



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**  
**December 21, 2025**

*Welcome to*

**A Warm Welcome in Christ to our Worship Guests!** We are glad for the opportunity to share with you the Gospel of forgiveness through Jesus. Please introduce yourself to the pastor and sign our guest book. We invite you to come worship with us again. If you would like to know more about St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church and our national organization, the Church of the Lutheran Confession, please speak with the pastor. He will be happy to call on you to share our confession and mission with you. Questions? Please speak with one of the ushers. They will happy to assist you!



## SERVICE OF THE WORD

*based on Worship Supplement 2000 (pp. 12-21)*

## Opening Prayer

**Hymn** LSB 340 (1-4) *"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"*

## The Invocation

P Welcome ... in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## Confession of Sins & Announcement of Forgiveness

P We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

**C Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.  
**C: Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy

*The Kyrie*

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

## Glory to God in the Highest

*The Gloria in Excelsis*

C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,  
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,  
Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.  
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:  
We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,  
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,  
Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.  
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.  
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

## Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray ...  
**C Amen.**

## First Lesson

*Isaiah 7:1-7, 10-14*

1 Now it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem to make war against it, but could not prevail against it. 2 And it was told to the house of David, saying, “Syria’s forces are deployed in Ephraim.” So his heart and the heart of his people were moved as the trees of the woods are moved with the wind. 3 Then the LORD said to Isaiah, “Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-Jashub your son, at the end of the aqueduct from the upper pool, on the highway to the Fuller’s Field, 4 and say to him: “Take heed, and be quiet; do not fear or be fainthearted for these two stubs of smoking firebrands, for the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria, and the son of Remaliah. 5 Because Syria, Ephraim, and the son of Remaliah have plotted evil against you, saying, 6 “Let us go up against Judah and trouble it, and let us make a gap in its wall for ourselves, and set a king over them, the son of Tabeal”— 7 thus says the Lord GOD: “It shall not stand, nor shall it come to pass. | 10 Moreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, 11 “Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.” 12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!” 13 Then he said, “Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: **Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.**

## Psalm of the Day

*Psalm 24*

P The earth is the LORD’s and all its fullness:

**C The world and those who dwell therein.**

P For He has founded it upon the seas:

**C And established it upon the waters.**

P Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD?:

**C Or who may stand in His holy place?**

P He who has clean hands and a pure heart:

**C He shall receive blessing from the God of his salvation.**

P Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors:

**C And the King of glory shall come in.**

P Who is this King of glory?:

**C The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!**

P Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors:

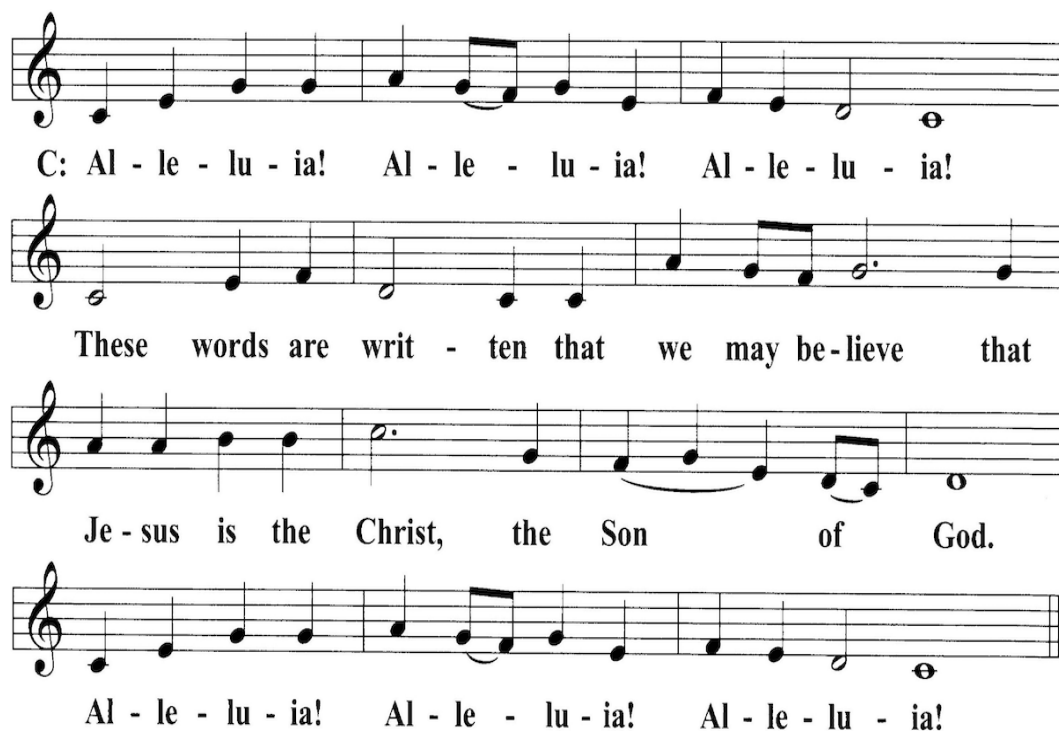
**C And the King of glory shall come in.**

## Second Lesson

*Matthew 1:18-25*

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 **“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”** 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

P: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it. Alleluia!



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

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

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## Confession of Faith

*Apostles Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

## Hymn of the Day

LSB 332 "*Savior of the Nations, Come*"

## Sermon

*Romans 1:1-7*

### ***On Earth True Peace ... By the Grace of God!***

1. God's grace sent the world the Prince of Peace.
2. True peace comes through that Prince of Peace.
3. Being at peace with God, we pursue peace with all.

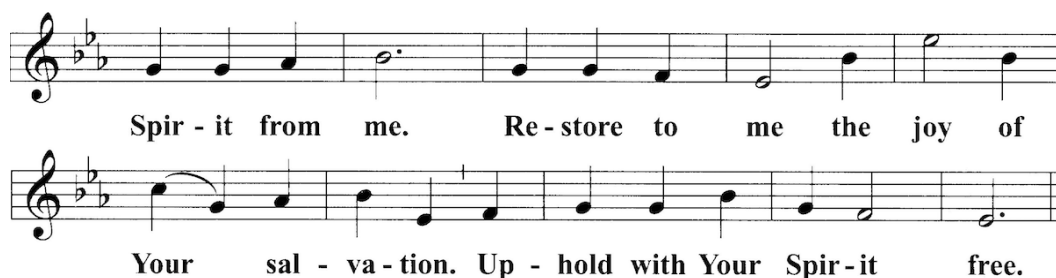
1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 **concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. 5** Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, 6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; 7 to all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: **Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Offertory



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me  
not a - way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly





## Offering of Thankful Hearts / Prayer of the Church

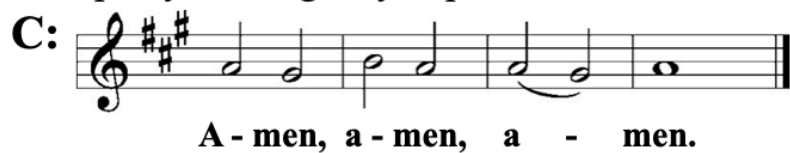
### The Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn (printed on pp. 10-11)      208 *"When Sinners See Their Lost Condition"*

### Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



### Closing Hymn

LSB 340 (5)



### This Week at St. Paul

Today (12/21)	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal
Wed.	6:30 pm	Children's Christmas Eve Service
Thu	9:30 am	Christmas Day Service
Sun (12/28)	9:30 am	Worship Service

**New Year's Eve Communion Service:** Wednesday, Dec 31, 6:30 pm

**Upcoming in January**

- Jan 4 Church Undecorating, after the service
- Jan 11 Mary/Martha Ladies Meeting, 10:45 am
- Jan 18 Church Council Meeting, 8:30 am
- Jan 25 Annual Voters Meeting, 10:45 am

**In Our Prayers:** The family and friends of Joyce Maulis who was called home to heaven by the Lord last Monday. A committal service will be held at Crown Hill Cemetery in Wheat Ridge this Tuesday, December 23, at 3:00 pm. *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever" (Psalm 23:6).*

We ask the Lord for His continuing gracious care for our fellow members Ruth Claeys, Mark Hartmeister, Pat Newton, Doug Tiefel, and Jerry Wamboldt in physical trials they are experiencing. *"I will lift up my eyes to the hills—from whence comes my help? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:1-2).*

**Spots Still Available for 2026 MHT to Africa:** The CLC Mission Helper Program is making preparations for another Mission Helper Trip to Africa for the summer of 2026. The main focus of this trip will be presenting the Gospel, through a series of child evangelism lessons, to member and non-member children in village congregations. Possible areas of evangelism include the CLC–Tanzania, CLC–Kenya, CLC–Zambia, and CLC–Uganda. CLC members are welcome and encouraged to apply. For more information and to apply, visit [www.mht.lutheranmissions.org](http://www.mht.lutheranmissions.org).

**Nominations for ILC Professor and ILC President:** The Board of Regents announces the following nominations to fill the professorship vacated by the resignation of Professor David Schaller prior to the 2025-26 academic year: Paul Krause, David Reim, David Schaller, Dan Sullivan, and David Ude. In addition, the following and only person has been nominated for the office of President of Immanuel Lutheran College: Daniel Schierenbeck. The term of the ILC President's call is for two years, extending to the end of Academic Year 2028. All comments from members of CLC congregations regarding these candidates are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight January 17, 2026 (letters postmarked January 7, 2025) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; [217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087](mailto:217_Windy_Lane_Rockwall_TX_75087); [email:jeb6217@yahoo.com](mailto:email:jeb6217@yahoo.com).

---

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New King James Version (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc., © 1982). Used by permission. All rights reserved.



## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

### December 22-27

**Mon John 1:19-28** John the Baptizer turns aside all renown from himself, that it may go instead to the One far greater “whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie” (v27). To Him must go the praise!

**Tues Philippians 4:4-7** Joy in the Lord goes together with gentleness toward others, for our hearts are not guarded by sharp words and weapons, but by the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding (v7).

**Wed Luke 2:1-14** On the night before Christmas, we remember how the Christ came quietly to Bethlehem, and was announced to unnamed shepherds at night. But the angels already knew, and rejoiced!

**Thurs John 1:16-18** “Grace upon grace” describes our God. And His grace and truth came to us through Jesus Christ. Through the only-begotten Son we learn to know the Father!

**Fri Titus 2:11-14** It is the grace of God that brings salvation to all people. This grace also trains us to say “No” to ungodliness, since He gave Himself to redeem us from all lawlessness, and to be His own people.

**Sat Isaiah 9:2-7** Joy, light, and freedom are encompassed in the promised child (v6). There will be no end to the peace that He brings, for He will be everything that His names imply!

1. When sin - ners see their lost con - di - tion and feel the press - ing  
 2. When Je - sus en - ters meek and low - ly to fill the home with  
 3. When Je - sus en - ters land and na - tion and chang - es peo - ple  
 4. When Je - sus comes—O bless - ed sto - ry— He works a change in

load of sin, and Je - sus comes on His blest mis - sion  
 sweet - est peace, when hearts have felt His bless - ing ho - ly  
 with His love, when, yield - ing to His kind per - sua - sion,  
 heart and life; God's king - dom comes with pow'r and glo - ry

to heal the sin - sick heart with - in, all grief must flee be -  
 and found from sin com - plete re - lease, then calm and joy with -  
 our hearts His truth and bless - ing prove, then shall our life on  
 to young and old, to man and wife. Through sac - ra - ment and

fore His grace, and joy di - vine will take its place.  
 in shall reign, and hearts di - vid - ed love a - gain.  
 earth be blest; the peace of God on us shall rest.  
 liv - ing Word faith, love, and hope are now con - ferred.

Text: M. B. Landstad, 1802–1880

Tune: Johann David Meyer, 1692; arr. Christian Möck, 1818

5. Then stilled are cries and lamentation,  
then loosed is Satan's ev'ry band;  
in death is hope and consolation,  
the soul is safe in Jesus' hand.  
When we shall walk through death's dark vale,  
His rod and staff shall never fail.
6. Oh, may He soon to ev'ry nation  
find entrance where He is unknown,  
with life and light and free salvation,  
that Satan's pow'r be overthrown,  
and healing to all hearts may come  
in heathen land and Christian home!

*O Sing of Christ - A Lutheran Hymnal.* Publication of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI 2024. Text and music: Public domain

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
*2470 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80214*



Pastor: Thomas Schuetze, 303-428-5524, trschuetze@yahoo.com  
President: Ed Chiappetti, 303-882-1776  
Sunday School Superintendent: Derek Barthels

Serving Us Today  
Organist Carly Mess  
Ushers Bob Rankin, Mike Sprengeler

**[www.denverlutheran.com](http://www.denverlutheran.com)**  
**Find us on Facebook at: “St Paul Ev. Lutheran Church”**  
**Member Congregation: Church of the Lutheran Confession**  
**[www.clclutheran.org](http://www.clclutheran.org)**