



Trinity Lutheran Church



December
29
2024
First Sunday
of Christmas

Together
in Community
Living
with Christ
Caring
for Neighbors

And let the peace
of Christ rule in
your hearts, to
which indeed you
were called in the
one body. And be
thankful.

Colossians 3:15

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.

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

Christmas Lessons and Carols with Reflections from Martin Luther

Luther's reflections are drawn from Martin Luther's Christmas Book as translated and edited by Roland H. Bainton, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2017. Original edition copyright 1948 W. L. Jenkins. Used by permission of Westminster John Knox Press.

L Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

C By day and night he shines for all to see.

L Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

C that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

L God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

C so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

L Jesus is the light of the world.

C Jesus is the light of our lives.

L Sing to God a new song!

C A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

OPENING PRAYER

A The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

A Let us pray.

C Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. Amen

The assembly may be seated for the offering.

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

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.
- 2 Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.
- 3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. True man, yet very
God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens ev'ry load.
- 4 O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe; O Savior, king of glory,
who dost our weakness know: bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of
heaven and into endless day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray. God with us:...your holy name.

C Amen.

FIRST READING: LUKE 2:1-7**SHELLEY ANDREWS**

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

LUTHER'S REFLECTIONS ON THE BIRTH OF JESUS**LORETTA HOERMAN**

Behold Christ lying in the lap of his young mother. What can be sweeter than the Babe, what more lovely than the mother! Look at the Child, knowing nothing. Yet all that is belongs to him, that your conscience should not fear but take comfort in him. Doubt nothing. Watch him springing in the lap of the maiden. Laugh with him. Look upon this Lord of Peace and your spirit will be at peace. You will see how great is the divine goodness, which seeks above all else that you should not despair.

Trust him! Trust him! Here is the Child in whom is salvation. To me there is no greater consolation given to mankind than this, that Christ became man, a child, a babe, playing in the lap and at the breasts of his most gracious mother. Who is there whom this sight would not comfort? Now is overcome the power of sin, death, hell, conscience, and guilt, if you come to judge this gurgling Babe and believe that he is come, not to judge you, but to save.

(Martin Luther's Christmas Book, p. 33)

CAROL

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
- 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.

SECOND READING: LUKE 2:8-16

BOB HORTON

⁸Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

LUTHER'S REFLECTIONS ON THE SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS

SHELLEY ANDREWS

Look at the shepherds. They were watching their flocks by night, and an angel came and made them apostles, prophets, and children of God. This is a great miracle that the shepherds should have believed this message. They might easily have thought to themselves, "Are we two shepherds worthy that the whole host of

heaven should be marshaled for us and all the kings on the earth and the dwellers in Jerusalem be passed by?" I know I would have appealed to common sense and I would have said: "Who am I compared to God and angels and kings? It is an apparition." But the Holy Spirit, who preached through the angels, caused the shepherds to believe. They were so strong in the faith that they were worthy to be spoken to by angels and to hear every angel in heaven singing a cantata just for them. This is a pure wonder that enters not into the heart of man. Our God begins with angels and ends with shepherds. Why does he do such preposterous things? He puts a Babe in a crib. Our common sense revolts and says, "Could not God have saved the world some other way?"

(Martin Luther's Christmas Book, pp. 36, 40)

CAROL

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

ELW 282

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
- 3 And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!
- 4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

THIRD READING: MATTHEW 2:1-12**LORETTA HOERMAN**

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

LUTHER'S REFLECTIONS ON HEROD AND THE WISE MEN**BOB HORTON**

When the Wise Men received the divine revelation that the king of the Jews was born, they made straight for Jerusalem, for, of course, they expected to find him at the capital in a lordly castle and a golden chamber. Where else would common sense expect to find a king? But because they were so sure of themselves, the star left them. Then they were sorely tried, and had they relied solely on human wisdom, would surely have said: "Confound it! We have come all this way for nothing. The star has deceived us. The devil has led us by an apparition. If a king had been born, would he not be in the capital and in a palace? But when we come, the star disappears and we find no one who knows anything about him. Can it be that we foreigners should be the first to have news of him in the royal city? Everyone is so cold and unfriendly that no one offers to go with us and show us the child. They do not believe themselves that to them a king is born, and shall we come and find him? How desolate for the birth of a king! If a puppy were born there would be some little stir, and here a king is supposed to be born and everything is so still. Should not the people be singing, capering, lighting lamps and torches, bedecking the streets with roses and mayflowers? What a miserable king we are seeking! What fools we have been to let ourselves start on this quest!" Nature wants to feel and be certain

before believing, but grace will believe before she feels. Faith steps gaily into the darkness, trusting simply in the Word. But having come, they decided to inquire of the king before returning. At their report, Herod the king “was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.” Why was Herod terrified and all Jerusalem with him? He had good reason to be afraid because he had tyrannized over the Jews for thirty years. Now Herod had a crafty plan. “The Jews,” thought he, “will hide the truth from me, but I will find out the town where this king is to be born and also the time, and then if they hide him, I will catch him anyway. I will kill so many babies that he cannot escape.” So he called the scribes to him and said, “Where is Christ to be born?” Then perhaps through fear, the scribes answered him that in the Prophet Micah it is written that He should be born in Bethlehem.

(Martin Luther’s Christmas Book, pp. 50-52)

CAROL

The First Noel

ELW 300

1 The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

3 And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

4 This star drew near to the northwest, o’er Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

5 Then entered in those wise men three, full rev’rently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

Text: English traditional

FOURTH READING: JOHN 1:1-5, 14-18

SHELLEY ANDREWS

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

LUTHER'S REFLECTIONS ON THE WORD MADE FLESH

LORETTA HOERMAN

Let us, then, meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies. I would not have you contemplate the deity of Christ, the majesty of Christ, but rather his flesh. Look upon the baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify man.

Inexpressible majesty will crush him. That is why Christ took on our humanity, save for sin, that he should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor he should console and confirm.

This is the word of the prophet: "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6). This is for us the hardest point, not so much to believe that He is the son of the Virgin and God himself, as to believe that this Son of God is ours. That is where we wilt. Truly it is marvelous in our eyes that God should place a little child in the lap of a virgin and that all our blessedness should lie in him. And this Child belongs to all mankind. God feeds the whole world through a Babe nursing at Mary's breast. This must be our daily exercise: to be transformed into Christ, being nourished by this food. Then will the heart be suffused with all joy and will be strong and confident against every assault.

(Martin Luther's Christmas Book, pp. 33, 16)

- 1 Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.
- 2 Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race, and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore.
- 3 This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord, whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word; now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord evermore and evermore.
- 4 Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring evermore and evermore.
- 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be: honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory evermore and evermore! Amen.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite

NICENE CREED

A Let us confess our faith in the words of the 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, 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.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

- A It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.
C **Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**
A In his light, draw all to the manger
C **to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**
A In his light, draw all to the manger
C **to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**
A In his light, draw all to the manger
C **to sing for joy with the angels.**
A In the brightness of his life
C **cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**
A It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.
C **In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

- L Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
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.**

BLESSING

- L Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
C **Praise God, all creatures here below!**
L You are the shepherds telling the story.
C **We tell it in the streets and across the land.**
L You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.
C **We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.**
L You are the angels announcing peace.
C **We live with joy and go now in peace.**
L Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

ELW 288

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
- 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

DISMISSAL

A Glory to God in the highest!

C And peace to God's people on earth!

A Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

C Thanks be to God. Our Worship has ended, now our service begins!

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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

Together in Community

We are a faith community brought together to worship God and to be of service to the needs of the world as the Great Commandment is our guide in our lives (*Matthew 22:36-39, Mark 12:29-31, and Luke 10:26-27*). We are a congregation that seeks to reach all those in our county with members spread throughout Topeka area, while being rooted in Historic Old Town. In our faith, we hope to be a symbol of Christ's love in the world (*John 15:12*), to be a community of support and care (*Galatians 6:2*), and to proclaim the good news that Jesus Christ came to be a Savior for all people (*Colossians 1:13-14*).

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

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Vice-President Curt Lewis (Maintenance)

Secretary Shelley Andrews (Administration)

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