

↑ **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.

Advent and Christmas at Tree of Life



SERVE

Adopt-a-Family through Neighborhood House

Pick a tag in the fellowship room; buy the gift;
drop off the wrapped gift to the church. **Deadline is today!**

PREPARE

Advent Worship

December 10, 17, 24 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Advent Calendars

Available at sanctuary entrance and fellowship room

REJOICE!

Live Nativity and Christmas Party

December 16 ~ 2 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 24 ~ 7 p.m.

Christmas Lessons & Carols

December 31 ~ 10:30 a.m.