



*Lent 2026*

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

**YOU MUST  
BE  
BORN AGAIN**

*John 3:1-17*

**March  
1**

**2026**

**2nd Sunday  
of Lent**

**Together  
in Community  
Living  
with Christ  
Caring  
for Neighbors**

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

John 3:16

**[www.trinitylutherantopeka.org](http://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, Curt Lewis, for leading worship today.*

**HYMN SING ALONG**

<i>Our Father, We Have Wandered</i>	<b>ELW 606</b>
<i>God, Whose Almighty Word</i>	<b>ELW 673</b>
<i>In the Cross of Christ I Glory</i>	<b>ELW 324</b>
<i>Beautiful Savior</i>	<b>ELW 838</b>

***Evangelical Lutheran Worship — Setting 3***

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**GATHERING**

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**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**

*O, Love, How Deep*

**ELW 322**

- 1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, beyond all thought and fantasy, that God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake!
- 2 God sent no angel to our race, of higher or of lower place, but wore the robe of human frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.

- 3 For us baptized, for us he bore his holy fast and hungered sore; for us temptation sharp he knew; for us the tempter overthrew.
- 4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his daily works he wrought, by words and signs and actions thus still seeking not himself, but us.
- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed, for us, in crown of thorns arrayed, he bore the shameful cross and death; for us he gave his dying breath.
- 6 For us he rose from death again; for us he went on high to reign; for us he sent his Spirit here to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
- 7 All glory to our Lord and God for love so deep, so high, so broad; the Trinity whom we adore forever and forevermore.

Text: Thomas á Kempis, 1380-1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819-1885, alt.

**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 God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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.*

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**WORD**

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**FIRST READING: GENESIS 12:1-4A**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” <sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 121**

*Spoken responsively*

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD will not let your foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup> the LORD watches over you;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will preserve you from all evil  
and will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

**SECOND READING: ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17**

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. <sup>16</sup>For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father

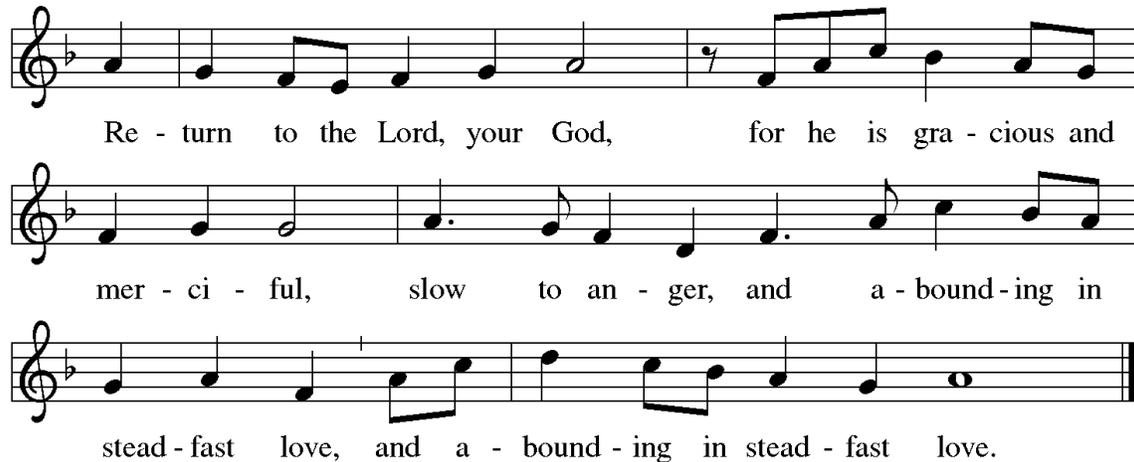
of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P The Holy Gospel, according to John, the third chapter.

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

**GOSPEL: JOHN 3:1-17**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who de-

scended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

L The Gospel of the Lord.  
*Please be seated.*

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

CURT LEWIS

HYMN OF THE DAY

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

ELW 803

*Please stand for the final verse of the hymn.*

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
- 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

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 Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

A Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss especially Charlotte O'Brien, Shelley Andrews, Junior & Liz Utech, Martha Nemeth, and David McGinnis. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Guiding One, you watch over our lives. Grant blessings to Ben Carlson and Adeline Klamm as they remember their baptisms. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**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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## THANKSGIVING

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### 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.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

A O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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.**

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**SENDING**

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**BLESSING**

P Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always.

**SENDING HYMN**

*On My Heart Imprint Your Image*

**ELW 811**

On my heart imprint your image, blessed Jesus, king of grace, that life's troubles nor its pleasures ever may your work erase.

Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me, is my life, my hope's foundation, all my glory and salvation!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856-1921, alt.

**DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**C Thanks be to God**

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**POSTLUDE**

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### UPCOMING EVENTS AT TRINITY

Today, Mar. 1 .....	Doorstep Food Collection Day .....	
	Hymn Sing Along .....	10:15 AM
	Worship .....	10:30 AM
Tues., Mar. 3 .....	Quilters .....	9:00 AM
Wed., Mar. 4 .....	Lenten Midweek worship @ OSLC.....	6:15 PM
	Soup Supper .....	5:30 PM
Sun., Mar. 8.....	Adult Sunday School.....	9:30 AM
	Worship .....	10:30 AM
	PFLAG meeting.....	2:00 PM

#### Worship Assistants

Date	Acolyte	Ushers	Musician	Lector	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Worship Leader	Coffee Hosts
Mar. 1	Janeen Horton	Marcy Carlson, Dean McGinnis	Mitchell Bean	Shelley Andrews	Janeen Horton & Team 2	Bob Horton	Curt Lewis	Duane & Debbe Pomeroy
Mar. 8		Diane Bottorff, Duane Pomeroy	Laurie Jackson	Steve Luoma	Janeen Horton & Team 2	Parker Jackson	Marcy Carlson	Troy Abbott & Jeffrey Schafersman
Mar. 15	Braxdon Penry	Troy Abbott, Howard Reece	Mitchell Bean		Janeen Horton & Team 2	Marcy Carlson		Donna Allen



## 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**

### **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** Duane Pomeroy (Spiritual Care)

**Vice-President** Steve Luoma (Administration)

**Secretary** Diane Bottorff (Congregational Life)

**Treasurer** Bob Kobbeman (Administration)

Troy Abbott (Administration)      Marilyn Heckman (Community Relations)

Parker Jackson (Congregational Life)

Curt Lewis (Maintenance)      Howard Reece (Maintenance)