



**December 15, 2024**

**8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Worship Services**

# ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome in the name of Christ!

We rejoice that you have joined us this morning!!

\*\*\*\*\*

**GATHERING MUSIC:** *"Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"*

*Arranger: Thomas Keesecker*

## \*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

SOLO *"Lift Up Your Eyes"*

*"Lift Up Your Eyes"* Congregation part:

Musical score for the song "Lift Up Your Eyes". The score is written on four staves in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/2. The lyrics are: "Lift up your eyes and see the light sur-round you; with ra-diant hope, il-lu-mi-nate the night. Lift up your voice and sing, let earth and heav-en ring, lift up your eyes and see the ev-er-last-ing light."

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## LITANY

P During Advent, we remember the light that shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.

C **Sorrow may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning.**

P For all who face the sting of loss, God's Word speaks:

C **Sorrow may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning.**

P For all who wrestle with the unknown of tomorrow, God's Word speaks:

C **Sorrow may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning.**

P For all who battle the questions that arise in the silence, God's Word speaks:

C **Sorrow may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning.**

P This morning we light three candles. When the darkness of life feels overwhelming, the first candle ignites our hope in God's unfailing truth. When the chaos of life seems all-consuming, the light of the second candle reveals the Prince of Peace. The third candle reminds us that no matter what our circumstance, there is joy in the coming of Christ who opens our eyes to the everlasting light.

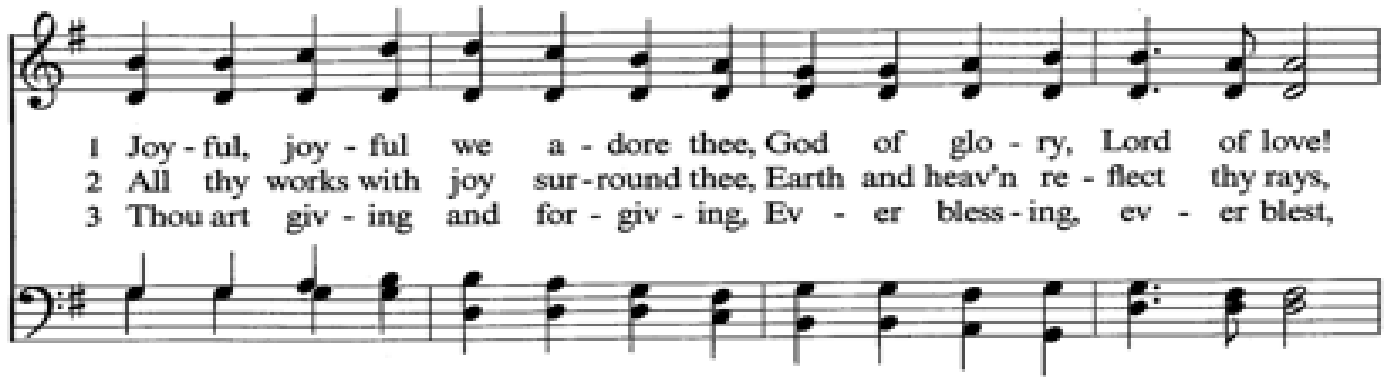


Lift up your eyes and see the light sur - round you;  
with ra - diant hope, il - lu - mi - nate the night.  
Lift up your voice and sing, let earth and heav - en ring,  
lift up your eyes and see the ev - er - last - ing light.

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*OPENING SONG

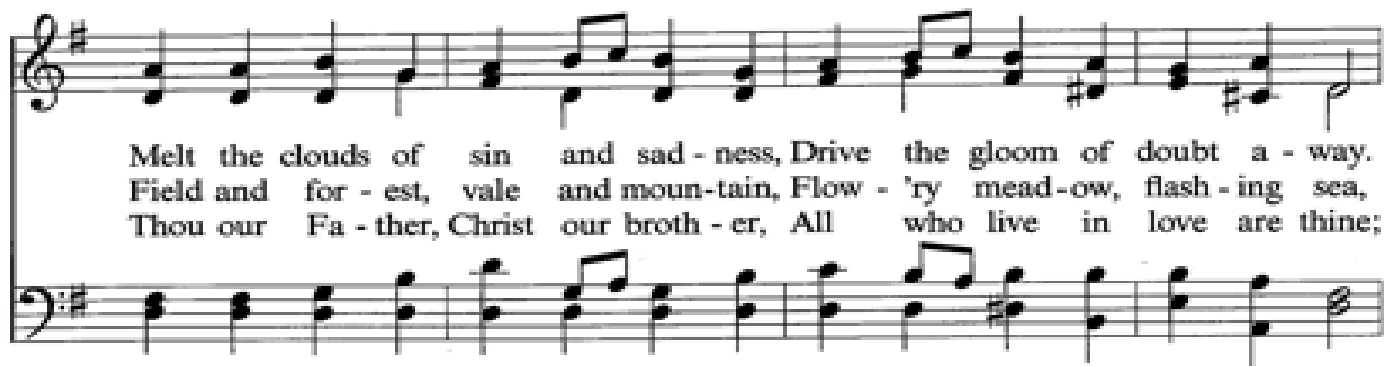
LBW 551 - "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, Prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
Stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise,  
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, All who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
Chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in thee.  
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di-vine!

© Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1913  
Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adap.

**\*GREETING**

**P** Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, ✚ the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. *(Gregorian Sacramentary, 6th Century)*

**C** **Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**      *“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”*      (8:00 AM)  
*Arr: Thomas Keesecker*

**ANTHEM**              *“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”*      (10:30 AM)  
*Arr: Jeanne Anne Shafferman*

# GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE

## FIRST READING

*Zephaniah 3:14-20*

A reading from *Zephaniah*:

<sup>14</sup>“Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. <sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. <sup>19</sup>Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the LORD.

**Lesson Response**            L    The Word of the Lord.  
    C    **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

*Philippians 4:4-7*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Lesson Response**            L            The Word of the Lord.  
    C            **Thanks be to God.**

**\*THE HOLY GOSPEL**

*Luke 7:18-28 [29-35]*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter:

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

<sup>18</sup>The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, <sup>19</sup>calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>20</sup>And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" <sup>21</sup>In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup>And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." <sup>24</sup>When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. <sup>26</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>28</sup>I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." [<sup>29</sup>(When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, <sup>30</sup>but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.) <sup>31</sup>"To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? <sup>32</sup>They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.' <sup>33</sup>For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' <sup>34</sup>The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' <sup>35</sup>Yet wisdom is justified by all her children."]

Gospel Response

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Pray and Play (during 10:30am service)*

**SERMON**

**\*SONG OF THE DAY**

*"Hark, The Glad Sound!"*

The musical score is written in G major, 3/4 time, and consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. Chord symbols (F, C, Dm, G, Am, Bb) are placed above the staff to indicate the harmonic accompaniment.

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The  
He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In  
He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The  
Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your

5 Sav - ior prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry  
Sa - tan's bond - age held. The gates of  
bleed - ing soul to cure, And with the  
wel - come shall pro - claim, And heav'ns e -

9 heart pre - pare a throne, And  
brass be - fore him burst, The  
treas - ures of his grace To - en  
ter - nal arch - es ring With

12 ev - 'ry voice a song.  
i - ron fet - ters yield.  
rich the hum - ble poor.  
your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Phillip Doddridge 1702-1751

Tune: attr. Thomas Hawels 1734-1820



## **\*NICENE CREED**

**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;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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**

\*CALL TO PRAYER

ELW 251 - "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho-ly fear your mer-cy ev-er flows.  
3 To Is-ra-el, your ser-vant blest, your help is ev-er sure;

You looked up-on my low-li-ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might-y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex-pose.  
the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil-dren will se-secure.

Now ev-'ry land and ev-'ry age this bless-ing shall pro-claim—  
The ruth-less you have cast a-side, the low-ly throned in-stead;  
Sing glo-ry to the Ho-ly One, give hon-or to the Word,

great won-ders you have done for me, and ho-ly is your name.  
the hun-gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un-fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a-dored.

Text: With One Voice, 1995, based on the Magnificat  
Music: English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958  
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress  
Arr. © Oxford University Press

KINGSFOLD  
C.M.O.

## **\*THE PRAYERS**

A Let us pray...

(The assisting minister ends each petition with “*Stir up your power and come.*” The congregation responds with “*Lord Jesus, live among us.*”

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

## **\*PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(*Worshippers, please respect the social-distancing preferences of those who remain seated during the sharing of the peace.*)

## **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** “*Mary, Did You Know*” Words by Mark Lowry, Music Buddy Greene  
Vocals – Jane Bruns

## **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

A Let us pray...God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING



**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



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



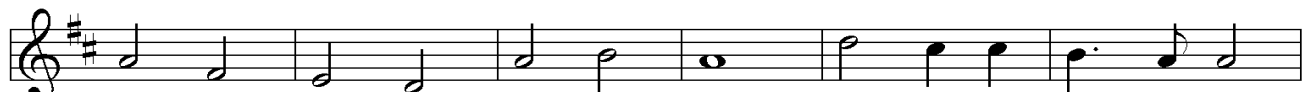
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.




**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**P** It is indeed right and salutary... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:


## \*SANCTU



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:



Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**P** Blessed are you, O Adonai, Most High and Holy God.  
For the wonder of your goodness which creates, establishes, and permeates the heavens and the earth.

We praise you for the promises you made to the Patriarchs, as you led your chosen people out of slavery into the land of promise, giving them your Law on Sinai's heights.

You promised, through the prophets, that the Messiah would come, the very branch of Jesse - before whom all nations would keep silent.

Then, at the appointed time, you sent your beloved Son, Jesus our Emmanuel, the key of David born of Mary by the power of the Spirit.

He came to rescue the uprooted, to bring life to the lifeless, and voice to those who were without hope; on Calvary's heights gave His life to draw all people to Himself and to your promise of mercy.

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.

**P** Together we acclaim:

**C** **O Christ, you are the splendor of life everlasting:  
We laud your death and resurrection and await your return in glory.**

P Blessed are you, O Adonai, Lord of might.

You fulfilled your promises in the death, resurrection, and ascension of your Son, the King of the nations.

We praise you for embracing us as the people who dwell in the brightness of his glory.

Send now your holy and life-giving Spirit upon this Bread of Life and this Cup of Salvation, that we, in this holy communion, may be united to Him who is our cornerstone, the One who gives us his very body and blood to sustain us in his forgiving love.

With all the people of your promises, we await his final coming when we will share in that feast which shall never end.

C **Amen. Come O precious Ransom , come!**

P With boldness and sure confidence, we pray as Christ taught us:

**\*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.

## \*AGNUS DEI



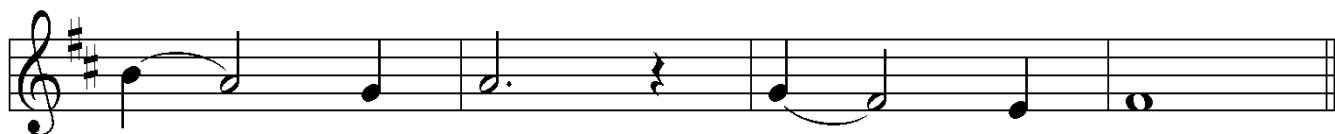
**C** Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

## \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Come taste and see that the Lord is good.

**C** Amen.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*As Lutheran Christians, we believe Christ is truly present within our gathering, and the taking of bread and wine is for forgiveness, life and salvation. On behalf of Christ, we invite all who are baptized and believe in Jesus Christ to join us in His Holy Supper. Children or any visitor who have not made their first communion may come forward to the Altar for a blessing. If you are allergic to bread or wine, you may fully participate by taking either one or the other. White grape juice is offered in prefilled cups. Gluten free wafer upon request.*

*Anyone not able to come forward to partake please notify an usher and Pastor will come to commune you.*



DISTRIBUTION SONG

ELW 272 - *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

F C Dm B<sup>b</sup> F C F

Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath  
 I - sai - ah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
 This flow'r whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet-ness fills the  
 O Sa - vior, child of Ma - ry, Who felt our hu - man

4 F F C Dm B<sup>b</sup> F C F

sprung! Of\_ Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As men of old have  
 mind, With Ma - ry we be - hold it, The Vir - gin Moth - er  
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark-ness ev - 'ry  
 woe; O\_ Sa - vior, king of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness

8 F Gm F C C B<sup>b</sup>

sung. It\_ came, a flower - et bright, A - mid the cold of  
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to men a  
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and death he  
 know, Bring us at length we pray To the bright courts of

12 C D Gm F Gm F C F

win - ter, When half spent was the night.  
 Sav - ior, When half spent was the night.  
 saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 heav - en, And to the end - less day.

# DISTRIBUTION SONG

## "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

F E/F F B<sup>b</sup> Gm7 F/C C

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee  
 2. For Christ is born of Mar - y; and gath - ered all a -  
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is  
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we

F B<sup>b</sup>Maj7/C F D7 Gm B<sup>b</sup>

lie; a - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the  
 bove, while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their  
 giv'n! So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the  
 pray; cast out our sin and en - ter in; be

F/C B<sup>b</sup>Maj7/C C F F Gm7 G<sup>#</sup>7

si - lent stars go by: yet in thy dark streets  
 watch of won - d'ring love. O morn - ing stars, to -  
 bless - ings of His heav'n. No ear may hear His  
 born in us to - day. We hear the Christ - mas

A Dm B<sup>b</sup> Asus A F E/F F

shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light; the hopes and fears of  
 geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth! And prais - es sing to  
 com - ing, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will re -  
 an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell; O come to us, a -

B<sup>b</sup> Gm7 F/C B<sup>b</sup>Maj7/C C F (B<sup>b</sup>Maj7/C)

all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 God the King, and peace to men on earth.  
 ceive Him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

Words & Music: Phillips Brooks & Walford Davies

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

**C Amen**

### **\*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

A Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

### **\*BLESSING**

\*P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen**

### **\*DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:**           *“O’Carolan’s Lament and Coventry Carol”;*  
                                  *Arr. Thomas Keesecker*

### **Acknowledgements**

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Worship Servers	December 15, 2024		December 22, 2024	
	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	8:00 AM	10:30 AM
Assisting Minister	Glen Elliott	Laura Hoover	Will Harmon	Russ Urffer
Lector	Pai Swanger	Mindy Fesler	Kevin Kincaid	Lisa Wyant
Ushers	Gary Larson Mel Strait	Deb Stein Roger Williams	Rich Lepley Nancy Frankenfield	Ken Black Jerry Bruns
Greeters	Bobbi Larson	Ann Krammes	Carole Harmon	Irvin Family
Acolytes	Teddy Rex	Luke Fesler		Ella Bechard
Altar Guild *Bread Maker		Mindy Fesler Arlene Young *Carole Harmon		Mindy Fesler Arlene Young *Carole Harmon
Building Security	Jerry Bruns Chappy Wagoner	Jerry Bruns Chappy Wagoner	Jerry Bruns Chappy Wagoner	Jerry Bruns Chappy Wagoner

St. Timothy  
Lutheran Church  
4200 Carlisle Pike  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
(717) 737-5243  
Office Hours: 8:00 am – Noon, M-F  
Church Email: secretary@sttim.com  
Website: www.sttim.com

The Rev. Roger G. Keller, Pastor  
Pastor's Cell: (724) 713-0549 Email:prkeller@sttim.com  
Dr. Adam Smith, Director of Music  
Gina Kerchner, Music Ministry Assistant  
Maria Cabezas, Office Mgr./Admin. Asst.  
Ann Bechard, Dir. of Family Discipleship  
Rebecca Tartline, Dir. of Preschool  
Al Kerchner, Treasurer  
Bonnie Harris, Financial Secretary

Lessons for December 22, 2024 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	First Lesson Psalm Second Lesson Gospel Lesson	Micah 5:2-5a Psalm 80:1-7 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45 [46-56]
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Live-streaming continues at both the 8:00 am and 10:30 am worship services. If you would prefer not to be filmed when you come forward for communion, remain in the pew and communion will be delivered to you.