

...AND IF YOU CAN KEEP IT FOR A DAY, WHY NOT ALWAYS?

KEEPING CHRISTMAS, HENRY VAN DYKE

Trinity Lutheran Church



December
28
2025

1st Sunday of
Christmas

Together
in Community
Living
with Christ
Caring
for Neighbors

Get up, take
the child
and his
mother, and
flee to Egypt
Matthew 2:13

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, Marcy Carlson, 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

Love Has Come

ELW 292

1 Love has come—a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

2 Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

3 Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.
 Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
 Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas; Love! Love! Praise to you, God on
 high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950. Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP) c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody
 Road, Mobile, AL 36695

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.

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 63:7-9

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. ⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully,” and he became their savior ⁹in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 148

Sung responsively



¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
who commanded, and they | were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**

⁷Praise the LORD | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;**

⁹mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;

¹²**young | men and maidens,
old and | young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.

¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all |
faithful servants,**

the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 2:10-18

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." ¹³And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." ¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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 second chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:13-23

¹³Now after the magi had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸"A voice was heard in

Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,²⁰“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.”²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

MARCY CARLSON

HYMN OF THE DAY

What Child Is This

ELW 296

Please stand for the final verse of the hymn.

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!
- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

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 Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. We pray especially for Shelley Andrews, Junior & Liz Utech, Martha Nemeth, and David McGinnis. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of compassion, you nurture children with care. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God of joy, we ask your blessings on Karen Arney, Brett Henry, and Adeline Klamm as they celebrate their birthdays, and on Janice Greenlee as she remembers her baptism. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones. Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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 six systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features a steady harmonic accompaniment with some melodic lines in the right hand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

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

Go Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

DISMISSAL

A Glory to God in the highest!

C And peace to God's people on earth.

POSTLUDE

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TRINITY

Today, Dec. 28 Children’s Sunday School..... 9:45 AM
 Worship..... 10:30 AM

Sun., Jan. 4.....Doorstep Food Collection Day
 Hymn Sing Along 10:15 AM
 Worship..... 10:30 AM
Mike & Shelley Andrews 50th Wedding Anniversary 11:30
 Congregational Life meetingNoon

Worship Assistants

| Date | Acolyte | Ushers | Musician | Lector | Altar Guild | Assisting Minister | Worship Leader | Coffee Hosts |
|---------|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Dec. 28 | Janeen Horton | Diane Bottorff, Dean McGinnis | Mitchell Bean | Diane Bottorff | Ashley Watson & Team 1 | Bob Horton | Marcy Carlson | Carol Marker |
| Jan. 4 | Braxdon Penry | Marcy Carlson, Curt Lewis | | Shelley Andrews | Janice Greenlee & Team 2 | Ted Murphy | Parker Jackson | |



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 Churchwide 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.



Mike & Shelley Andrews would like to invite you to join us for our Anniversary reception as we remember and celebrate 50 years of marriage.

- ◆ Sunday, January 4, 2026 from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm (or later)
- ◆ Trinity Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall

No gifts please, but please come willing to share your memories with us, of our shared history together. Thanks for the memories!



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

725 SW Buchanan St. • Topeka, Kansas 66606
Phone: 785-233-0767 • Email: office@topekatlc.org
Website: trinitylutherantopeka.org

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 Dean McGinnis (Congregational Life)

Shelley Andrews (Administration)

Marilyn Heckman (Community Relations)

Parker Jackson (TBD)

Steve Luoma (Administration)

Duane Pomeroy (Spiritual Care)

Treasurer Bob Kobbeman