

Sunday, December 8, 2024
St. Timothy Lutheran Church
The Second 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

Prepare The Royal Highway

ELW 264 v1, 3, 4

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

Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding

ELW 246

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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: Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Luke 1:68-79 *(Please join in by reading the dark print.)*

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us,

to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

**to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear,**

holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

**And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,**
to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

**In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please rise as you are able)

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.''' The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

(Please rise as you are able)

Hymn of the Day

Blessed Be the God of Israel

ELW 250

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: Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Ruling 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 Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, the West Bank, Haiti, Lebanon, and Sudan. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering. Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. 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. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy

C: receive our prayer.

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

A: Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. 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

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye Heav'nly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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>On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry</i>	<i>ELW 249</i>
	<i>Love Divine, All Love Excelling</i>	<i>ELW 631</i>
	<i>By Your Hand You Feed Your People</i>	<i>ELW 469</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:

Hark the Glad Sound

ELW 239

Dismissal:

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

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

He Came Down ELW 253

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 new medical concern.

Daily Readings for December 9-14

Monday, Romans 8:22-25

Tuesday, Psalm 126

Wednesday, Luke 7:18-30

Thursday, Zephaniah 3:14-20

Friday, Isaiah 12:2-6

Saturday, Philippians 4:4-7

December 15th, Third Sunday

in Advent Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6,

Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

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, 2nd Sunday in Advent, December 8, 2024

9:20 am Choir practice

10 am Worship Service (Zoom available)

Advent Brunch after the service, bring dishes to share

Membership Class 2

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

Thursday 10 am—1 pm Office & Pantry hours

11am-11:45 Advent Service & potluck at SnoCap Clothes Closet

11:45am-1:30pm Helping at SnoCap Clothes Closet

7:00 pm-8:00 pm Choir practice

Saturday 9:30 am Pick up food at Food Project

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

9:20 am Choir Practice

10 am Worship Service (Zoom available)

Coffee afterwards, downstairs

Membership Class 3

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](https://zoom.us/j/95867893?pwd=307128)

FOOD PANTRY VISITS: visits to the church's pantry for first week of December are 22. We need all items snacks, beverages, cereal, tuna, rice, mac and cheese, pasta, fruit, beverages, corn, chicken, toilet paper, peanut butter. We plan a sock effort for December—watch sales.

Tiny Tims is growing!

Leaders and helpers will meet Dec. 15 during the brunch.

Membership Class #2 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.

Advent Brunch December 8th following the service today.

Membership Class #3 will be next Sunday, Dec. 15th, after the service. All are encouraged to attend.

Midweek Advent Services will be at Snowcap Clothes Closet on Thursdays, December 5, 12, and 19, starting with a service and potluck 11-11:45 and clothes sorting for and stocking at 11:45 to 1:30-ish. The address is 1271 NW Civic. Gresham.

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 2024 Annual Congregational meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 19th, after the service. The church budget will be reviewed and new Council members will be elected. The Council meeting on December 10th will approve the date and an additional date if we have ice or snow cancellations.