



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

December 14, 2025

52 El Rio Drive,
Alamosa, Colorado

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THE THIRD 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.*

***Please stand if you're able and turn and face the cross for the procession*

***During the Hymn the acolytes will light the third Advent candle*

Pastor's Welcome

Opening Hymn

346 When All the World Was Cursed

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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

+ God Comes to Us in His Holy Word +

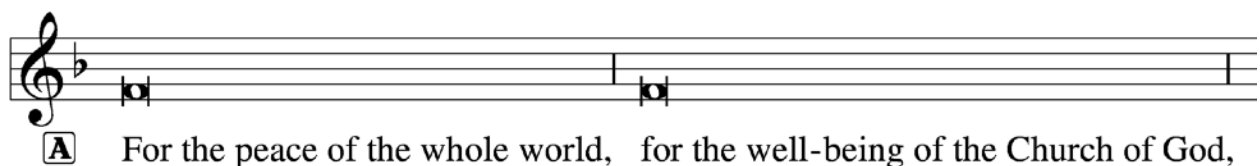
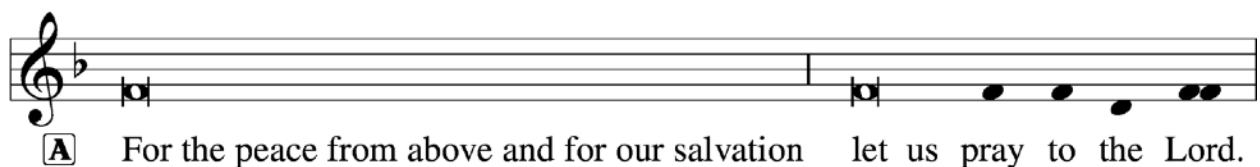
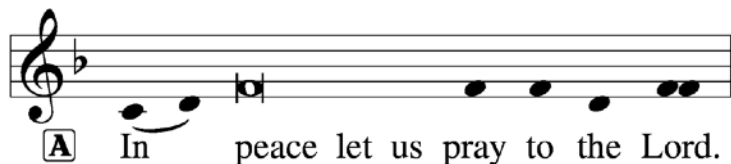
Introit

Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.
I will hope continually
and will praise you yet more and more.
My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of
salvation all the day,
for their number is past my knowledge.
With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come;
I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.
O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.
So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your
power to all those to come.
**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.**
Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.

Kyrie

LSB 152

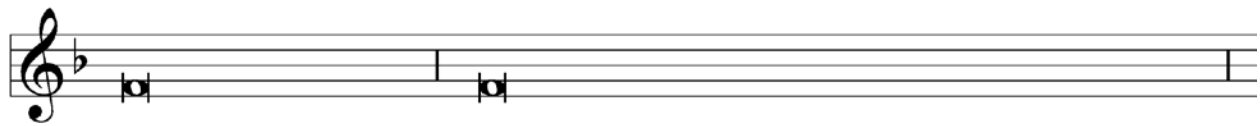




and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



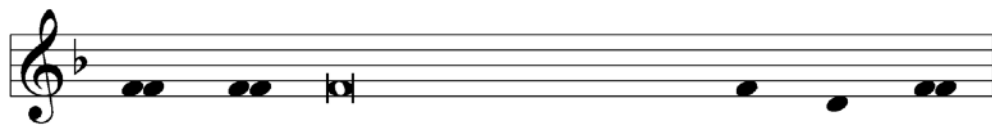
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; 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 35:1–10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
²it shall blossom abundantly

and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.
³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

James 5:7–11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

***Please stand if you’re able*

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a square icon and contains the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the". The second staff continues with "words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The melody is simple and suitable for children's singing.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

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

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor

have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

***Please be seated*

Hymn of the Day

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Sermon

Pastor Jason K. Cody

***Please stand if you're able*

Nicene Creed

**C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,**

**begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down
from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin
Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the
Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the
living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is
worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic
Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

From the altar

***Please be seated*

Offering

388 Go Tell It on the Mountain

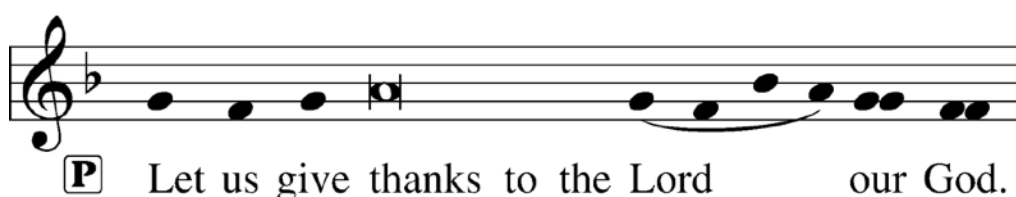
+ God Comes to us in His Holy Sacrament +

****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 160

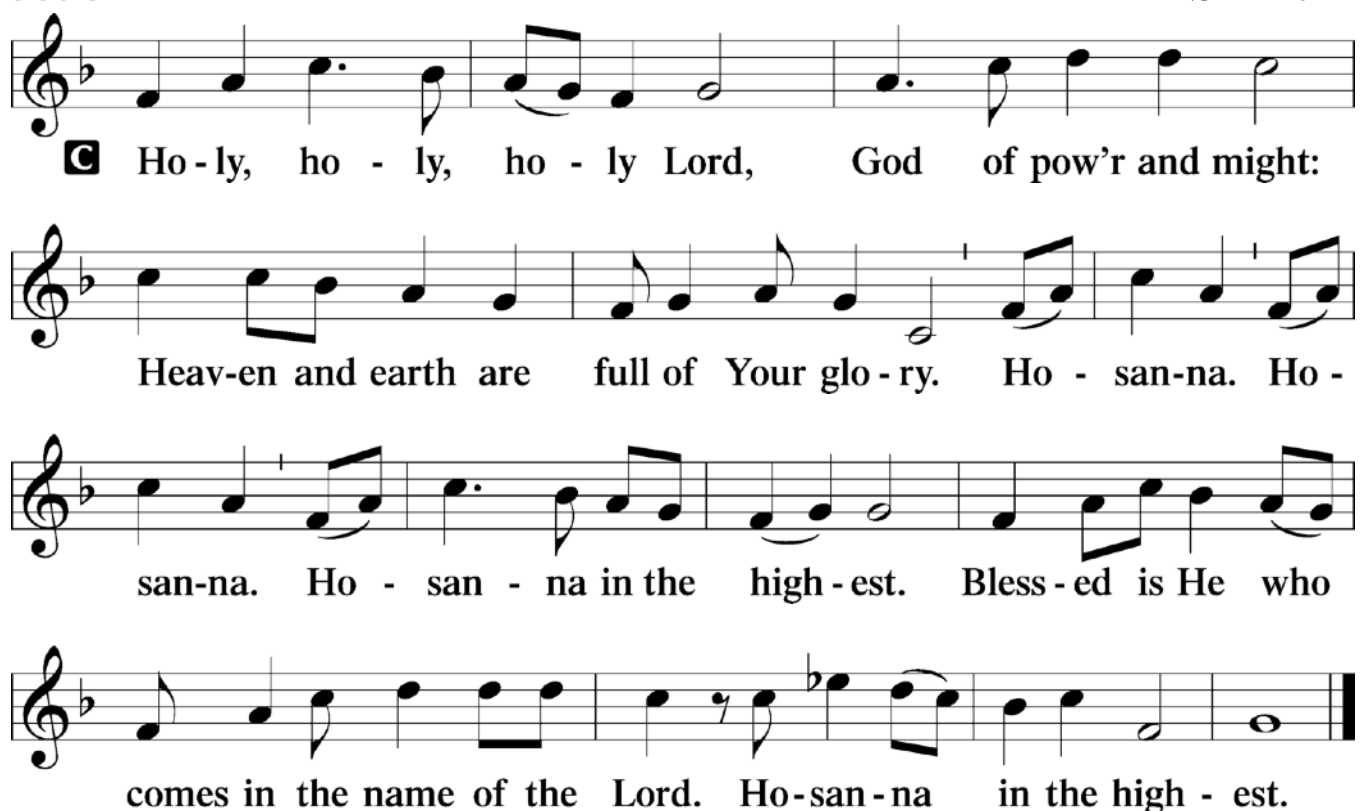




P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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 161



Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.”

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

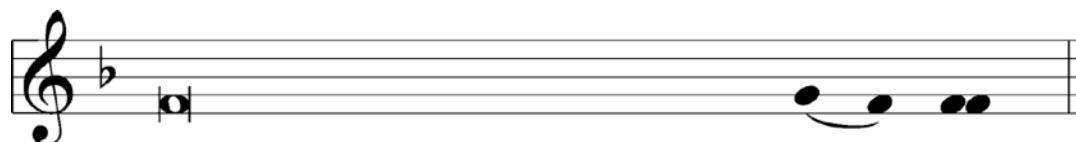
Lord’s Prayer

**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.

Pax Domini

LSB 163



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163



C 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.

*** Please be seated*

Distribution Hymns
602 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives
331 The Advent of Our King

***Please stand if you're able*

Thank the Lord LSB 164

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.

He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy

with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction LSB 166

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.

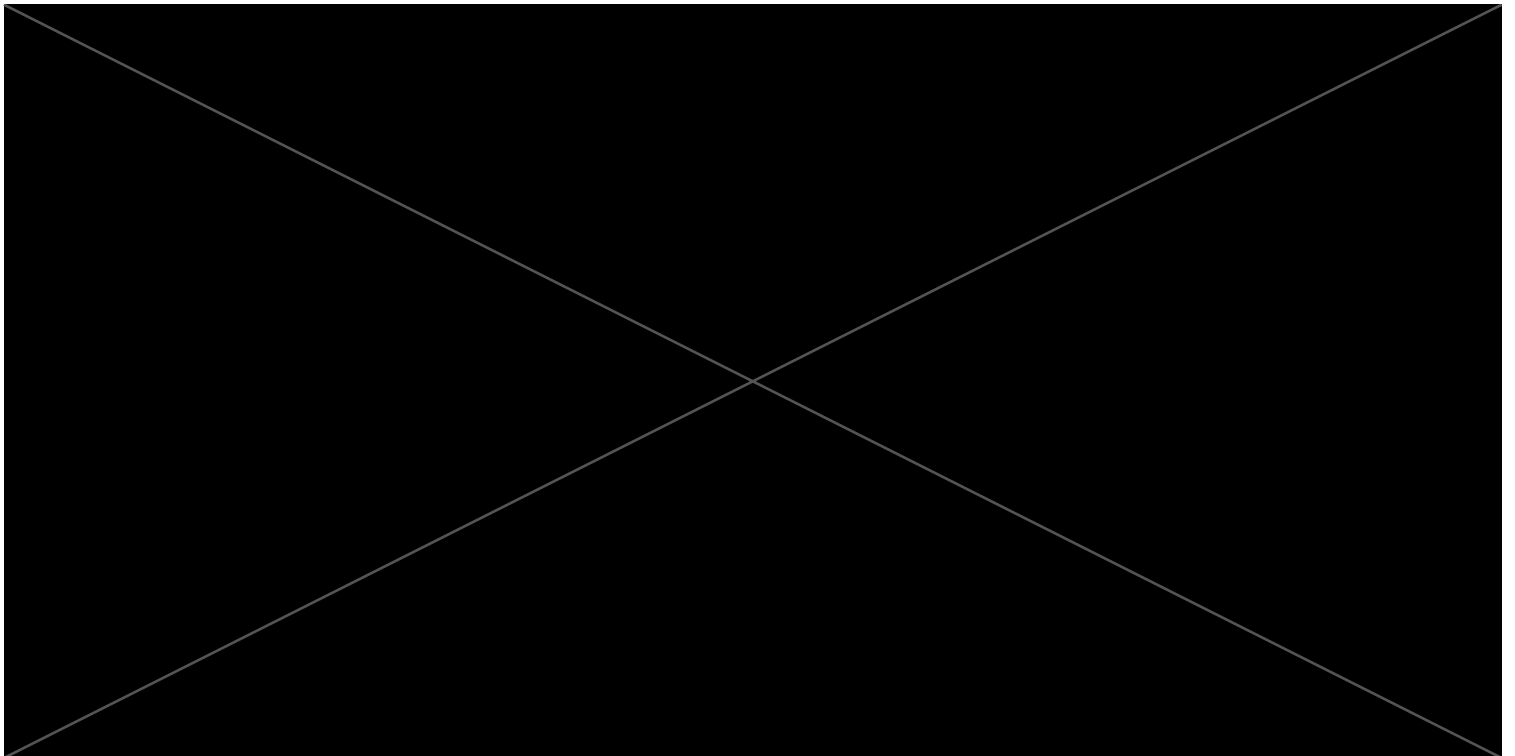


*** Please be seated*

Closing Hymn

849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Organist Allen Stolp



Important Announcements:

Dec. 17 & 18 @ 6pm School Christmas Programs

Dec. 21st we will have a Cookie Exchange for our Fellowship time!

Bring some to eat AND for others to take home.

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

Dec. 25th @ 10am Christmas Day Service

Spirit of Giving voting has begun! SLV Federal bank members can cast one vote per account. Please consider supporting Trinity in this way either online or at one of the branches through Dec. 12.

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:

	<u>November thru 24th</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 25/26</u>
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 One from Lutheran Service Book
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