



A Service of

Remembrance and

Hope

Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 7 pm  
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church  
West Des Moines, Iowa

# Liturgy of the Word

## Welcome

### Liturgical Greeting

Priest Blessed are you, holy and living One.

**People You come to your people and set them free.**

Priest In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the world.

**People The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

### Opening Collect

God of love and understanding, we gather here this evening to confront our pain in the midst of the world's celebration. Help us know that you are present with us in all of our moods and feelings and seasons. Grant us a taste of the hope, peace, joy, and love that you promise to all of your people through the gift of your son Jesus. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### The First Reading

Jonah 2:2-9

"I called to the Lord out of my distress,  
and he answered me;  
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,  
and you heard my voice.  
You cast me into the deep,  
into the heart of the seas,  
and the flood surrounded me;  
all your waves and your billows  
passed over me.  
Then I said, 'I am driven away  
from your sight;  
how shall I look again  
upon your holy temple?'  
The waters closed in over me;  
the deep surrounded me;  
weeds were wrapped around my head  
at the roots of the mountains.

I went down to the land  
whose bars closed upon me forever;  
yet you brought up my life from the Pit,  
O Lord my God.  
As my life was ebbing away,  
I remembered the Lord,  
and my prayer came to you,  
into your holy temple.  
Those who worship vain idols  
forsake their true loyalty.  
But I with the voice of thanksgiving  
will sacrifice to you;  
what I have vowed I will pay.  
Deliverance belongs to the Lord!"

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

## The Gospel

Matthew 11:28-30

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Reflection

The Rev. Kyle Carswell

## Lighting of Candles

Comforting God, wrap us in your presence in this time of remembrance. With these candles, help us find your light, a light that will guide us day by day, step by step, as we try to live life fully and wholly. We cherish the special ways in which we have been touched by our loved ones. We thank you for the gift their lives have been to us. Now comfort us, encourage us, empower us. **Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Litany of Remembrance and Hope

God of wisdom, we come to you this Christmas Season tired, in turmoil, and in pain. As the nights have grown longer, so has darkness grown and wrapped itself around our hearts. In this season of longest night, we ask your healing blessings upon all that we carry in our hearts—sorrow we fear may never end, wounds we cannot even put into words. Lord, hear our prayer.

**And in Your merciful love, answer.**

God of mercy and compassion, there are those among us who are grieving over what might have been. Death or loss or terrible hurt has changed our experience of Christmas. We remember that once it was a special day for us, too, but someone or something precious has gone away from us in this life. We have lost a beloved, a job, a goal, a cause, a dream. We find ourselves adrift and alone. We are weary from the journey, and we have found no room at the inn. We come to you seeking rest, and peace, and shelter from the storm. Lord, hear our prayer.

**And in Your merciful love, answer.**

God of grace, in the spirit of the season, grant us all that we need to comfort us as we journey through this Christmas season. We ask that you shelter and sustain all those of us, both here and throughout the world, who wander or want or weep or are heavy laden, that we may be lifted up in courage and journey on in your peace. Lord, hear our prayer.

**And in Your merciful love, answer.**

God of love, in this Christmas Season we embrace and offer up to you all that used to be which is now lost to us, and cannot be again. With celebration all around us, memories of what was, and fears of what may be, weigh heavy on our hearts. Please hold us close in your embrace, be near to us this night, until the light returns and morning comes. Lord, hear our prayer.

**And in Your merciful love, answer.**

**Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.**

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Liturgy of the Table

## Offertory

*Tonight's offering is designated for Joppa Outreach whose members & friends will gather tonight at the State Capitol in remembrance of our homeless neighbors who died this past year.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

Priest The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

**People We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise, because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim your glory:

## Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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.

On 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.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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 your people. 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

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

## Communion

*You do not need to be a member of this church or of any church to receive communion.*

*To receive the sacrament, come forward and stand or kneel at the rail. The wine is received by intinction, by dipping the wafer into the bowl.*

*Please let the clergy know if you require a **gluten-free wafer**.*

*To indicate that you would prefer a **blessing only**, cross your arms across your chest.*

***If you are unable to come forward, please notify an usher and the sacrament will be brought to you.***

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **Concluding Prayer**

**Another day will come, O God. I know not what it may bring forth, but make me ready, God, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, help me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of your Peace. Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

May the God of peace support you all the day long in this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then may the Lord grant you safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Life is short. We do not have too much time for our journey together. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind and go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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*Following our service, you are welcome to sit quietly in the sanctuary.  
You are welcome to take a candle home with you as you leave our service and one to  
share with a friend, a loved one, a colleague, or a neighbor.*

# MINISTERS OF THE SERVICE

**Presider**

The Rev. Kyle Carswell

**Deacon**

The Rev. Jeanie Smith

**Lector**

Bill Smith

**Oblation Bearers**

Jennie McKinney

**Ushers**

Amy Rech

**Altar Guild**

Jennie McKinney

**Vestry Representative**

Amy Rech

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***Tonight's Special Offering Recipient***

Joppa's mission is to create communities of unconditional love, support and hope for the homeless, as we work together to prevent and ultimately end homelessness. Their work includes collaborating with community partners, helping homeless people access existing resources, and mobilize private donations from families, churches and organizations to meet unmet needs in homeless services, housing and education.

**Joppa**

If you would like to help support this ministry financially, you can do so at: [sttimothyiowa.org/giving/](http://sttimothyiowa.org/giving/)

To find out more about Joppa, its work and how you can be involved, visit [joppa.org](http://joppa.org)

# CHRISTMAS AT ST. TIMOTHY'S

## Christmas Eve Service with Pageant

Saturday, December 24 | 5 PM

At our early Christmas Eve Service, our children will tell the Christmas story through a pageant. All children present on Christmas Eve will be welcome to participate, even if they haven't been present for a rehearsal!

## Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24 | 9 PM

Our later service will ring in the joy of Christmas with carols led by a full choir and instrumentalists, the reading of the Christmas story from Luke's Gospel, communion, and concluding with the traditional singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight.

## Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 25 | 10:15 AM

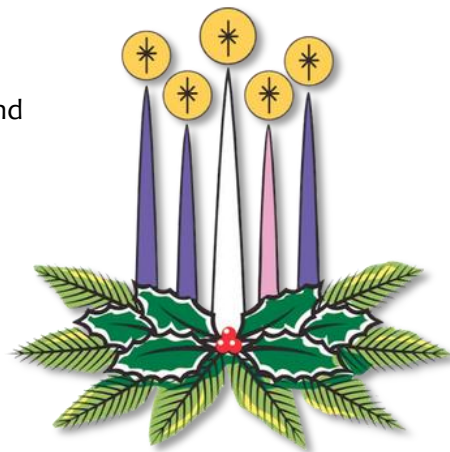
In-person only; no livestream available. No Christian formation this Sunday.

## New Year's Day Service

Sunday, January 1 | 10:15 AM

No Saturday service on the 31<sup>st</sup>

On New Year's Day, we will conduct our service using the Book of Common Prayer rather than a bulletin. Come crack open that red book in the pews as we continue our celebration of the Christmas season. No Christian formation this Sunday.



## IN 2023

## Epiphany Celebration

Sunday, January 8 | 10:15 AM

Start the year off right by celebrating the arrival of the magi at Epiphany. After our worship service, we will gather for a potluck meal in the Parish Hall. There will be Epiphany-related activities for children, including crafts, cookie decorating, and chalking the door.

