



A Service of

Remembrance and

Hope

Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 7 pm
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
West Des Moines, Iowa

Liturgy of the Word

Welcome

Please stand as you are able.

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.

Please stand as you are able.

The Gospel

Matthew 11:28-30

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

“Come to me, all you who 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. Jeanie Smith

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. Though celebration is 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

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

Sanctus

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

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

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

"Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **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

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

We who are many are one Body, for we all share in the one bread.

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 chalice.

*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.

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.

Invitation to Healing – Anointing with Oil

Please stand as you are able.

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 among 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.

*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.*

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.

To find out more about the work of Joppa or to support this ministry financially, you can do so at: joppa.org



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24 | 5 PM & 9 PM

We will ring in the joy of Christmas with two Christmas Eve services filled with carols, the reading of the Christmas story from Luke's Gospel, communion, and concluding with the traditional singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight. The 5 pm service will be more kid-friendly, with fewer readings and a children's sermon alongside a shortened "adult" sermon. The 9 pm service will include the full set of readings, full sermon, and a full choir.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE AT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 | 10 AM

We will not hold a Christmas Day service at St. Timothy's this year. Instead, we encourage those interested in attending a service on the 25th to attend worship at St. Paul's, Des Moines (815 High Street).

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27 | 5 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 | 10:15 AM

On the weekend after Christmas, we will conduct our service using the Book of Common Prayer rather than a bulletin. We will also invite those present on Sunday to choose their favorite Christmas carol from our hymnal to sing together during the service.

EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 | 10:15 AM

Start the year off right by celebrating the arrival of the magi at Epiphany!

On Sunday morning, we'll gather for our First Sunday Breakfast and, in place of our regular Children's Formation, there will be Epiphany-related activities for children. Come enjoy crafts and chalking the door - and, of course, our 1st Sunday Breakfast!

MINISTERS OF THE SERVICE

President

The Rev. Kyle Carswell

Deacon

The Rev. Jeanie Smith

Lector

Mary Sheldahl

Chalice Bearer

John Wheeler

Oblation Bearer

Marcy Luft

Usher

Larry Shea

Altar Guild

Annie Waskom, Priscilla Sayeed

Sight & Sound Team

Joe Rounceville

Vestry Representative

Mary Bartusek