

Sunday, December 15, 2024
St. Timothy Lutheran Church
The Third Sunday in Advent



Vision Statement:

Living in God's amazing grace, St. Timothy Lutheran Church nurtures relationships, celebrates diversity and opens doors so that we may be a glimpse of God's kingdom.

Caring, Sharing, Daring

St. Timothy Mission Statement:

**We intentionally reach out,
seeking and serving, sharing the joy of Jesus Christ**

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Welcome to St. Timothy! We are honored to have you in worship with us this morning. Please respect the social distancing wishes of those around you. Holy Communion is at the altar or individual tiny cups of grape juice and wafer are at the church entrance. A short explanation of how the sets are used is on page 8 under the distribution.

GATHERING

Call to Worship

As the Dark Awaits the Dawn

ELW 261

Announcements

Lighting of Advent Candles

Opening Prayer

Confession and Forgiveness *(Please rise as you are able)*

P: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, + Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

Gathering Song

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264

Pastoral Greeting: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **C: Amen.**

Prayer of the Day (together)

C: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

Children's Message

First Reading: Zephaniah 3: 14-20

See, Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,

at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Isaiah 2: 2-6 *(Please join in by reading the dark print.)*

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name;
**make known the deeds of the Lord among the nations; proclaim that this
name is exalted.**

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

**Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

Second Reading: Philippians 4: 4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please rise as you are able)

Gospel: Luke 3: 7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

(Please rise as you are able)

Hymn of the Day

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

ELW 244

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.**

On the third day He rose again;

He ascended into heaven,

He is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

Prayers of Intercession

A: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence. *(A brief silence.)*

A: God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict especially for the people of Syria, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, the West Bank, Haiti, Lebanon, and Sudan. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. We pray especially for Tim, Kristina, Ernie, Lowell, Sonja, Tanya, Ron, Maureen, Doug, Mary F., Janet Shannon, Christine Lutz, Amy, Eli, Dorian, Leslie, Jean, Dwight, Kate, and Karen Burger. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

(Here other intercessions may be offered, quietly or to the congregation.)

A: God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

Please rise as you are able for sharing the Peace & The Great Thanksgiving)

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

Offertory Hymn

ELW 885

Offering Prayer:

C: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, join the unending hymn:

**Hymn: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, *ELW page 144b*
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

(Please be seated)

Words of Institution

DISTRIBUTION

We welcome you to the Lord's Table to share the Sacrament of Holy Communion with us. If taking communion from the pews, pick up one of the communion plastic cups at the church entrance. When invited by Pastor, take the top off the wafer side and eat.

When invited, remove the covering over the drink and drink. Place the empty cup in the container at the end of your pew. If taking communion at the rail, ushers will guide you down the side aisle. Please pick up a small chalice as you approach the rail. When space allows, kneel as you are able at the rail. Take and eat the bread, and drink the wine or if prefer grape juice. Afterwards set the chalice on the table in the middle aisle and continue down the aisle to your pew.

Lord's Prayer

**C: 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.**

Distribution Hymns:	<i>Lamb of God</i>	<i>ELW page 146b</i>
	<i>By Your Hand You Feed Your People</i>	<i>ELW 469</i>
	<i>Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness</i>	<i>ELW 843</i>
	<i>Hail to the Lord's Anointed</i>	<i>ELW 311</i>

(Please rise as you are able)

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

**Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing:

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
+ bless you and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn:

Joy to the World

ELW 267

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding ELW 246

We give God thanks or lift before God:

- + For our nation and the world that all might put love, generosity, and patience first
- + President Biden and all who govern
- + For homeless people as they struggle to find affordable housing
- + For St. Timothy and all churches, that the Holy Spirit would continue to inspire, encourage, and guide us in God's mission to love the world
- + Give strength to those with challenges at work, home, and in their personal lives
- + For Maureen's decisions after cancer diagnosis
- + For Mary's brother, Doug, with a cancer diagnosis
- + For the effort of Cultivate Initiatives for people in need in S.E. Multnomah County
- + For Mary F. in recovery from her injuries
- + For Kristina Heitmann in her ongoing health concerns
- + For Dorian for recent diagnosis of diabetes.
- + For Jean's during cancer treatment
- + For Leslie as she continues to recover.
- + For Kate Henderson for a surgery Dec 23rd.

Daily Readings for December 15-14

Monday, Isaiah 11:1-9

Tuesday, Acts 28:23-31

Wednesday, Micah 4:8-13

Thursday, Micah 5:2-5

Friday, Psalm 80:1-7

Saturday, Hebrews 10:5-10

December 22nd, Fourth Sunday

in Advent Readings

Micah 5:2-5, Psalm 80: 1-7,

Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45

In December we are adding warm socks for men and women to our pantry list. Socks will be distributed in the personal care kits we hand out through the food pantry. Thank you for blessing our pantry with your support.

This Week at St. Timothy's

Today, 3rd Sunday in Advent, December 15, 2024

9:20 am Choir practice
 10 am Worship Service (Zoom available)
 Coffee time after the service
 Membership Class 3

Monday 10 am—1 pm Office & Pantry hours
Tuesday 11 am—1 pm Office & Pantry hours
Wednesday 10 am—11:30 am Pastor Hamada's office hours
 10 am—1 pm Office and Pantry Hours
 11am— 1 pm Advent midweek service and potluck at St. Timothy
Thursday 10 am—1 pm Office & Pantry hours
 7:00 pm-8:00 pm Choir practice
Saturday 9:30 am Property work, check with Ray if it is cancelled
Next Sunday 4th Sunday in Advent, December 22, 2024

9:20 am Choir Practice
 10 am Worship Service (Zoom available)
 Coffee afterwards, downstairs
 Membership Class 4 reception of new members

December Worship Services

If you're unable to make your scheduled Sunday, please contact another person to take your place.

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
Preacher	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada
Assistant	Ray W.	Shannon H.	Sherry W.	Ray W.	Shannon H.
Lector	Lisa S.	Karen O.	Shannon H.	Cathy H.	Twila R.
Usher	Steve & LeAnn	Gladys & Greta	Allen & Ernie	Steve & LeAnn	Allen & Ernie
Communion	Candace & Gladys K.	Cathy H.	Elaine & Karen O.	Cathy H.	Candace & Gladys K.
Tiny Tims Aide	Cathy H.	Cathy H.	Greta C.	Karen O.	Karen O.
Video & Sound	Ray W.	Ray W.	Ray W.	Ray W.	Ray W.
Counters	Elaine & Ernie	Tim H. & Candace	Ray & Cathy H.	Elaine & Candace	Elaine & Ernie
Music	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.
Care Coord.	Sherry W.	Sherry W.	Sherry W.	Sherry W.	Sherry W.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

God is doing great things here at St. Timothy. Our ministry is grounded in the 3P's:

PASTOR + PEOPLE = PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

HOLY COMMUNION We have communion at the altar railing or at your seat in the pew. See page 8, under Distribution.

WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE any Sunday at 10 am, online at [Zoom.us meeting 846 9586 7893 code: 307128](#) .

FOOD PANTRY VISITS: visits to the church's pantry for the second week of December are 31. We plan a sock effort for December—watch sales.

Membership Class #3 will be held downstairs after the service.

COMING EVENTS

Council Members: It is not too soon to start gathering information for your annual report. Summarize major accomplishments for your council area and submit to church office for the annual meeting in January. Karen Olomua, Vice President.

Membership Class #4 on Sunday, Dec. 22nd, after the service. All are encouraged to attend.

A change in the Midweek Advent Services. The last one will be at St. Timothy's in the basement with a potluck and service. December 18.

December 24th Bilingual Christmas Eve candlelight worship at 7:00 pm. We will join members of All Saints Upendo (Kenyan/African) and Ministerios Refugio de Vida Eternal (Spanish).

The 2025 Annual Congregational meeting is scheduled for January 19th, after the service. The church budget will be reviewed and new Council members will be elected.

Lutheran Choral Association Epiphany Concert January 7th at 4 pm at 2201 N Rosa Way, Portland, Or.