

Preparing for The King

MATTHEW 3:1-12



TRINITY
Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP | December 28, 2025

SONG OF GATHERING & PREPARATION

The people of God always sang as they ascended the hill in Jerusalem up to the temple to worship (see Psalms 120-134). We, as well, prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies for worship by singing about the God we serve.

No Longer Slaves

CALL TO WORSHIP | John 5:33-40 (ESV)

We read God's Word, the Bible, together. It reveals to us who God is and what He expects of us.

You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. Not that the testimony that I receive is from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

We pray together praising God for who He really is (Adoration) and admitting our inability to live up to what He expects of us (Confession).

ASSURANCE OF PARDON | Revelation 1:5-6 (ESV)

We read God's Word together and are reminded that mercy and grace are freely given to all who have faith in Jesus Christ.

And from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace for us in Jesus by giving generously to the work of His church and the kingdom of God.

In Christ Alone

PRAISE & CELEBRATION

Our response to God's free grace is celebratory worship. We express our praise to God for who He is and what He has done for us.

Gratitude

King Of Kings

CONFESSION OF FAITH

As an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ in solidarity with his people, we declare the substance of what we believe.

From the Heidelberg Catechism:

Q. 128. **What does your conclusion to this prayer mean?**

A. For the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever” means: We have made all these petitions of you because, as our all-powerful king, you are both willing and able to give us all that is good; and because your holy name, and not we ourselves, should receive all the praise, forever.

Q. 129. **What does that little word “Amen” express?**

A. “Amen” means: This shall truly and surely be! It is even more sure that God listens to my prayer than that I really desire what I pray for.

COMMUNITY KIDS’ DISMISSAL (Infants -Kindergarten)

Please see your child’s check-in name tag for class assignment.

GREETING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

We express in prayer our gratitude to God for what He has done and ask Him to continue to act for our good and the good of others in our community and world.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD | Tony Myers, *Shepherding Pastor*

A small portion of God’s Word is explained to us and applied to our lives and circumstances.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING | Mercy Fund Offering

We express in prayer our gratitude to God for what He has done and ask Him to continue to act for our good and the good of others in our community and world.

SONG OF RESPONSE

We respond to the good news of God’s mercy and grace by singing again of His goodness and greatness.

Abide

BENEDICTION

Because the hand of God’s wrath was raised against Jesus, we now receive the hand of God’s blessing as we are sent out to live our lives to the glory of God.

May the LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn His face toward you and give you His peace,
both now and forevermore. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE & SERMON OUTLINE

Proclamation of God's Word

Text: Matthew 3:1-12 (ESV)

Title: Preparing for The King

Teacher: Tony Myers

1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” 4 Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 10 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

INTRO: When have you had an ‘event’ in your life that required planning?

THE PREPARATIONS (vv.1-6)

Repentance & Baptism

THE FRUIT (vv.7-10)

Do Not Presume

THE PROMISE & THE WARNING (vv.11-12)

Spirit & Fire

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD, the sovereign King, for He is God Most High and Emmanuel, God with us. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for His Presence and His grace to prepare a place with Him for all who trust in His saving grace.
2. How have you lived unprepared and presumptuous toward God's grace and mercy? Confess your prideful trusting and boasting in your own efforts, asking Him to forgive you and remind you of your desperate need for His rescue and His righteousness.
3. Give thanks to Jesus, the promised King, who humbly entered into history to seek and save you. Praise Him for His work of conquering the world, the flesh, and the devil that we might be eternally His.
4. Who do you know who is perhaps playing with fire by delaying a reckoning encounter with Jesus? Ask the Lord to help them to see that His kindness is intended to draw them to repentance and that the "axe" is laid to the root of every person's tree (See Mt. 3:10).
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you the fruit of repentance, that you would have a true sense of your sinfulness, an apprehension of God's mercy in Christ, grief and hatred for your sin, a true turning to God, and a Spirit-granted resolve toward new obedience.

Upcoming *events*



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

December 24, 4:00p & 5:30p

Livestream at 5:30p

Contact the church office for details.



Retirees Prayer Luncheon

January 8, 12p

Contact John Tucker at

jtuckerdc@gmail.com for details.



Middle School Winter Retreat

January 9-11

Contact Bud Daniel for details.

Scan the code to register.



The Weekender

February 6 & 7

Contact Ashley Coleman for details.

Scan the code to register.



High School Winter Retreat

February 20-22

Contact Bud Daniel for details.

Scan the code to register.



Upcoming *events*

We're officially back to ONE SERVICE!

December 28 at 10:30a.

*We will return to two services on **January 4 at 9:00 & 10:45a.***

Contact the church office for details.

RESOURCE LIBRARY



Come explore our freshly revamped Resource Library, nestled in the cozy lounge between the children's wing and the church offices! 📖✨

We've stocked the shelves with free booklets and books on all the things: marriage, parenting, spiritual growth, evangelism, real-life practical topics, counseling, and so much more.

The best part? Everything is FREE.

Take one for yourself, grab one for a friend, or snag a few for your next coffee-and-conversation moment.

Got an idea for something we should add? We're all ears! And be sure to check back each month. We'll be rotating in new goodies all the time.

Pastor Tony Myers & The Shepherding Team

Interested in Serving?

Scan the code below to be added to our database, weekly announcement emails and for information on areas where you can serve at Trinity.

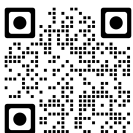


Follow Us! @TrinityLakeland

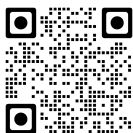


The Compass And Map Podcast

Now streaming on *Apple Podcasts* and *Spotify*.



Apple



Spotify

Community Bible Reading

communitybiblereading.org

December 29, 2025 - January 3, 2026

(3-year plan: read [blue](#) passages | 1-year plan: read [all](#))

Monday	Matthew 27 Ecclesiastes 10	1 Samuel 23 Psalm 146
Tuesday	Matthew 28 Ecclesiastes 11	1 Samuel 24 Psalm 147
Wednesday	Matthew 28 Ecclesiastes 12	1 Samuel 25 Psalm 149-150
Thursday	Luke 1 1 Samuel 26	Genesis 1 Song of Solomon 1
Friday	Luke 2 1 Samuel 27	Genesis 2 Song of Solomon 2
Saturday	Psalm 53	Psalm 1 Psalm 105

Scripture Memory for the Week:

Matthew 3:3 (ESV)

3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday | 8:30a - 5:00p & **Friday** | 8:30a-12:00p

Sunday Worship | 9:00a & 10:45a

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Mission

A city transformed: Loved by God the Father, saved by Jesus His Son, empowered by His Spirit, called by God to reach our city with His love.