

**Sunday, December 22, 2024**  
**St. Timothy Lutheran Church**  
**The Fourth 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**

14500 SE Powell Boulevard, Portland, Oregon 97236-2520      503.761.8202

[sainttimothypdx@gmail.com](mailto:sainttimothypdx@gmail.com)

[www.sainttimothypdx.org](http://www.sainttimothypdx.org)

**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

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*ELW 257 v1,6*

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

*All Earth is Hopeful*

*ELW 266*

**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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, 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: Micah 5: 2-5**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.  
Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.  
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace. The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Luke 1: 35-55**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother

of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading: Hebrews 10: 5-10**

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

in burnt offerings and sin offerings

you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please rise as you are able)*

## **Gospel: Luke 1: 46-55**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you,

from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm

and scattered the proud in their conceit,

casting down the mighty from their thrones

and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty.  
You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,  
the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever. The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Please be seated)*

## SERMON

*(Please rise as you are able)*

**Hymn of the Day**

*Unexpected and Mysterious*

*ELW 258*

*(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 our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. 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 our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened,

anxious, depressed, and ill. We pray for Tim, Kristina, Ernie, Lowell, Sonja, Tanya, Ron, Maureen, Doug, Mary F., Janet Shannon, Christine Lutz, Amy, Eli, Dorian, Leslie, Jean, Dwight, Kate, Karen Burger and June. We especially lift up Kate Henderson for surgery on the 23rd and Tim Henderson for continuous recovery. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

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

A: God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. 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.**

## **Reception of New Members**

**Council Representative:** These persons desire to join our community of faith at St. Timothy Lutheran Church as members:

*(The new members come forward as their names are read.)*

Brigit DeClercq, Amanda Martinez, Xavier, Simi, Emery; Skip Engelten, Marcia Engelten; Monica Gordon, Fawn; Michelle Grammer, James Gurganus, Jayce, Lila; Marie Robinson, Leroy Robinson; Tim Smith.

**P:** You have requested to be a part of this worshiping community and we welcome you. Will you promise to participate regularly in the observance of God's Word and Sacraments and to be stewards of your talents and resources for the good of Christ's church and to the World. If so, say "I will."

**The new members respond: "I will."**

**P:** Do you believe in God the Father?

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

**P:** Do you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ?

**All: 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.

**P:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**All:** 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.

**CONGREGATION** (*together*): We welcome you as members of Saint Timothy Lutheran Church to join us in worshipping God, hearing His Word, and sharing His supper, proclaiming the good news of God in Jesus Christ through word and deed, serving all people, and striving for justice and peace in all the earth.

**Council Representative:** We thank you, Lord, for these new members of our congregation. By your life-giving power, bind us to each other in you, strengthen us for service, support us all our days, and bring us at length to that day when all your children will be one with you. 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**     *Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow*     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:**

*Lamb of God  
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus  
Savior of the Nations, Come*

*ELW page 146b  
ELW 254  
ELW 263*

*(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**

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came ELW 265*

## *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 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.
- For Ernie's daughter, June, and her recovery after surgery.
- For Tim Henderson for recovery from pneumonia

## *Daily Readings for December 23-28*

Monday, Colossians 1: 15-20

Tuesday, Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Wednesday, John 1:1-14

Thursday, Matthew 23: 34-39

Friday, John 21: 20-25

Saturday, Matthew 2:13-18

December 29nd, First Sunday of Christmas Readings

1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26, Psalm 148,

Colossians 3: 12-17, Luke 2: 41-52

**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, 4th Sunday in Advent, December 22, 2024**

9:20 am Choir practice

10 am Worship Service (Zoom available)

Reception of new members & Coffee time after the service

**Monday** 10 am—1 pm Office & Pantry hours

**Tuesday** 11 am—1 pm Office & Pantry hours

7:00 pm Bilingual Christmas Eve candlelight worship

**Wednesday** Christmas Day!!

Office and Pantry are closed

**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** **1st Sunday of Christmas, December 29, 2024**

9:20 am Choir Practice

10 am Youth Worship Service (Zoom available)

Coffee afterwards, downstairs

### **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
<b>Preacher</b>	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada
<b>Assistant</b>	Ray W.	Shannon H.	Sherry W.	Ray W.	Shannon H.
<b>Lector</b>	Lisa S.	Karen O.	Shannon H.	Cathy H.	Twila R.
<b>Usher</b>	Steve & LeAnn	Gladys & Greta	Allen & Ernie	Steve & LeAnn	Allen & Ernie
<b>Communion</b>	Candace & Gladys K.	Cathy H.	Elaine & Karen O.	Cathy H.	Candace & Gladys K.
<b>Tiny Tims Aide</b>	Cathy H.	Cathy H.	Greta C.	Karen O.	Karen O.
<b>Video &amp; Sound</b>	Ray W.	Ray W.	Ray W.	Ray W.	Ray W.
<b>Counters</b>	Elaine & Ernie	Tim H. & Candace	Ray & Candace	Elaine & Candace	Elaine & Ernie
<b>Music</b>	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.
<b>Care Coord.</b>	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 7, 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 third week of December are 34 . Only need toilet paper. .

### **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.

**New Members Reception** on Sunday, Dec. 22nd, after the service. All are encouraged to attend and greet our new members !

Gary Shannon, our musician, leads carols with the [Rose City Timberliners Chorus](#) on **Monday December 23** 9pm –9:45 Concert at [The Grotto Festival of Lights](#), 8840 NE Skidmore St, Portland, OR 97220.

**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). At 6:45 we sing carols with more carols during the service.

**December 29th Youth Sunday Service.** They will be presenting the Gospel to the congregation.

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.**