

**ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
GRAND ISLAND, NY**

**November 27, 2022
First Sunday of Advent**

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P. Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. **Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings, we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ☩ Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

SERVICE OF GATHERING

Please stand as you are able.

**OPENING HYMN
ELW 532**

Gather Us In

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

2 We are the young, our lives are a mystery, we are the old who yearn for your face; we have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

3 Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4 Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away - here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

GREETING

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen, amen.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

Refrain

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

Refrain

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Let us pray. **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH – The Candle of Hope

A. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Today is the beginning of Advent, in which we prepare for celebrating Christ's birth. We are here because God's promises to our ancestors came true when Jesus was born. God's promise is kept each Sunday when we worship, because Christ is in our midst. God will keep the promise to come again in glory. We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is hope. Because of Christ we have hope, that good is stronger than evil and that God wants us to live for good in this world.

Let us pray: **O God, we thank you that Jesus brought hope into our world. By his good news you are still bringing hope to all people. Help us be ready to welcome the Christ and so be a people of hope in our world today. Amen.**

LIGHTING HYMN

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

R. The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 122

¹I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
²**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**
³Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;
⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**
⁵For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.
⁶**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.**
⁷Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.
⁸**For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**
⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

SECOND LESSON

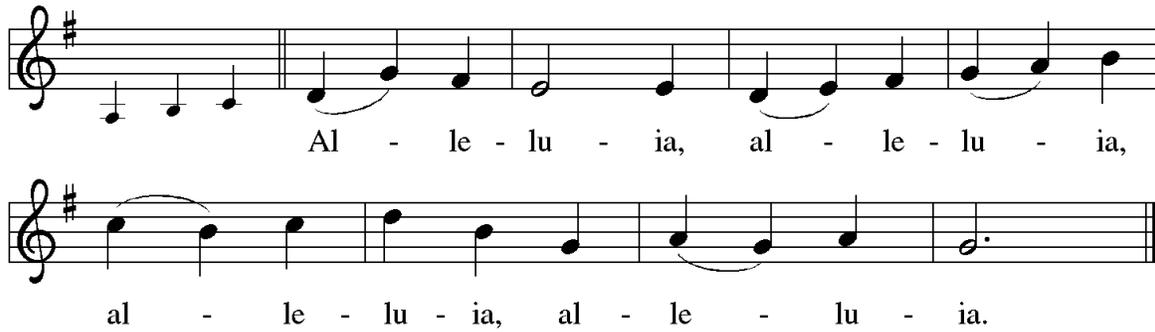
Romans 13:11-14

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

R. The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.



GOSPEL READING
24:36-44

Matthew

R. The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

R. This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

You may be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Adam Arends

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

ELW 436

1 Wake, awake, for night is flying, the watchman on the heights are crying; awake, Jerusalem, at last. Midnight hears the welcome voices, and at the thrilling cry rejoices: “Come forth, you maidens! Night is past. The bridegroom comes! Awake; your lamps with gladness take!” Alleluia! Rise and prepare the feast to share; go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing, and all her heart with joy is springing. She wakes, she rises from her gloom. Her dear friend comes down, all glorious, the strong in grace, in truth victorious: her star is ris’n; her light is come. Now come, O Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God’s own Son. Sing hosanna! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all, and follow to the banquet hall.

3 Gloria! Let heav’n adore you! Let saints and angels sing before you, with harp and cymbal’s clearest tone. Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming, lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming, with angel choirs around your

throne. No eye has caught the light, no ear the thund'ring might of such glory. There we will go: what joy we'll know! There sweet delight will ever flow.

SERVICE OF DEDICATION

NICENE CREED

C. We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition ends with the words, "God, in your mercy," we respond, "**hear our prayer.**"

PASSING OF THE PEACE

P. The peace of Christ be with you always.

C. And also with you.

Please be seated.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray together. God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.

Please stand.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

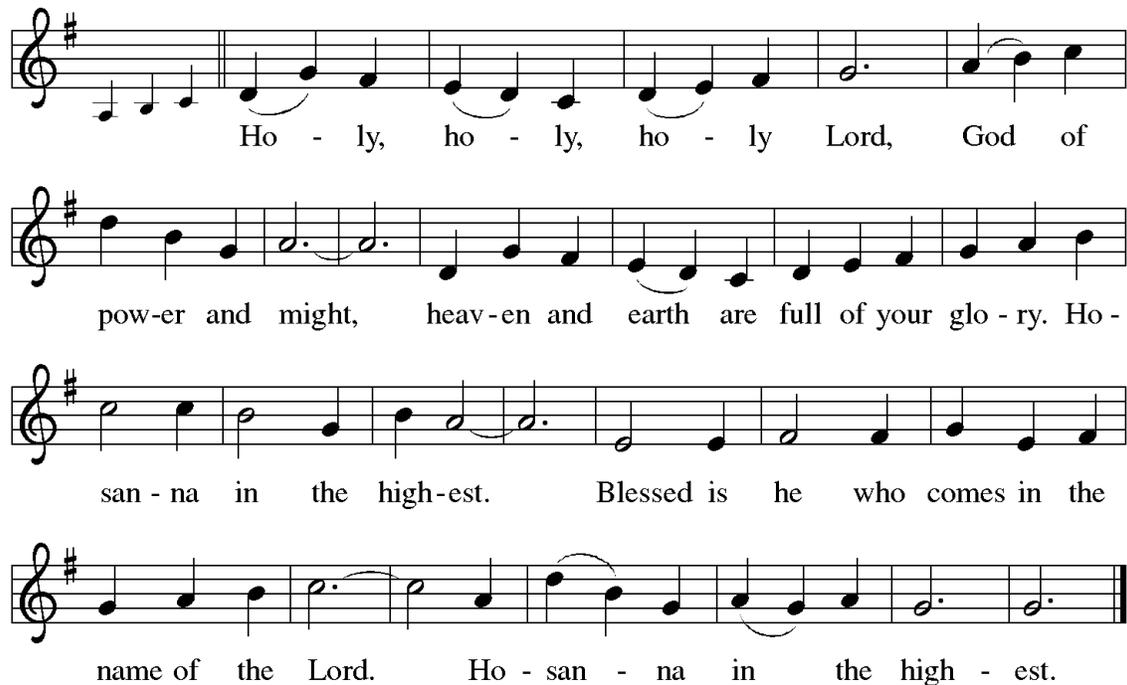
P. Lift up your hearts. C. We lift them to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

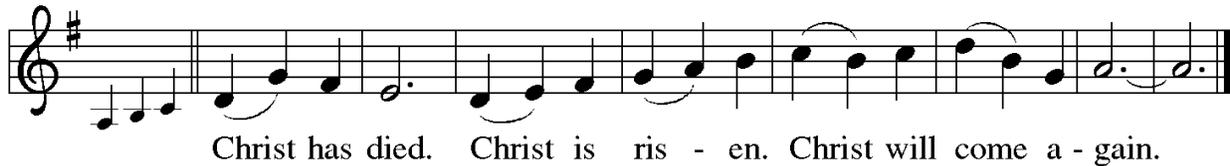


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken us and fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

You may be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

We invite all to partake at the Lord's supper. This morning, we will distribute communion at the front of the nave and we invite you to come forward if you are ready and comfortable. We also offer communion packets at the entrance of the nave for those not yet comfortable coming forward.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P. The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

The communion elements are returned to the credence table.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P. Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
Amen.

SERVICE OF SENDING

Please stand.

BLESSING

P. The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

To Be Your Presence

ELW 546

1 To be your presence is our mission here, to show compassion's face and listening ear, to be your heart of mercy ever near, alleluia!

2 To be your presence is our mission bold, to feed the poor and shelter homeless cold, to be your hands of justice, right uphold, alleluia!

3 To be your presence is our mission blest, to speak for all the broken and oppressed, to be your voice of hope, your love expressed, alleluia!

4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your people is our call and choice, and in this mission we, the church, rejoice, alleluia!

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Christ is near.

C. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Welcome to St. Timothy! St. Timothy Lutheran Church opens its doors and its arms in the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and we bid you welcome.

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Address: 1453 Staley Road, Grand Island, NY 14072
Office Hours: 10AM-2PM Monday-Friday

This Week's Calendar:

TODAY 11/27	Holy Communion	9:30 AM
	Sunday School	9:30 AM
	Congregational Meeting	10:40 AM
Sunday 12/4	Holy Communion	9:30 AM
	Sunday School	9:30 AM
	Exploring the Sermon	10:40 AM

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A warm welcome to Pastor Adam Arends who is leading us in worship today! Please plan on staying after the service for a short Congregational Meeting to vote on calling him as the next pastor of St. Timothy.
- In the Narthex, you'll find an Advent tree with ELCA Good Gifts ornaments on it. These can be the perfect Christmas gifts for those among your family and friends who have a big heart and no need for more things. Give a goat or pig in honor of them this year to help a family with food security and economic wellbeing or improve lives with a water filter and school supplies in the spirit of the season. To find out more about each gift and how they help lift families and communities out of poverty through the love of Christ, pick up a Good Gifts catalog in the Narthex. Offerings for this can be designated as the label on the chosen ornament and placed in the offering basket or church office.
- WELCA Thankofferings will continue to be collected through December 6th.
- Exploring the Sermon will resume next week.
- The Child Care Center's Breakfast with Santa is coming up on Saturday, December 18th. They're appreciative of any supply donations (pancake mix, syrup, holiday plates, and napkins), griddles for borrowing, or volunteers. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex. For those who would like to come for a plate of pancakes, sausage, and fruit instead, tickets are available at the CCC office or through the church office. Thank you for your support!
- As you take care of any ordering through Amazon, please remember to use Amazon Smile and designate St. Timothy as your charity. These and donations through Bottle Junction really do add up!
- Please join us in praying for the following people: The family of Nick; Gary; Colin; Judy and family; Jack Hewes; Paul Bassette; Logan Black; Cheng-tin Luo; Tracy Melisz; Lana Breiner; Doug and Elaine Hardman; Nancy Gorrell; Brenda; Margaret Miller; Walt Oldenberg; Marion Passerelli; Marlene; Yosenia; Timmy Book; Kurt Yaeger; Randy; Betty; Riley; Ted; Joe Morley; Richard E; Isla and Eleanor;

Edna; Gloria; Brian Volo; Marianne Carroll; Danny Penque; Robin Bengaglio Richard; Joanne M.; Dottie Roehrig; Sylvia and Joe Smith; Lorraine Pfohl; and Cheryl Rosati.