

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH @ SOUTH PARK

Rev. Peter Rehwaldt Ph.D., Interim Pastor
Kate Stephenson, Director of Congregational Life
Megan Duke, Office & Communications Manager
Kevin Cooper, Property & Maintenance Manager
Susan Hash-Hires, Director of Music
Edward Poston, Organist

**A PLACE OF GRACE WITH A CALL FOR ALL
TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF JESUS**



**Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 26, 2025**

**785-843-4150 | www.tlclawrence.org
1245 New Hampshire St. Lawrence, KS 66044**

P: Pastor

A: Assisting Ministers

C: **Congregation**

PRELUDE

"CHESTERFIELD" arr. Michael Burkhardt & Benjamin Culli

✠ **GATHERING** ✠

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin. 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 loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In ✠ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Build a Longer Table ACS 1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

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 ELW p. 184

Refrain

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

WHAT IS THE RECONCILING IS CHRIST PROGRAM?

✠ THE WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10

A reading from Nehemiah.

¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HYMN AND VOICES OF AN RIC CONGREGATION

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

Fred Kaan

Voices from St. Francis Lutheran Church,
San Francisco, CA

Between each stanza of the hymn, we will hear the voices of members of St. Francis Lutheran, sharing their faith in their own words and making the music of our song come alive.

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all - not just for some,
To love them as we find them and as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
In living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
Renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW p. 188



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, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 4: 14-21

P: The holy gospel according to Luke

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

God loves me, Jesus is my friend, and church is a great place to be. Amen.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

Rejoice, dear Christians,
one and all
Have you not heard God's
gracious call
Announcing God's great
blessing?
All people see a glorious
sight:
A rainbow shines with
heaven's light
God's vibrant love
confessing.

Dance and sing out;
In the stable
Spread a table
All can savor.
God proclaims a year of
favor.

The blessings God has
showered here
Now spread abroad, both
far and near.
Sing out, you heav'nly
chorus!
In bread and wine, for us
outpoured
Is grace proclaimed by
Christ our Lord
In his own dying for us.
In our trials,
Give us power
In the hour
We most need it.
We are strengthened with
the Spirit.

So let the drummer set the
beat
And lead us on with eager
feet
The path of our salvation.
God's grace alone shall be
our guide
And may we travel, side by
side
Reborn, a new creation.
Lead us, guide us
In our serving
All deserving
Your great favor
May our witness never
waver.

The captives are released
today,
The pris'ners sent along
their way,
And mourning turns to
dancing.
The brokenhearted are
made whole,
The hungry given heaping
bowls,
And outcasts enter,
prancing.
All are welcomed
To the party
With a hearty
"Peace be with you!"
Come, let God's love your
life renew!

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: ... God of grace,

C: **receive our prayer.**

P: ... Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

✠ THE MEAL ✠

CHORAL OFFERING

"The Holding Carol"

by Craig Hella Johnson

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

C: **Amen.**

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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, our duty and our joy . . .

. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ELW p. 190

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

You may commune where you are seated with the elements you brought with you, or you may come forward from the center aisle and Pastor will place, in your open hand, a wafer which you may then dip into either the silver chalice of wine or the ceramic chalice of grape juice held by the assisting minister. After you have dipped the bread into the chalice, you may return to your seat by the side aisle, or walk up to the altar and kneel for more prayer and reflection.

LAMB OF GOD ELW p. 191



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

C: Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

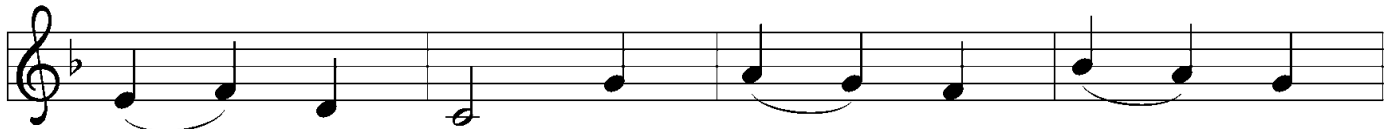
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve ELW 551



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
joy like seed and, all our days, to
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
share a dream and help the blind to see.
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice!"

arr. Johannes Matthias Michel

Assisting Minister: Scott Sponholtz

Lector: Susan Hadl

ASL: Sunnie Planthold

Cantor: Lorin Maletsky

Acolyte/Crucifer:

Children's Message: Sandy Cooper

Altar Care: Jan Dean, Tary Stayton, Mandy Sponholtz

Usher: Bob and Ruth Sarna, Virgil and Jan Dean

Livestreaming: Charles Baars

Nursery: Morgan Sponholtz, Sarah Jane Russel

Readings and Psalm: Sunday, February 2, 2025

Malachi 3: 1-4

Psalm 84

Hebrews 2: 14-18

Luke 2: 22-40



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