

**The Second Sunday After Christmas**  
**January 4, 2026**

**"Prepare the way  
for the Lord!"**

*Matthew 3:1-12*

***Welcome to All Worshippers Today***

*No matter where you come from or what you're going through,  
No matter what you believe or what you doubt,  
No matter whom you love; You are welcomed to this place  
To be met by a God who knows you by name,  
Who knows your heart and mind,  
And who wants to have a relationship with **YOU!***

**Church of the Holy Trinity**  
[HolyTrinityLincoln.com](http://HolyTrinityLincoln.com)

## Staffed Nursery for our Smallest Guests

We are excited to offer a fully staffed Nursery for our smallest guests at our 10:30 service. Feel free to entrust your children up to age 4 to our nursery staff. Then pick them up after the service.

### Prelude & Welcome

#### Processional

#### What Star is This

#### Hymn 124

*Unison or harmony*



1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beau - teous  
2 True spake the pro - phet from a - far who told the  
3 The guid - ing star a - bove is bright; with - in them  
4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im - pels us  
5 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to Christ, re -



1 than the noon - day light? It shines to her - ald  
2 rise of Ja - cob's star; and east - ern sa - ges  
3 shines a clear - er light, and leads them on with  
4 on to seek thy face, let not our sloth - ful  
5 vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly



1 forth the King, and Gen - tles to his crib to bring.  
2 with a - maze up - on the won - drous to - ken gaze.  
3 power be - nign to seek the Giv - er of the sign.  
4 hearts re - fuse the guid - ance of thy light to use.  
5 Ghost we raise our e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise.

### No Children's Chapel Today

*Celebrant*  
*People*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever.  
Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts



<sup>7</sup> For thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." <sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock." <sup>11</sup> For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            *Thanks be to God.*

**Psalm 147** *read responsively by whole verse*  
**805**

**BCP**

<sup>12</sup>But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him,  
in those who await his gracious favor.

<sup>13</sup>*Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion;*

<sup>14</sup>For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;  
he has blessed your children within you.

<sup>15</sup>*He has established peace on your borders;  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.*

<sup>16</sup>He sends out his command to the earth,  
and his word runs very swiftly.

<sup>17</sup>*He gives snow like wool;  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.*

<sup>18</sup>He scatters his hail like bread crumbs;  
who can stand against his cold?

<sup>19</sup>*He sends forth his word and melts them;  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.*

<sup>20</sup>He declares his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

**Second Reading**

**Ephesians 1:3-14**

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the

heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.

<sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

**Gradual Hymn**

*We Three Kings*

**Hymn 128**



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing  
2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,  
5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -



1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.  
5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



O ——— star of won - der, star of night,



star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,



still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

**Holy Gospel**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.'"

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

<sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**Sermon**

The Rev. Verneda Kelly

## **The Apostles' Creed**

*All stand.*

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.*

*He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.*

*He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

*He will come again 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 the People**

*Leader*           As we join the angels and celebrate with joy the  
birth of the Son of God, let us offer prayers to  
God who gives new birth to sons and daughters  
in every place, saying together:

*People*           *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

*Leader*           For those who lead and guide the Church of  
Christ; for loving care, we pray

*People*           *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

*Leader* For those who guide the nations of the earth; that  
wisdom reign, we pray  
*People* *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

*Leader* For those who seek and serve the common good;  
that justice reign, we pray  
*People* *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

*Leader* For neighbors' needs, for shelter from the storm;  
for homes of peace, we pray  
*People* *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

*Leader* For those in sorrow, anguish, and despair; that  
they find hope, we pray  
*People* *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

*Leader* For all the sick, the dying, and the dead, be life  
and grace, we pray  
*People* *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

*Celebrant* Source of light and gladness, accept the prayers  
we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow in Jesus Christ who  
unites our lives to yours and who is Lord for all eternity;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Confession of Sin** *Please kneel as you are able.*  
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Most merciful God,  
we confess that 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.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

**Celebrant** Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

**The Peace** *(please greet each other)*

**Celebrant** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** *And also with you.*

## **Announcements and Blessings**

**Offertory** *Go Tell it on the Mountain* Nancy Youngman

## **Great Thanksgiving**

**BCP 361**

**Celebrant** The Lord be with you.

**People** *And also with you.*

**Celebrant** Lift up your hearts.

**People** *We lift them to the Lord.*

**Celebrant** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that

we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**8:00am Sanctus** (*spoken*)

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

**10:30am Sanctus** (*sung*)

**Hymn S130**

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*

*Please sit, stand or kneel.*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to

you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Christ has died.*

*Christ is risen.*

*Christ will come again.*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*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.*

## **Breaking of the Bread**

*Celebrant* Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
*People* Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia

*All Christians are welcome at the Lord's Table. Follow the directions of the ushers to come forward. If you would like communion brought to you, please inform the ushers.*

*If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, please come forward and a priest will bless you and/or your kids.*

*Offering plates are placed at the front on each side so we might bring our gifts as we come forward.*



Wine and wafer packets are available. Simply take one from the tray, and then discard the packaging in the designated area when you return to your pew.



To instead receive a wafer, place your hands in front of you, slightly overlapping. The priest will place a wafer in your palm.



**Two options exist for receiving wine.**  
If you wish to use the common cup, reach out and guide the large chalice to your mouth.



If you wish to dip your wafer in the wine, hold it in front of you, and then dip your wafer in the small chalice.

## Closing Prayer

*God of abundance,  
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
you have united us with Christ and one another;  
and you have made us one  
with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world  
and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.*

## Blessing

### Closing Hymn

### As With Gladness

### Hymn 119



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;  
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man - ger - bed;  
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man - ger rude and bare;

1 as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;  
2 there to bend the knee be - fore him whom heaven and earth a - dore;  
3 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,

1 so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.  
2 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek the mer - cy - seat.  
3 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ! to thee, our heaven - ly King.

## Dismissal

*Deacon* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia,  
Alleluia.

*People* Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## Serving Today

### **Greeter/Ushers**

#### **8am**

Mary Graft  
Wade Graft

#### **Lectors 8am**

John Schomerus  
Marcia White

#### **Chalice 8am**

Rev. John Long  
Rev. Verneda Kelly  
Marcia White

#### **Greeter/Ushers**

#### **10:30am**

TBA  
TBA

#### **Lectors 10:30am**

Beth Davidson  
John Andrews

#### **Altar Guild**

Babette Dickinson  
Gina Fountain

#### **Chalice 10:30am**

Cheryl Hejl  
Rev. John Long  
Rev. Verneda Kelly  
TBA  
TBA  
TBA

#### **Coffee Shepherd**

Liz Johnson

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## **Thank You ALL for an Amazing Christmas Eve**

We had four services for Christmas this year – three on Christmas Eve and one in Dinka on Christmas Day. Altogether we had almost 500 people participate. Many were first time visitors. All got to experience God's grace and love here at Holy Trinity. YOU ALL made that happen. Thank you!





Please help yourself to a poinsettia at  
the back of the church



**Breaking News – Diocese Invests  
\$70,000 into Holy Trinity for 2026!**

For the second year in a row, the Bishop Clarkson Foundation has awarded Holy Trinity a grant to help us reach the next generation. They have seen all the things that God is doing here and wants to be part of it too.



**Women's Group "Meet and Mingle"  
January 10, 2026**

We invite all the Ladies of the parish to a fun morning at our **Women's Group "Meet and Mingle"** on **Saturday, January 10, 2026, from 9:30 – 11:00am in the Parish Hall.** This casual gathering is a wonderful chance to get to know other women in our parish community and enjoy good conversation. Come and enjoy a fun activity, hot drinks, and pastries as you mingle and chat.

All women college age and up are warmly invited to attend. Child care will be provided, so feel free to bring the little ones along.

A sign-up sheet will be available in the hallway, or you can RSVP to Ann Reese (402-416-2771) or Mary Jo Tietjen (402-560-4880). We look forward to seeing you there!

**Annual Meeting of the Parish  
Sunday, Jan 25, 2026  
at 9:15am  
In the Parish Hall**

8:00 Worship Service

9:15 Annual Mtg

10:30 Worship Service

We are having our annual meeting again in late January. It's a time for us to look back on 2025 and look forward to God's call in 2026. Here's the plan:

1. We'll have two services on January 25<sup>th</sup> at the usual times.
2. Our annual meeting will be held during the usual Sunday School hour between the services. We will start at 9:15am in the Parish Hall. This will allow people from both services to participate if they desire. There will be Sunday School for grades K-5 in the Undercroft at that time. The Nursery will be staffed as well.

We will be reviewing our Annual Report for 2025 and electing new vestry and delegates for the new year.

***Annual report article submissions are due electronically to Nicole, [nicoles@htlnk.org](mailto:nicoles@htlnk.org), no later than January 5<sup>th</sup> at noon in order to be printed in the Annual Report.***



**Need a prayer?** Text or call the Holy Trinity Prayer Chain (531) 280-8515 or Email [holytrinityprayer10@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinityprayer10@gmail.com) to ask for immediate prayers or become involved in our prayer chain.

Prayer requests for Holy Trinity's prayer chain will include them on our list for a total of two weeks. Please help keep us updated.

**This week we pray for:** Wesley and family; Marcia W.; Cheryl & Sam; Gabby; Corey K; Bryan; Lisa; Emilie; Kelly; John A.; Myles; Cheryl; David; Lori; Kameron; Lloyd; Julie S; Rod B; Lisa; Shannon; Don; Sara; Carrie C; Amy; Alessa; Jim; Paul, Ward, Lynn, Kevin; Pat H.; Sergio; JoAnn, Deana, Natalie, Mary T., Lindsey; Kacie and her small children; John C.; Amy; Sabrina; John B & family; Wade; George; Joseph; Bob B; Tami; Lucy, Aaron; Charlene; Marlene P.; Josh; Opal S.; Shawn; Richie F; Ann H.; Dow C.; Donna; Jackie H; Christopher; Tom H; Madison.

**In Thanksgiving we pray for January Birthdays** 1 Jacob Nhial Guut Amool, 1 Jacob Manyang, 1 Mary Riak, 1 Maya Stieren, 3 Christian Sherer, 4 Deng Deng, 4 Eloise Everett, 7 Rev. Helen Goltl, 7 Fran Rouzee, 8 Casey Jurczewsky, 9 Layna Bernt, 9 James Walbridge, 10 Kaeden Meyer, 10 Aaron White, 11 Scott Dostal, 12 Kok Dneg, 12 Amy Whittington, 14 Jann Horeis, 17 Mary Jo Tietjen, 18 Manyiel, 18 Lucy Winter, 19 Terry Edwards, 24 Apat Malou, 25 Tracy Atteberry, 25 Ann Hudson, 26 Tammy Schomerus, 28 Suvi St. Pierre, 28 Dana Visger, 29 Mary Fuller

**Sun Jan 4, 2026**

8am Coffee Hour (PH)  
 8am Holy Eucharist (S)  
 9:15am His Story (MR)  
 9:15am No Sunday School  
 10:30am No Children's Chapel  
 10:30am Holy Eucharist (S)  
 10:30am Livestream Service  
 1:30pm Dinka Language  
 Communion (S)

**Mon Jan 5, 2026**

9:30am Exercise Class (PH)  
 6pm EFM (MR/PH)  
*12pm Deadline for Annual Report  
 Submissions*

**Tue Jan 6, 2026**

12pm AA (U)  
 6:30pm Community Bells  
 8pm Tues AA (U)

**Wed Jan 7, 2026**

9:30am Exercise Class (PH)  
 12pm Al Anon (MR)  
 6pm Adult Bells (BR)  
 7pm Occasionally Hilarious  
 Rehearsal (PH)

**Thu Jan 8, 2026**

12pm Thursday AA (U)  
 1pm Bridge (PH)

**Fri Jan 9, 2026**

Youth Group Retreat  
 8:30am Organ lessons (S)  
 9:30am Exercise Class (PH)  
 7:30pm Friday night AA (U)

**Sat Jan 10, 2026**

Youth Group Retreat  
 9:30am Woman's Ministry (PH)

**Sun Jan 11, 2026**

All day Youth Group Retreat  
 8am Coffee Hour (PH)  
 8am Holy Eucharist (S)  
 9:15am His Story (MR)  
 10:30am Children's Chapel (CC)  
 10:30am Holy Eucharist (S)  
 10:30am Online Livestream  
 Service  
 1:30pm Dinka Language  
 Worship (S/PH)  
 1:30pm Sudanese Sunday  
 School (MR)

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*PH-Parish Hall**S-Sanctuary**MR-Memorial Room**CC-Children's Chapel**OR-Oasis Room (downstairs)**CR- Choir Room (downstairs)**U-Undercroft/Downstairs**BR-Bell Room*

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Find updated calendar of  
 events

**Holy Trinity Episcopal Church |  
 Calendar**