

Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



December 3, 2023 ~ First 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.

↑ CONFESSION 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

"Fling Wide the Door"

RED HYMNAL #259

↑ 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 evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. 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 - 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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, 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: Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from Isaiah:

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence — ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself. R**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from 1 Corinthians:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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-
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!

↑ GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

↑ **HYMN**

“My Lord, What a Morning”

RED HYMNAL #438

↑ **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:

Holy Lord, you make the Church into a holy fellowship, as we await your Son's coming again. Strengthen all your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You make all creation to declare your glory. Rekindle our commitment to care for all that you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You cause the nations to tremble at your presence. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Protect and comfort those in the Holy Land, Ukraine and all places enduring warfare. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You comfort the hopeless, fearful, needy and despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief. We pray especially for Annalise, Anya, Carolyn, Clara, Dale, Danielle, Dallas, Elizabeth, Erica, Grace, Jack, Kenneth, Marilyn, Mark, Mercedes, Merna, Patrick, Richard, Sarah, and those we name with our lips or in our hearts...
(*Silence for personal petitions*) Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You lead all of us at Tree of Life to worship and serve in your name. Bless our bishops, Elizabeth and William; our pastor, Robbie, St. Mark's Lutheran Church and its pastor Kelley, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church and its pastor Barbara. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence. 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
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

↑ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND 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

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**

"I've Found a Friend in Jesus"

BLACK BINDER #3

↑ **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.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Presiding Minister: Rev. Robbie Ketcham

Assisting Minister: Jim Pileggi

Music Minister: Duane Dillard

Usher: George Matz

Altar Care: Maxine Campbell

Fellowship: Nicky Zaiser

Livestream: Gail Russell

Bulletin Editor: Gail Russell

***Burning Bush* Editor:** Pam Nichols

Worship resources from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #28947. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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 by December 10

PREPARE

Advent Worship

December 3, 10, 17, 24 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Advent Calendars

Available at sanctuary entrance

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.