

**Sunday, December 21, 2025
St. Timothy Lutheran Church
Advent 4**



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**

Physical Address: 14500 SE Powell Boulevard

Mailing Address: 16409 SE Division St. #216

Portland, OR 97236-1982

503.761.8202 | sainttimothypdx@gmail.com | www.sainttimothypdx.org

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 8 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

Listen to the Lord

L. McGlohon

Be quiet so you can hear Him, and kneel down so you are near Him.

When you think the world has passed you by.

When there's no one there to hear you cry.

Sit down and listen to the Lord.

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

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 hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, 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: Isaiah 7:10-16

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

L: The word of the LORD,

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,

how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

You have fed them with the bread of tears;

you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors,

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,

the one you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you;

give us life, that we may call upon your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to

fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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: *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*

ELW 244

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)

In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors.

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill 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).

God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your love. 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.

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*
Creator of the Stars of Night ELW 245
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:

Joy to the World

ELW 267

Dismissal :

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude:

O Come O Come Emmanuel ELW 246

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 22-27:

Monday: Luke 1:46b-55

Tuesday: Galatians 3:6-14

Wednesday: Luke 2:1-14[15-20]

Thursday: Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

Friday: Matthew 23:34-39

Saturday: John 21:20-25

Next Sunday, December 28th:

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18;
and Matthew 2:13-23

This Week at St. Timothy's

Today, Sunday December 21st, 2025 Advent 4

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

7 pm Christmas Eve service

Thursday **Rejoice in the birth of Immanuel!**

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

Saturday

Sunday December 28th, 2025, 1st Sunday of Christmas

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	Michelle G	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 8 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 **55 individuals** this week at our food pantry. Last Saturday we were able to pick up 2,200 pounds of food from our partners at Portland Food Project! Thank you to everyone who was able to help us get food picked up and brought in to St. Timothy.

Our food pantry will be closed the next two Thursdays;
December 25th and January 1st.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: St. Timothy Lutheran Church will host a Christmas Eve service on December 24th at 7:00pm. Christmas carols at 6:45pm.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Please plan to stay after worship on January 11th for our annual meeting and a potluck! For more information please reach out to Tim H., Council President.