



For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:20-25

**THE LAST SUNDAY
OF THE CHURCH YEAR**

NOVEMBER 26, 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 **“Come, Thou Almighty King”** **905**

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Ezekiel 34:11; 1 Corinthians 15:27

P Let us confess our unworthiness and ask His grace and mercy.

Through Ezekiel, God said that He would “search for My sheep and will seek them out.”

C We confess that we have wandered away as erring sheep, preferring the pleasures of this world rather than the rich pastures You have provided. Forgive us, O Lord.

P Paul wrote that “God has put all things in subjection under Christ's feet.”

C We confess that we have not always been loyal subjects of our Lord, but have made decisions based on our own thoughts and desires. Forgive us, O Lord.

P Jesus foretold that He will judge people about how they treated others—the hungry, strangers, and prisoners.

C We confess that we have not always sought to share Your love and meet the needs of the people around us. We cannot

change without Your grace, mercy, and strength. Forgive us, O Lord.

P Rejoice! The One who comes to judge is the same Jesus who is the one who gave His body and shed His blood for you on the cross. He is the first to rise from death, and by His grace we shall follow Him to His eternal kingdom. 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. Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Beautiful Savior”

537

Stanza 3 – in parts

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of

God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd
 flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
 spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines
 God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -

serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.
 pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky,
 ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through 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

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“Jesu, Jesu”

Colvin/Christopherson

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

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



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

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 “Where Charity and Love Prevail” 845

SERMON “Strange Combination” Pastor Michael Geml

We stand.

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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 and sent Your only-begotten Son to be our Savior.

Gathered in His name we ask You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant that our Lord's body and blood strengthen our faith so that we reflect His love for all people and give Him all the glory. 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

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Cor. 11:26; Rev. 22:20*

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

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

“Have No Fear, Little Flock” 735

“At the Name of Jesus” 512

We stand.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

“Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service” 848

POSTLUDE