

**Sunday, March 15th, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Lent
St. Timothy Lutheran Church**



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. If you are joining us online, please consider liking, subscribing, and turning on notifications for our account. If you would like help with this, reach out to the office.

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

Beautiful Things

M&L Gungor

You make beautiful things out of the dust.

You make beautiful things. You make beautiful things out of us.

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.**

Gathering Song

Shepherd Me, O God

ELW 780

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: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, 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: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of

the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah. L: The word of the LORD, **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

You restore my soul, O Lord,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;**

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

L: The word of the LORD.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

Gospel: John 9:1-41

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one

can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that

God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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: *Amazing Grace*

ELW 779

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)

Prayers of Intercession

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

(A brief silence.)

God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community (here local congregations may be named) and across the globe (here international companion churches and synods may be named) in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence especially in the Middle East (Iran), Ukraine, and Gaza. Raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy especially for those in fear of ICE. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day especially Kristine, Christine, Deanna, Ron, Johann, Judy H, Al, Pastor Chuck, Ron, Marshall, Steve, Jaycee, River, Marilyn, Clyde, Rachel, John, Clyde, and Barb V. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. We especially pray for comfort and peace for the family of Anthony Leist. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **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: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. 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

The 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

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.

Distribution Hymns: *Lamb of God* ELW page 146b
 O God of Mercy, God of Light ELW 714
 By Your Hand You Feed Your People ELW 469

(Please rise as you are able)

Prayer of Thanksgiving: (together)

C: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always. **C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn:

Be Thou My Vision

WOV 776

Dismissal :

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen! Amen!

Postlude:

There is a Balm in Gilead ELW 614

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 the family of Anthony Leist for comfort and peace.
- + For Pastor Chuck with his declining health.
- + For Deanna for healing.
- + For Johann according to his needs.
- + For Judy H. for healing according to her needs.

Daily Readings for March 16th-21st:

Monday: Actis 9:1-20

Tuesday: Colossians 1:9-14

Wednesday: Psalm 146

Thursday: Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Friday: Psalm 130

Saturday: Romans 8:6-11

Next Sunday, March 22nd:

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11;
and John 11:1-45

This Week at St. Timothy's

Today, Sunday March 15th, Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:20 am—Choir practice
 10 am—Worship Service (Zoom available)

Monday 10am - 1pm Office & Pantry Hours

Tuesday 10am - 1 pm Office & Pantry hours

Wednesday 10 am -1 pm Office & Pantry hours
 10 am -11:30 am Pastor Hamada's office hours
 11:30 am Midweek Lenten Service

Thursday 10 am -1 pm Office & Pantry hours

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

Saturday

Sunday March 22nd, Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:20 am - Choir Practice
 10 am - Worship Service (Zoom available)
 Coffee Hour after the Service

March Worship Services					
If you are unable to make your scheduled Sunday, please contact another person to take your place.					
	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Preacher	Pastor Yukio Hamada				
Assistant	Sherry W	Shannon H	Sherry W	Ray W	Sherry W
Lector	Lisa S	Twila R	Mary F	Sherry W	Lisa S
Usher	Steve & LeAnn T	Steve & LeAnn T	James G & Jayce	Skip & Marcia E	Jeff S & Tim H
Communion	Candace O	Karen O	Candace O	Karen O	Candace O
Tiny Tims	Daniel R	Briget D	Michelle G	Karen O	Amanda M
Video & Sound	Ray W				
Counters	Tim H & Candace O	Ray W & Jeff S	Tim H & Shannon H	Ray W & Mary F	Tim H & Jeff S
Music	Gary S.				
Care Coordinator	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 or

<https://www.youtube.com/@sttimothypdx/live>

FOOD PANTRY VISITS: We served a total of **54 individuals** this week at our food pantry. Please continue to pray for our food bank; for volunteers and for those who are in need of food pantry. We are experiencing need for shoppers again. Items needed include hot chocolate, water, snacks, beverages ramen, cereal, soup, tuna, chicken, other protein, and corn.

LENT 2026: Midweek Lenten Worship services are at 11:30am beginning with a potluck lunch, Bible study and service project

HOLY WEEK DATES: March 30th through April 4th. St. Timothy will host Maundy Thursday 6:30, Good Friday 6:30 and Easter Sunday service at 10 am. The annual Easter Jubilee will be on Easter following our celebration. Please invite friends and neighbors to worship with us and enjoy brunch and kids activities following the service. Fliers are available to give to your friends and community.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: At 10 am on the 4th of April we will be decorating the cross and preparing for the brunch and children's activities. All are welcome. Many hands make for completion of tasks more quickly. Please sign up for the brunch and to volunteer.

QUILTERS: Gethsemane invites quilters to join them on Sat Mar 21 from 9 to 3 for National Quilters. Contact is Karla Hills, khills55@comcast.net.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Expenditures for 2026 are exceeding contributions Please review your commitment financially.

FIFTH SUNDAY: Donations for March are for Lutheran World Relief with focus on world hunger. Think of African countries, Gaza, etc.