

Sunday, February 23, 2025
St. Timothy Lutheran Church
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany



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

Simple Gifts

J. Brackett

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gain'd, To bow and to bend we will not be asham'd,
To turn, turn will be our delight, Till by turning, turning we come round right.

Announcements

Opening Prayer

Thanksgiving 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.**

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: O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

Children's Message

First Reading: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him. The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40

Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.

Put your trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

Take delight in the Lord, who shall give you your heart's desire.

Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord,
and see what God will do.

The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.

For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.

In a little while the wicked shall be no more; even if you search out their place, they will not be there.

But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.

But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.

You, O Lord, will help them and rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the

physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please rise as you are able)

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said: "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

(Please rise as you are able)

Hymn of the Day

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

ELW 605

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

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

(A brief silence.)

A: Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace,

C: Hear our prayer.

Offering Prayer:

**C: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.**

**Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.**

**Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always. 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: *Lamb of God* ELW page 146b

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; grant us peace.

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling ELW 608

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love ELW 708

By Your Hand You Feed Your People ELW 469

(Please rise as you are able)

Prayer of Thanksgiving: (together)

C: Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

SENDING

Blessing:

The Spirit of the triune God + bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn:

I Come with Joy

ELW 482

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Blest Be the Tie that Binds ELW 656

We give God thanks or lift before God:

- + For our nation and the world that all might put love, generosity, and patience first
- + For homeless people as they struggle to stay warm and to find shelter
- + 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 the effort of Cultivate Initiatives for people in need in S.E. Multnomah County
- + For Kristina Heitmann in her ongoing health concerns
- + For comfort for Janet Shannon's family in her death
- + For comfort for Jean's family, friends, and St Tims family in her death.
- + For Leslie as she prepares for surgery.
- + For June for her recovery after surgery.
- + For Tanner according to her needs.
- + Ernie Rippe who is in a care center for rehabilitation.

Daily Readings for February 24-March 1

Monday, Psalm 38

Tuesday, 1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 27-33

Wednesday, Luke 17:1-4

Thursday, Exodus 34:29-35

Friday, Psalm 99

Saturday, 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

Next Sunday March 2nd, Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99,

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-43

This Week at St. Timothy's

Today, 7th Sunday after Epiphany, February 23, 2025

9:20 am—Choir practice
 10 am—Worship Service (Zoom available)
 Coffee Hour after service

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 & Pantry hours
Thursday 10 am—1 pm Office & Pantry hours
 7:00 pm—8:30 pm Choir practice
Friday 11:00 am—Fourth Friday potluck and bingo
Next Sunday **Transfiguration of Our Lord, March 2, 2025**
 9:20 am—Choir Practice
 10 am—Worship Service (Zoom available)
 Coffee Hour after service

February Worship Services

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

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23	March 2
Preacher	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada
Assistant	Sherry W.	Shannon H.	Ray W.	Sherry W.	Shannon H.
Lector	Tim H.	Twila R.	Lisa S.	Karen R.	Tim H.
Usher	Skip & Marcia	Allen & Ernie	Gladys & Greta	Allen & Ernie	Gladys & Greta
Communion	Elaine & Karen O.	Candace & Gladys	Elaine & Karen O.	Candace & Gladys	Elaine & Karen O.
Tiny Tims Aide	Daniel R.	Greta	Amanda Martinez	Bridgett DeClercq	Daniel R.
Video & sound	Ray W.	Ray W.	Ray W.	Ray W.	Ray W.
Counters	Elaine & Ernie	Ray & Tim H.	Elaine & Candace	Ray & Ernie	Tim & Candace
Music	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.
Care Coord.	Sherry W.	Sherry W.	Sherry W.	Sherry W.	Karen O.

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 7, under Distribution.

WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE any Sunday at 10 am, online at:

[Zoom.us meeting 846 9586 7893 code: 307128](https://zoom.us/j/84695867893?pwd=307128)

FOOD PANTRY VISITS: The number of visits to the church's food pantry for the third week of February 2025 are 34.

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, March 4 – Shrove Tuesday Informal pancake community dinner at Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm
(Please RSVP at <https://forms.gle/tyLMqiMYMaW9dnBDA>)

Wednesday, March 5 - Ash Wednesday

St. Timothy will offer an Ash Wednesday service at 11:30 am, no music, just the imposition of ashes with a light potluck lunch to follow.

Trinity Lutheran, 507 W Powell, Gresham, will offer a Bilingual service at 7:00 pm.

Lenten Midweek Service Rockwood Center, 17805 SE Stark, from 11:30-1:30 with potluck Mar 12, 19, 26th, April 2nd, 9th.

Potluck and bingo February 28th 11 to 1.