

Sunday, December 14, 2025

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

Advent 3



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. Everyone is welcome to share Holy Communion at the rail from the altar or with individual cups from the church entrance. See how to use the sets on page 9 under Distribution.

Land Acknowledgement:

St. Timothy Lutheran Church humbly acknowledges that we live within the traditional lands of the Multnomah, Kathlamet, and Clackamas bands of Chinook; the Cowlitz; the Tualatin Kalapuya; the Molalla and many other Tribes who made their homes along the Columbia River. Most of these peoples are currently part of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. In our place of ministry in Portland, Oregon, St. Timothy thanks God for living and serving in this domain of Native people from over 380 different Tribal backgrounds.

GATHERING

Call to Worship

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

Haugen

Announcements

Opening Prayer

Thanksgiving Confession and Forgiveness

(Please rise as you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

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

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: Most merciful God,

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: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Gathering Song

Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn ELW 242

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 all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
L: The word of the LORD,
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146:5-10

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;
who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.
The Lord sets the captive free.
The Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord cares for the stranger;
the Lord sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
The Lord shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L: The word of the LORD.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please rise as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.)

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

(Please rise as you are able)

Hymn of the Day:

Joy to the World

ELW 267

The Apostles' Creed (together)

**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)

God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. We pray especially for Madieri Markwart and husband Bill with ongoing medical concerns, Kristina, Christine, Linda Wabs, Anthony L., Deanna, Ron, Greta, Johann (Yeohawn), Judy H., Ernie, Pastor Chuck, Al, Barb Vecsi and David, Ron, Marshall, Steve (Mary's brother).

In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant (especially we pray for Global Refuge and Lutheran Social Services). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith especially Mary, mother of Jesus, John of the Cross, and Jean Whitford. We pray for the families and friends of Jim McConnell, Bruce Strade, and Pam Dahlman. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C: Amen.

(Please rise as you are able for sharing of 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*

Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heav'nly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Offering Prayer: *(together)*

C: Nourishing God,

you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. 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, ELW page 144b*
God of pow'r and might, 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

Lord's Prayer (together:)

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*
My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness ELW 251
By Your Hand You Feed Your People ELW 469

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 you are 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 grape juice. Afterwards, set the chalice on the table in the middle aisle and continue down the aisle to your pew.

(Please rise as you are able)

Prayer of Thanksgiving: (together)

**C: God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing:

May God who comes among us,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn:

He Came Down

ELW 253

Dismissal :

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude:

***Christ Be Our Light* ELW 715**

We give God thanks or lift before God:

- + For our nation and the world that all might put love, generosity, compassion and patience first.
- + For homeless people as they struggle to stay hydrated 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 Ernie Rippe for continuous recovery.
- + For Linda Wabs for cancer treatment.
- + For Anthony L. & family for healing as he continues with cancer treatments.
- + For Dorian & family according to their needs.
- + For Pastor Chuck with his declining health.
- + For Deanna for healing.
- + For Greta for comfort and healing.
- + For Johann according to his needs.
- + For Judy H. for healing according to her needs.

Daily Readings for December 15-20:

Monday: Psalm 42

Tuesday: Ezekiel 47:1-12

Wednesday: Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34

Thursday: Isaiah 7:10-16

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

Saturday: Roman 1:1-7

Next Sunday, December 21st:

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7,
Matthew 1:18-25

This Week at St. Timothy's

Today, Sunday December 14th, 2025 Advent 3

9:20 am—Choir practice

10 am—Worship Service (Zoom available)

Coffee Hour after the Service

Monday 10 am—1 pm Office & Pantry hours

Tuesday 11 am—1 pm Office & Pantry hours

Wednesday 10 am—1 pm Office & Pantry hours

10 am—11:30 am Pastor Hamada's office hours

11 am—12pm Advent Midweek Worship Service

12pm Advent Service Ministry

Thursday 10 am—1 pm Office & Pantry hours

7 pm—8:30 pm Choir Practice

Friday 10 am—1:30 pm Pastor Hamada's office hours

Saturday

Sunday December 21st, 2025, 4th Sunday of Advent

9:20 am—Choir Practice

10 am—Worship Service (Zoom available)

Coffee Hour after the Service

December Worship Services If you are unable to make your scheduled Sunday, please contact another person to take your place.				
	December 7th	December 14th	December 21st	December 28th
Preacher	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada	Pastor Yukio Hamada
Assistant	Ray W	Sherry W	Shannon H	Ray W
Lector	Shannon H	Cathy He	Mary F	Lisa S
Usher	Allen P & Tim H	Skip & Marcia E	Gladys K & Tim H	Steve & LeAnn T
Communion	Cathy H	Marie R & Karen O	Cathy H	Candace O & Gladys K
Tiny Tims	Daniel R	Karen O	Karen O	Amanda M
Video & Sound	Ray W	Ray W	Ray W	Ray W
Counters	Tim H & Candace O	Cathy H & Ray W	Tim H & Mary F	Candace O & Ray W
Music	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.	Gary S.
Care Coordinator	Karen O.	Karen O.	Karen O.	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 9 under Distribution.

WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE on Sundays at 10 am at:

Zoom.us meeting 846 9586 7893 code: 307128

FOOD PANTRY VISITS: We served a total of **47 individuals** this week at our food pantry. We will receive Portland Food Project donations on the 13th so no shopping is needed. Feel free to volunteer at Open Door at 9:30 or volunteer at St. Timothy at 12 to put food away. Youth are particularly needed.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE: Join us this Wednesday, December 17th from 11 am-1:00 pm . We'll share a potluck lunch, some Bible study, and make sandwiches for Cultivate Initiatives. Questions? Reach out to Pastor Yukio.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: St. Timothy Lutheran Church will host a Christmas Eve service on December 24th at 7:00pm.

Community Meeting re Homeless Shelter: The city of Portland is planning a homeless shelter at Imagio Dei on 148th between Division and Powell. This is an opportunity to hear what they are proposing to do and ask questions. The meeting is at 6:30 on the 16th at St Timothy.

Annual Meeting Reports: Ministry chair persons please complete your report by January 3rd and submit to the church office via email or to Jasmine our administrative assistant. Our annual meeting will be held on January 11th.