



Trinity Lutheran Church

December
22

2024

Fourth Sunday
of Advent



Together
in Community
Living
with Christ
Caring
for Neighbors

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.
Luke 1:42-45

www.trinitylutherantopeka.org

We are glad you are here!

***It is always good to be together, hearing the Word proclaimed
and sharing in the Lord's Supper.***

Thank you for choosing to worship at Trinity Lutheran Topeka.

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

PRELUDE

Evangelical Lutheran Worship — Setting 3

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity...arriving soon.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin...and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of mercy,

C we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P God of might,

C we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

P God in our midst,

C we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW 254

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.
- 2 Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

GREETING

P The grace ...be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

ELW PAGE 138

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the feast

ELW PAGE 140

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray. Stir up your power...now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: MICAH 5:2-5A

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: LUKE 1:46B-55

Sung responsively



^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,

⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,

⁴⁸ **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will | call me blessed:

⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me
and holy | is your name.

⁵⁰ **You have mercy on | those who fear you,
from generation to | generation.**

⁵¹ You have shown strength | with your arm
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,

⁵² **casting down the mighty | from their thrones
and lifting | up the lowly.**

⁵³ You have filled the hungry | with good things
and sent the rich | away empty.

⁵⁴ **You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,**

⁵⁵ the promise made | to our forebears,
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 10:5-10

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go* **ELW PAGE 142**

P The Holy Gospel, according to Luke, the first chapter.

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

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-55

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

PASTOR BARBARA JONES

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257

Verses 1, 2, 4, 7, & 8

Please stand for the last verse.

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.

Refrain

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

6 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite

Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO THE CONGREGATION

Presentation of New Members

APOSTLES CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

ELW PAGE 127

Address and Questions

P In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

R I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P People of God, do you promise to support and pray for Jeffrey and Troy in their life in Christ?

C We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Welcome

P Let us welcome these brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

C We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

THE PRAYERS

A As we prepare for Emmanuel, ...that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

A God our uniter,...Lord, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

P Savior of the nations,...in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Let us greet one another with God's peace.

Please be seated.

MEAL

OFFERING AND OFFERING SONG

ELW 181

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

A Let us pray. Creator God...Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **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...join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW PAGE 144

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW PAGE 145

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Please be seated.

We invite all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior to share with us in Holy Communion. Grape juice is available as an alternative to wine as well as gluten-free wafers. Everyone is invited forward to receive communion or a blessing. Hands cupped open indicate an openness to receive communion; hands closed reflect a desire to receive a blessing.

Everyone who goes to the Altar for communion will be viewed on camera. Should you prefer not to have your image recorded, please stay in your seat and tell an usher you would like to have communion served to you in your pew.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW PAGE 146

COMMUNION HYMN

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

ELW 265

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame: "All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady." Gloria!
- 2 "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee; thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady." Gloria!
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said. "My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name." Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: "Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

Please stand as you are able.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body...keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray. Generous God,...feed the hungry in your name.

C Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P God of endings and beginnings,...bless and keep you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW 267

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel

C Thanks be to God. Our worship has ended. Now our service begins.

POSTLUDE

Please join us for coffee and refreshments downstairs in Fellowship Hall immediately after worship.

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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OFFICE HOURS

10:00AM-3:30PM, Monday through Thursday

Together in Community

Living with Christ

Caring for Neighbors

Living with Christ's Love

As Lutherans, we believe that we are justified by faith alone through the grace of God (*Ephesians 2:1-9*). As our namesake Martin Luther made clear, we are both sinners and saints as we live our lives of faith. Together as Christians, we are called to allow God into our lives everyday and to do our best to live according to Christ's love. We do this through being a community of faithful that welcomes all people to join us in prayer, service, study, and worship as we journey together in learning how to live out the Great Commandment.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President Diane Bottorff

Vice-President Curt Lewis (Maintenance)

Secretary Shelley Andrews (Administration)

Parker Jackson (Administration)

Steve Luoma (Community Relations)

Carol Marker (Spiritual Care)

Dean McGinnis (Congregational Life)

Janelle Meredith (Community Relations)

Duane Pomeroy (Spiritual Care)

Treasurer Bob Kobbeman