



Trinity Lutheran Church

...they shall name him
Emmanuel, which
means, "God is with us"

December
21
2025

4th Sunday of
Advent

Together
in Community
Living
with Christ
Caring
for Neighbors

Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:20-21

www.trinitylutherantopeka.org

We are glad you are here!
It is always good to be together, hearing the Word.
Thank you for choosing to worship at Trinity Lutheran Topeka.
Thank you, Duane Pomeroy, for leading worship today.

PRELUDE

Evangelical Lutheran Worship — Setting 3

GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **C Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come

ELW 263

- 1 Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth: God has chosen such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood, but the mystic Breath of God,
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of woman, blossom fresh.
- 3 Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—from his throne, a virgin mild!
Very God, and Mary's son, eager now his race to run!
- 4 From God's heart the Savior speeds, back to God his pathway leads;
out to vanquish death's command, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version. Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Advent Four:

P We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent stands for the coming of our Lord. The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall be named Emmanuel (God Is With Us). *Isaiah 7:14*

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C And also with you.**

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and
might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive
your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 7:10-16

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

Sung responsively



- ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
- ² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
- ³ Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
- ⁴ **O LORD | God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?
- ⁵ You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
- ⁶ **You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
- ⁷ Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
- ¹⁷ **Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.
- ¹⁸ And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
- ¹⁹ **Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

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

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

DUANE POMEROY

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257

Please stand for the final verse of the hymn.

- 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*
- 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *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*
- 5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 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 Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLES CREED

P Together with the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

A In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

A In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill, especially Parker Jackson, Shelley Andrews, Junior & Liz Utech, Martha Nemeth, and David McGinnis. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your love. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

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.

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING AND OFFERING SONG

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of five systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for
the world signs of your kingdom come. **C Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

A O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way
through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to
the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be
honor and glory forever. **C Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P 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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

P May God who comes among us, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, grant us
patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and
always.

SENDING HYMN

All Earth Is Hopeful

ELW 266

- 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last! Furrows lie open for God's
creative task: this, the labor of people who struggle to see how God's truth and
justice set ev'rybody free.
- 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell: "A virgin mother will bear
Emmanuel"; she conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth restores
hope and courage to children of this earth.
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared; new highways opened, new
protocols declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All clear
ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!
- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib. This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see our Jesus is with us, and ever
sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946. Spanish text © 1993 and English text © 1995
Centro de Pastoral Liturgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TRINITY	
Today, Dec. 21	Worship..... 10:30 AM Coffee Hour..... after worship
Mon., Dec. 22.....	Stroke Support Group 6:00 PM
Wed., Dec. 24.....	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service..... 4:00 PM
Sun., Dec. 28.....	Children's Sunday School..... 9:45 AM Worship..... 10:30 AM

Worship Assistants								
Date	Acolyte	Ushers	Musician	Lector	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Worship Leader	Coffee Hosts
Dec. 21	Cindy McGinnis	Bob Horton, Curt Lewis	Mitchell Bean	LaVell Winsor	Ashley Watson & Team 1	Marcy Carlson	Duane Pomeroy	Marilyn Heckman
Dec. 24		Dean McGinnis,	Laurie Jackson	Duane Pomeroy	Ashley Watson & Team 1	Bob Horton	Pr. Deb Cantrell	
Dec. 28	Janeen Horton	Diane Bottorff, Dean McGinnis	Mitchell Bean		Ashley Watson & Team 1	Bob Horton	Marcy Carlson	Carol Marker



ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2026 immediately after worship.

If you are involved with any committees, please begin preparing your report to be included in the annual report.

Thank you!



Congregation Council at its Dec. 9th meeting recommended approval of Constitution updates as approved at the 2024 Church-wide Assembly. This action will bring our constitution in line with changes made at Churchwide. These updates will be presented for a vote to approve at our Annual Meeting January 18, 2026.



Christmas Eve

**Candlelight
Worship**

December 24, 2025, 4:00 pm



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Website: trinitylutherantopeka.org

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

President Diane Bottorff

Vice-President Curt Lewis (Maintenance)

Secretary Dean McGinnis (Congregational Life)

Shelley Andrews (Administration)

Marilyn Heckman (Community Relations)

Parker Jackson (TBD)

Steve Luoma (Administration)

Duane Pomeroy (Spiritual Care)

Treasurer Bob Kobbeman