

**Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2025  
Candlelight Service**



**St. Timothy Lutheran Church**

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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 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.

## Prelude Carols

<i>What Child Is This</i>	ELW #296
<i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i>	ELW #272
<i>Angels, from the Realms of Glory</i>	ELW #275
<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	ELW #289
<i>Of the Father's Love Begotten</i>	ELW #295
<i>The First Noel</i>	ELW #300

## GATHERING

Call to Worship	Before the Marvel of This Night	WOV #636
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## Welcome

### Lighting of Advent and Christ Candles

P: A light has dawned, and it fills the earth. God is doing a new thing; it is good news for us.

**C: We who keep parts of ourselves in the shadows are invited into the light; to embrace the new life God shows us.**

P: Go to Bethlehem to see the embodiment of God's grace. Go to experience God's love in human form.

**C: We must go in order to see for ourselves. The light of the world beckons to us.**

*Advent candles and Christ candle are lit.*

P: Rejoice and be glad for the possibilities of this good news!

**C: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among all whom God favors!**

P: Let us pray:

We are startled and surprised by the many ways you appear to us, gracious God. As we tend to our mundane tasks, the sudden brilliance of your revealing light awakens us to your presence. We rejoice in the good news you share with us: unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given.

Like the shepherds, may we hasten to see the ways you are making all things new, and may we be inspired to rejoice and proclaim as we re-enter a world yearning to hear words of hope.

**C: Amen.**

**Gathering Song**

**“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

**ELW #283**

### **Pastoral Greeting and Blessing**

P: On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. God comes to us in this child of the light so that we may be bearers of the divine light to all the world. May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE WORD**

### **First Reading – *Isaiah 9:2-7***

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**Hymn**

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

**ELW #257 vs 1 & 4**

### **Psalm 96**

*(Reader's part is in regular print, Congregation's part is in bold print)*

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,  
more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

**Tell it out among the nations:**

**“The Lord is king!**

**The one who made the world so firm  
that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity.”**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming,  
O Lord, for you come to judge the earth.**

You will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with your truth.

**Hymn**

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

**ELW #279**

**Christmas Gospel – John 1:1-5**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**Hymn            “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

**ELW #270**

**Christmas Gospel - Luke 2:1-7**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Hymn            “Away in a Manger”**

**ELW #277**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Christmas Homily**

**Hymn            “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”**

**ELW #288**

**Christmas Eve Prayer**

**C: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.'**

**Peace**

**P: May the peace and the love of the Lord be yours this night and always.**

**C: And also with you.**

**P: Let us greet one another with a sign of God’s peace.**

## Gathering of Offering

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.**

## 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.**



## SENDING

### Blessing

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, +Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### Sending Hymn

**“Go Tell it on the Mountain”**

**ELW #290**

### Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God. Hallelujah!**

### Postlude

*“O Holy Night”*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

God is doing great things here at St. Timothy.

Our ministry is grounded in the 3P's:

***PASTOR + PEOPLE = PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL***

**HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT WORSHIP** We sit a lot during worship but sometimes we stand to express joy and thankfulness to God. Please feel free to remain seated if standing is difficult. Hearing assistance aids are available. Please ask an usher at the entrance for these items.

**WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE any Sunday at 10 am, online at**  
**[Zoom.us meeting 846 9586 7893 code: 307128](https://www.zoom.us/j/84695867893)**

***Caring, Sharing, Daring***

**St. Timothy Mission Statement:**

**We intentionally reach out,  
seeking and serving, sharing the joy of Jesus Christ**