



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

December 21, 2025

52 El Rio Drive,
Alamosa, Colorado

Senior Pastor: Jason K. Cody
Parish Nurse: Joette Eyser
Church Office: (719) 589-4611
Annie Nissen: TLC School Director
School Office (719) 937-2150
tlcalamosa.net

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Learning as we worship: (watch for the *** for explanations of the reasons we practice certain parts of the Divine Service):*

+ God Removes our Sin and Guilt +

*** *The reason for public confession and absolution is not to drag us down reminding us of sin, but in order that when we gather in the presence of Almighty God we may be honest about our lives and not justify our sins before the face of God who sees all things, including our hearts. When we confess sins, it is not simply for the purpose of confession, although we do receive great blessings in confessing sins. It is ultimately for the purpose of leading us to the perfection and righteousness of Jesus Christ. We stand before God and come boldly to His throne of grace, not because we are able to live perfect lives, but rather, because of our Lord's perfection, given us in our baptism. Therefore, confession and absolution reminds us that our righteousness is not our own, but is the righteousness of another, namely Jesus of Nazareth crucified and risen for the forgiveness of all our sins. His forgiveness inspires us to forgive others in Christ.*

Pastor's Welcome

Special Piano Music

Charlotte Lind & Eli Wehe

***Please stand if you're able*

Welcome Hymn

361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

+ God Comes to Us in His Holy Word +

Introit

Psalm 130:5–8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence.
I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the
morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is
steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.

And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence.

*** The term “Kyrie” is a Koine (Common) Greek word that means “Lord”. This is arguably one of the oldest parts of the our church service, dating back to the 2nd century AD and probably before. Think about it, the Kyrie was probably something the 12 the disciples said with Jesus when He was with them. Amazing!!

Kyrie

LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

***Please be seated*

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Children’s Sermon

The Children are invited to the altar

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 24; antiphon: v. 7

¹The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,
²for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.

³Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?

⁴He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false

and does not swear deceitfully.

5He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
6**Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

7Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

8**Who is this King of glory?**
**The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!**

9Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

10**Who is this King of glory?**
**The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory! Amen.**

Epistle

Romans 1:1–7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

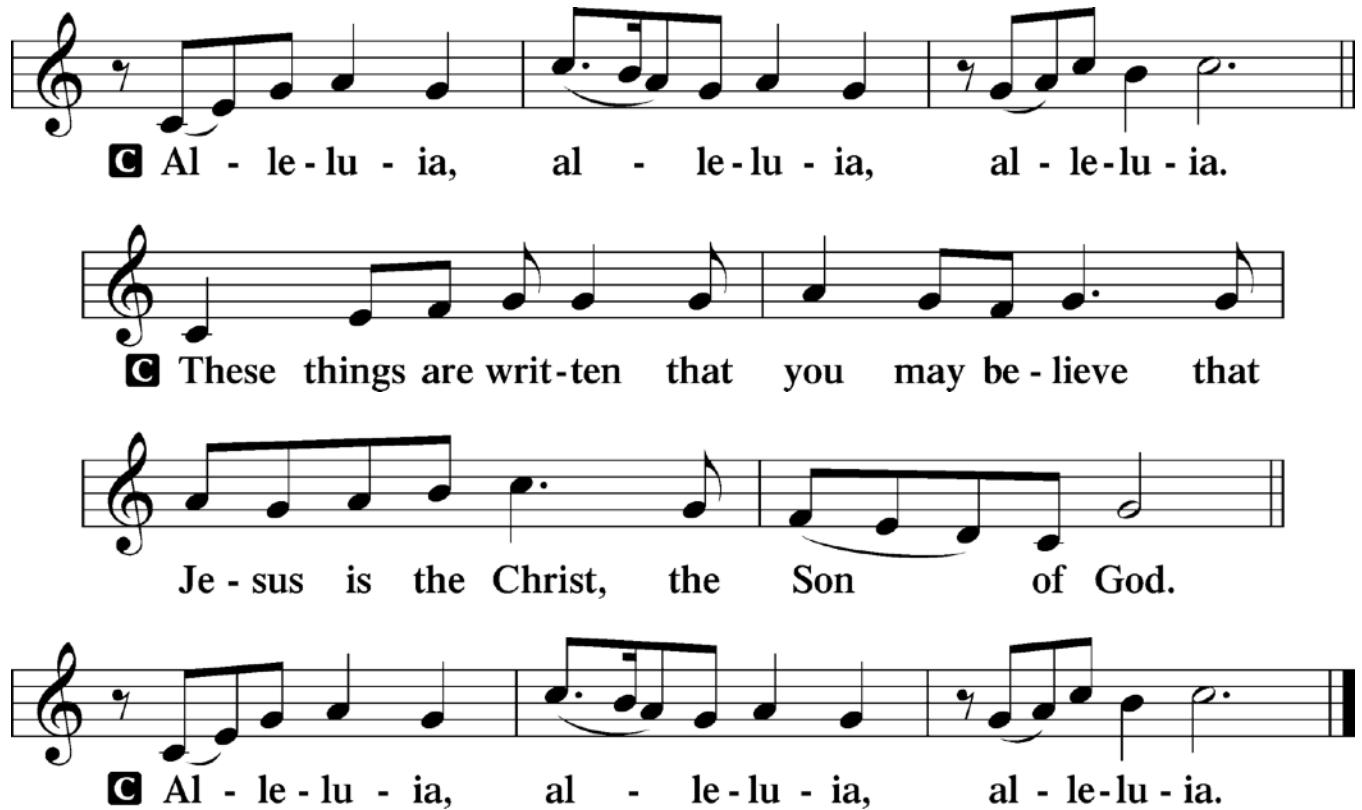
C **Thanks be to God.**

***Please stand if you're able*

****The reason we stand for the reading of the Holy Gospel is
simply to show reverence and respect for God's Holy Word when it*

is read. We read the Gospel reading from the center of the Nave in order to help us remember God's Word is with us in our Lord Jesus. Through His Word and Spirit He promises to be with us always.

Alleluia and Verse



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

C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his

wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

****We confess the creeds; Nicene, Apostle's and Athanasian creeds, not only to state what we believe together, but also to learn by repetition. So often it is challenging to know what to say when someone ask you about your faith. The creeds along with Scripture give us something to commit to memory so that we are ready to give an answer when someone asks us the reason for the hope that is in us.*

Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life + everlasting. Amen.**

***Please be seated*

Sermon Hymn

368 Angels We Have Heard on High

***Early Lutheran Christians understood that when they were looking for an answer to a question or problem in their lives, the best place to get the answer to was to attend Church and listen to the sermon.

Sermon

Pastor Jason K. Cody

Prayer of the Church

From the altar

***In the early church the gifts were brought forward to the altar, and were often not coins or currency, but crops, wool, butter, cheese, etc. Among these gifts were also the unleavened bread and wine to use in the Holy Sacrament for that day! Church fellowship is about living life together! What a blessing it is to share a portion of the things God has blessed us with, with one another in Christ!

Offering

Organist Instrumental

+ God Comes to us in His Holy Sacrament +

***FROM THE PASTOR: Greetings, dear brothers and sisters in Christ! Jesus Himself won the right for you to take the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. However, Holy Scripture gives us very specific teachings about when it is proper for a person to commune, and when it is not. If you are not already a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod or have not spoken with me, please kindly refrain from communing with us today. If you are not communing this morning, you are welcome to remain comfortably in your pew and use the time for personal prayer. If you would like to come forward to the altar and not commune, please cross your arms across your chest, as a sign that you are not communing, and I will gladly pray with you at the altar. Thanks for being here! Remember Jesus won us the right to commune, but since it was His hard work, let's respect His teaching on when we should and when we should not commune.

**Please stand if you're able

Preface

LSB 208

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 Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus,” confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

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.

***These sacred words of our Lord Jesus, “The Words of our Lord” or “The Words of Institution” (also known in Latin as the Verba), are meant to be heard and simply believed with all our heart! Many false teachings confuse the simplicity of our Lord’s Words here. God said “let there be light and there was light.” If the Lord says “this is my body or this cup is the new testament in My blood” then it’s true. We don’t have to understand how it’s possible to*

believe. We don't understand how He created light in Genesis, yet we see because of it. The same performative reality of God's spoken and creative Word exists here in the Holy Sacrament! Amazing!

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, O Lord, we pray.
Have mer - cy on us, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

**Please be seated

***The distribution of the Holy Sacrament is the high point of the Divine Service!!! When we are blessed to receive the very life of God into our own bodies, forgiveness, eternal life, all the fruits of our Lord's cross and resurrection, in with and under the bread and wine. Something to notice is that the liturgical structure of the service matters greatly because it builds up to this sacred point in the service! What a blessing!!

Distribution Hymns

336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

970 Jesus, Name above All Names

**Please stand if you're able

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

The musical notation consists of five staves of music in common time, treble clef, and B-flat key signature. The lyrics are written in a Gothic script font, aligned with the musical notes. The lyrics are as follows:

C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant go.
2 All glory to the Father, to the Son,
and to the Spirit, for ever and ever.
A light to lead the people.
to Your holy hill, the God's glory.
people sound, Your Through cho all, sen e -
vant ther, glo - ry to the Son, For All I glo - ry seen to the the
deem - ing grace: Three in One;
Gen gin - tiles ning, Un Is
The glo - ry of Your name re -
Is - ra - el.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

****Even if we miss the rest of the church service we should still come to hear the Benediction. Within the Benediction is the blessing of God! In Biblical Hebrew the emotions are described by expressions of the face. For example the emotion "angry" in Hebrew is literally "a hot nose." Knowing this helps us understand the Benediction even more! When God's called servant announces to the congregation that God "makes His face shine upon you" it is showing us how He feels towards us in Christ. We have His approval!! He is not angry, but is pleased with us! What a blessing!*

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

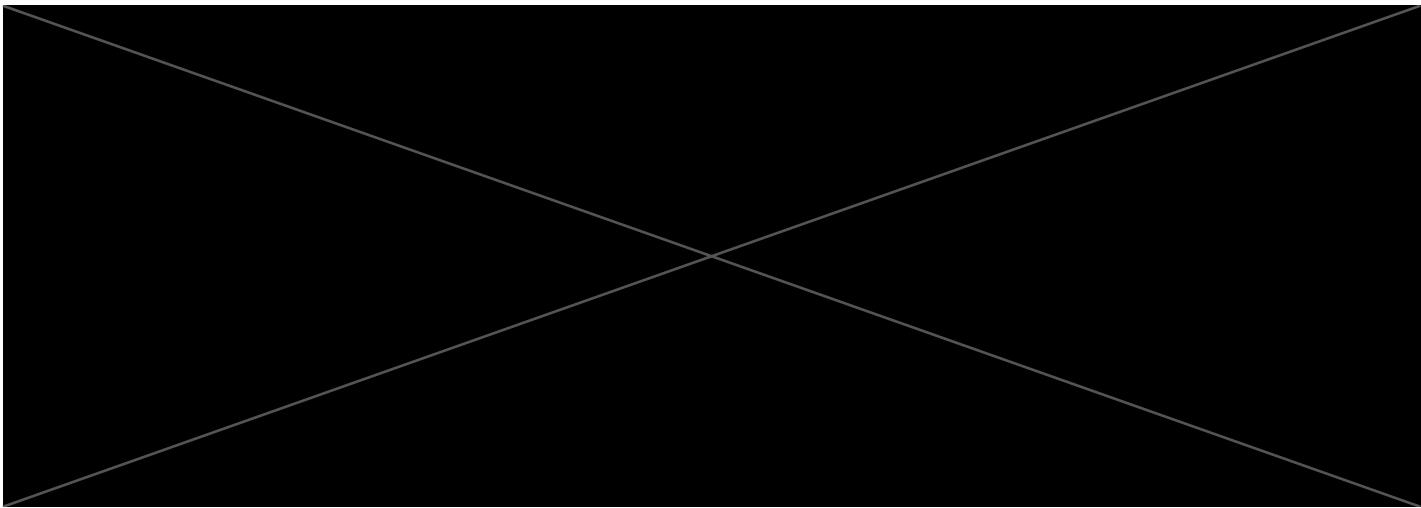
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Organist Allen Stolp



Serving in the military:

UNITED STATES NAVY - Chris Keller

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE - Thaddaeus Cody

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE - Kaylin Rice

Important Announcements:

Dec. 24th @ 6:30pm Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 25th @ 10am Christmas Day Service

A gift over \$100 to Trinity Lutheran School qualifies you for the child care tax credit. You will receive up to 50% back in CO taxes. There is \$5000 in matching funds.

TLC Finances:

	November thru 24th	Fiscal Year 25/26
Giving	14,314.33	81,844.55
Expenses	18,069.24	85,557.80

Christian Marriage and Family Counseling Resources:

Focus On the Family Christian - (855) 771-4357
christiancounselorsnetwork.com

Grace Point Institute @ www.relationalhealth.org

Cross Life Ministries - www.aorhope.org/counseling

ReStory Counseling - www.restory.life 1 (855) RESTORY,
virtual Christian counseling for rural Colorado.

His Way Christian Counseling - www.hiswaycounselingslv.com
(719) 490-8811 or tenaj@hiswaycounselingslv.com
Virtual counseling for the San Luis Valley

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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