

**FOR THE LORD HIMSELF WILL DESCEND
FROM HEAVEN WITH A CRY OF
COMMAND, WITH THE VOICE OF AN
ARCHANGEL, AND WITH THE SOUND OF
THE TRUMPET OF GOD. AND THE DEAD
IN CHRIST WILL RISE FIRST. THEN WE
WHO ARE ALIVE, WHO ARE LEFT, WILL
BE CAUGHT UP TOGETHER WITH THEM
IN THE CLOUDS TO MEET THE LORD IN
THE AIR, AND SO WE WILL ALWAYS BE
WITH THE LORD.**

I Thessalonians 4:16-17

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

NOVEMBER 12, 2023

11:00AM

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH, CONOVER

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation with confidence in the Words of our Lord Jesus, who gives not only bread and wine but his true body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1Cor 11:27-29). Reception of Holy Communion here at Concordia is a public confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Those who are not yet baptized, instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand.

OPENING HYMN “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” 802

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father. Merciful Lord, as we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient as we wait.

C We become distracted by the things of this world that do not last, and have given our attention and even devotion to things not beneficial to our faith. Forgive us.

P As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with others.

C We have sinned against others and You in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved You with our whole heart, nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us.

P As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with You.

C We come to think the day will never come when You make all things new, and have let our earthly circumstances cause faith to waiver, despair to increase, and doubts to arise. Forgive us.

P But let justice roll down like waters,

C and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

P And so we will always be with the Lord.

C Therefore encourage one another with these words.

P In His parable, Jesus reminds His people to “watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” In our watching and in our waiting, the Lord remains faithful to His promises of provision, and assurance of grace and forgiveness. 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “O Bless the Lord, My Soul” 814



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with - in me join
2 O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mer - cies lie
3 'Tis He for - gives thy sins; 'Tis He re - lieves thy pain;
4 He crowns thy life with love When ran - somed from the grave;



And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.
For - got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness And with - out prais - es die!
'Tis He that heals thy sick - ness - es And makes thee young a - gain.
He that re - deemed my soul from hell Hath sov - 'reign pow'r to save.

Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His Bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

We sit.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Amos 5:18-24

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” Carl Mueller

EPISTLE READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

We stand.

ALLELUIA & VERSE

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

After the Gospel is read:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

We sit.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Rejoice, Rejoice Believers” **515**

SERMON “To Know For Sure” Pastor Michael Geml

We stand.

NICENE CREED

Inside back cover of LSB

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

PREFACE

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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

We sit.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“My Lord, What a Morning”

968

Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; My Lord, what a



morn-ing; Oh, my Lord, what a morn - ing, When the



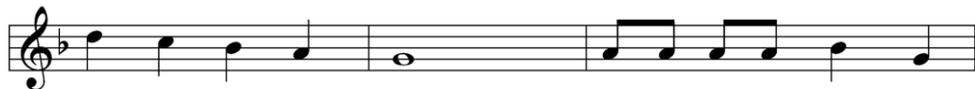
stars be-gin to fall, When the stars be-gin to fall.



1 You'll hear the trum - pet sound, To wake the

2 You'll hear the sin - ner cry, To wake the

3 You'll hear the Chris - tian shout, To wake the



na - tions un - der - ground, Look-ing to my God's right

na - tions un - der - ground, Look-ing to my God's right

na - tions un - der - ground, Look-ing to my God's right

Refrain



hand, When the stars be - gin to fall.

hand, When the stars be - gin to fall.

hand, When the stars be - gin to fall.

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“Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face”

631

We stand.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

“Jerusalem, My Happy Home”

673

POSTLUDE

