



Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, ' Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.' John 3:1-2

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 5, 2023

11:00AM

Concordia Lutheran Church, Conover, NC

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 **“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”** **423**

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 25:1, 2a, 4–6, 7b

P To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
C O my God, in You I trust.

P Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths.
C Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long.

P Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.
C According to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P O God, our Father, we confess that by nature, we are sinful and that in our pride, we have turned away from Your commands.

C Forgive us, Lord, for all that we have thought and said and done that is contrary to Your will and Your ways, and forgive us for all those times when we have trusted in our own righteousness instead of relying on Your grace in Christ Jesus, our Redeemer. Forgive us, Lord, for the times when we have not been good stewards of Your great creation and for those times when we have been unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray,

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

We sit.

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 12:1-9

P This is the Word of the Lord.

Pew Bible pg. 11

C **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“Psalm 121”

Deborah Governor

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

P This is the Word of the Lord.

Pew Bible pg. 1197

C **Thanks be to God.**

We stand.

GRADUAL & VERSE

Congregation:

For God so loved the world, that He gave His
 on-ly Son, that who-ev-er be-lieves in Him should not
 per-ish but have e-ter-nal life.

Choir: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Congregation: *Repeat Verse*

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

Pew Bible pg. 1129

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd 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

“God Loved the World So That He Gave” 571

SERMON

“That’s An Old One”

Pastor Michael Geml

We stand.

CREEDAL STATEMENT

The Second Article

P In the Second Article of the Creed, our confession is focused on Jesus, our Redeemer—who God in His love gave to bring us salvation and the promise of eternal life. We speak the words of the Creed:

C 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

P What does this mean?

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalms 136

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P O Lord of heaven and earth, we thank You for having sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to be our Redeemer, saving us from the power of sin, death, and the devil, and blessing our lives with lasting peace. Invited by Your grace, we come to Your Table with gratitude and joy for all Your gifts to us. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood that we grow as people of faith and peace, hope-filled and eagerly awaiting the eternal feast in glory everlasting.

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

“Lead Me, Guide Me” 721

“Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart” 708

We stand.

DISMISSAL

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN “Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer” 918

POSTLUDE