



*He who has ears to hear,  
let him hear.*

**Matthew 11:15**

## **THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 11, 2022**

**11:00AM**

Concordia Lutheran Church, Conover, NC

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We stand.*

**OPENING HYMN**      **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**      **357**  
*St. 1-2, 5-7*

## INVOCATION

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

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 100; 118:24*

P This is the day that the LORD has made;  
**C let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!  
**C Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!**

P Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.  
**C Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!**

P Give thanks to Him; bless His name!  
**C For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.  
**C Merciful Father, our Lord and King, we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we**

**ought not to have done. We have not always made Your kingdom of first importance in our lives. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we may grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.**

**P** God is gracious and forgiving. He shows His kingly power in ways that are merciful. To each of us, our Lord says, “Fear not!” and promises pardon, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I announce to you the forgiveness of all of 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

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**

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Isaiah 35:1-10**

Pew Bible page 757

**ANTHEM** “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning” arr. Helgen

**EPISTLE READING**

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**James 5:7-11**

Pew Bible page 1291

*We stand.*

**ALLELUIA & VERSE**

*Congregation*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia.

Choir: This is He of whom it is written, “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.”

**Congregation: REFRAIN**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

*We sit.*

**Matthew 11:12-15**

Pew Bible page 1037

**HYMN OF THE DAY “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” 345**

**SERMON**

“Count It All Joy”

Pastor Michael Geml

**ANTHEM**

“An Invitation for Advent”

Schram/arr. Nolan

*We stand.*

**CREED**

*The Third Article*

P The Third Sunday in Advent is a joy-filled Sunday in which we can thank God for His gracious plan for our salvation and for the Holy Spirit, who guides our lives of faith and joins us together in the community of the Church. We speak the words of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed with joyful confidence:

**C 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.**

P What does this mean?

**C I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN**

**"Hark the Glad Sound"**

**349**

**POSTLUDE**