



E piphany

Trinity Lutheran Church



*The Golden Rule*

February  
**23**  
2025  
7th Epiphany

Together  
in Community  
Living  
with Christ  
Caring  
for Neighbors

Do to others  
as you  
would have  
them do to  
you.  
Luke 6:31

[www.trinitylutherantopeka.org](http://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.***  
*Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit  
guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and  
divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift  
of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.*

PRELUDE

***Evangelical Lutheran Worship — Setting 4***

**GATHERING**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Please stand as you are able.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity...our wellspring of life.

**C Amen.**

P Trusting that God receives our words...let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Merciful God,

**C you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

P God proclaims these words of assurance:...live anew as beloved children of God.

**C Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

*All Creatures, Worship God Most High!*

ELW 835

- 1 All creatures, worship God most high! Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright; sing, sister moon and  
stars of night: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and grain:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Dear sister water, useful, clear, make music for your Lord to  
hear: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong, drive far the shadows, join the throng:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Dear mother earth, so rich in care, praise God in colors bright  
and rare: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 4 All who for love of God forgive, all who in pain and sorrow grieve: Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Christ bears your burdens and your fears; still make your song amid  
the tears: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 5 And you, most gentle sister death, waiting to hush our final breath: Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom, fair is the night that  
leads us home. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part, and worship God with humble heart:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! All creatures, bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in  
One: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. Composite. Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

**GREETING**

P The grace ...be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord*

**ELW PAGE 147**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

*This is the feast*

**ELW PAGE 149**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A O Lord Jesus,...now and forever.

C **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

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**WORD**

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**FIRST READING: GENESIS 45:3-11, 15**

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40

*Sung responsively*



- <sup>1</sup> Do not be provoked by | evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.
- <sup>2</sup> **For they shall soon wither | like the grass,  
and like the green grass | fade away.**
- <sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the LORD | and do good;  
dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.
- <sup>4</sup> **Take delight | in the LORD,  
who shall give you your | heart's desire.**
- <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust | in the LORD,  
and see what | God will do.
- <sup>6</sup> **The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light  
and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.**
- <sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.  
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in | evil  
schemes.
- <sup>8</sup> **Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.**
- <sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall | be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.
- <sup>10</sup> **In a little while the wicked shall | be no more;  
even if you search out their place, they will | not be there.**
- <sup>11</sup> But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land;  
they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.
- <sup>39</sup> **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O LORD;  
you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.**
- <sup>40</sup> You, O LORD, will help them and | rescue them;  
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you | they  
seek refuge.

**SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-38, 42-50**

**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 151**

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

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

**GOSPEL: LUKE 6:27-38**

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

**PASTOR BARBARA JONES**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Build a Longer Table*

**ACS 1062**

*Please stand for the last verse.*

- 1 Build a longer table, not a higher wall, feeding those who hunger, making room for all. Feasting together, stranger turns to friend, Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.
- 2 Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail; where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail. For any place where justice is denied, Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.
- 3 Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence. Love protects all people, sparing no expense. When we embrace compassion more than fear, Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.
- 4 When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad, Christ became our doorway to the reign of God. So must our tables welcome those who roam. None can be excluded; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984. Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

**APOSTLES CREED**

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

**ELW PAGE 127**

**THE PRAYERS**

A With the Spirit of Christ...and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

A Surprising God,...God of grace,

**C hear our prayer.**

P We give thanks....God of grace.

**C hear our prayer.**

P We entrust our prayers to you...your promise is revealed among the people.

**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.*

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**MEAL**

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**OFFERING AND OFFERING SONG** **ELW 188**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER** *Please stand as you are able.*

A God of grace,...now and always.

C **Amen.**

**FIRST COMMUNION** *see insert*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** *The Lord be with you* **ELW PAGE 152**

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 153**

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** **ELW PAGE 154**

**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 154**

**COMMUNION HYMN** *In All Our Grief* **ELW 615**

1 In all our grief and fear we turn to you. O God, you know all that we think or do, you know the pain we put each other through.

*Refrain*

Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, grant us peace.

2 Help us to put aside the angry word, the clenching fist, the wish and will to hurt. Teach us the way in which love best is served. *Refrain*

3 You did not even spare your only Son. He lived our griefs and bore all evil done, but through his cross, redemption has been won. *Refrain*

4 God, when we suffer all that we can bear, then let us know that you in truth are near and will not leave us lost in all our fear. *Refrain*

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993. Text © 1991 GIA Publications Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*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. Nourishing God,...In the name of Christ we pray,

**C Amen.**

P Gracious God, ...comfort of your abiding presence.

**C Amen.**

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**SENDING**

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**BLESSING**

P The Spirit of the triune God...and send you in love.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**                      *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*                      **ELW 608**

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.

See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

*Refrain*

"Come home, (Come home,) come home! (come home!)

You who are weary, come home." Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling,

"O sinner, come home!"

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me?

*Refrain*

3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me

Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.

*Refrain*

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909

**DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Live in hope.

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

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**POSTLUDE**

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



## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Website: [trinitylutherantopeka.org](http://trinitylutherantopeka.org)

### OFFICE HOURS

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

**Together in Community**

**Living with Christ**

**Caring for Neighbors**

### **Caring for Our Neighbors**

Jesus commands us that when we care for the least of these; that we are in the presence of Christ (*Matthew 25:44-45*). As a congregation, we deeply care about serving those in need in our community. We hope to be a place of refuge and support for our neighborhood and to be a place to uplift those people that struggle around us. We also support ministries both local, national, and global as a church in the ELCA. As a congregation, we focus our efforts to partner with community organizations like Doorstep, while expanding opportunities to help our neighborhood through activities like our food ministry and community garden. We continue to be open to the ways that God calls us to be a presence in our community and to create a world where all are cared for in our society (*Philippians 2:4*).

### **CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

**President** Diane Bottorff

**Vice-President** Curt Lewis (Maintenance)

**Secretary** TBD

Shelley Andrews (Administration) Marilyn Heckman (Community Relations)

Parker Jackson (TBD) Steve Luoma (Administration)

Dean McGinnis (Congregational Life)

Janelle Meredith (Community Relations) Duane Pomeroy (Spiritual Care)

**Treasurer** Bob Kobbeman