



“I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2023

11:00A

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 **“Savior of the Nations, Come”** **332**

St. 3 – women; St 4 - men; St. 6 – organ alone

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 40:1–3

P I waited patiently for the LORD;

C He inclined to me and heard my cry.

P He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,

C and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

P He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

C Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION *1 Thessalonians 5:23–24*

P That we may rejoice in the great things our forgiving God does for us, let us together confess our sins before Him.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against

You in thought, word, and deed, by what we do and by what

we fail to do. Instead of looking to Jesus and following Him in faith, we have gone astray by disobeying Your Word. Instead of giving bold witness to You, we have kept silent and withheld Your grace from others. For the sake of our Savior and King, have mercy on us. Forgive us and restore us. Guide us and renew us. Help us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.” Our faithful God hears our prayers and answers them, removing our sins from us and declaring us blameless in His sight through faith in Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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 Lord, How Shall I Meet You” 334



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?
 4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to - me.
 6 He comes to judge the na - tions, A ter - ror to His foes,



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 A light of con - so - la - tions And bless - ed hope to those



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace
 Who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come,



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.
 In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.
 Send forth Your beams so cheer - ing, And guide us safe - ly home.

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.

We sit.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

“Comfort, Comfort”

John Ferguson

EPISTLE READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL CANTICLE “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” 345



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
 △ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the

near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -
 works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text and tune: Public domain

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st 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 "When All the World Was Cursed" 346

SERMON

"Christian Light"

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, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You sent Your witness, John the Baptist, to point us toward Christ and His coming kingdom. 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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

P Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

We sit.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Once He Came In Blessing”	333
“The Night Will Soon Be Ending”	337

We stand.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

“Tell Out My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord”	935
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POSTLUDE



Sermon Notes

ISAIAH 61:3

