

# **"A Candle of a Different Color"**



**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021**

**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

### "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

515



1 Re - joice, re-joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride-groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f' rings bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.  
 Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.  
 A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride-groom is at hand.  
 In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.  
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

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## INVOCATION

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

**C Amen.**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C who made heaven and earth.**

P If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P 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.**

## 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**

**Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!  
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.  
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
“Fear not, O Zion;  
let not your hands grow weak.  
The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.  
I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.  
Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
At that time I will bring you in,  
at the time when I gather you together;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes,” says the LORD.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God!**

## **ANTHEM**

“Christmas Hymn”

arr. Hugo Jüngst

While by my sheep I watched at night, Glad tidings brought an angel bright:  
How great my joy, joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high.

There shall be born, so he did say, In Bethlehem a child today:  
How great my joy, joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high.

There shall he lie in manger mean, Who shall redeem the world from sin:  
How great my joy, joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in heav’n on high.

Lord evermore to me be nigh, Then shall my heart be filled with joy!  
How great my joy, joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.

## **EPISTLE READING**

**Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

℣ This is the Word of the Lord.

**℟ Thanks be to God!**

*We stand.*

## **ALLELUIA & VERSE**

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

**℟** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

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

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

**Luke 7:18-28**

℣ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**℟ Glory to You, O Lord.**

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf

hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*We sit.*

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



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is  
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the  
near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the  
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
par - don down from heav’n. Let us haste, with  
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -  
works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!”  
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv’n;  
with His mer - cy, And with words of love draw near.  
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

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**SERMON** “A Candle of a Different Color” Pastor Michael Geml

*We stand.*

## **NICENE CREED**

**C I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life <sup>T</sup> of the world to come. Amen.**

## **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.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world You gave Your only Son, that all who believe in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

**C We give You thanks for the salvation You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with living faith as He comes to us in this Holy Supper.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **PAX DOMINI**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*We sit.*



## DISTRIBUTION

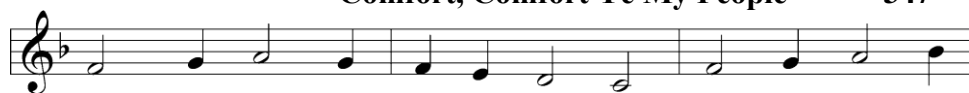
### ANTHEM

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

arr.Dobrinski

## “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

347



1 “Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace,” thus  
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each  
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert  
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing  
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no  
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the  
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,  
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her  
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her  
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys  
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”  
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

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*We stand.*

## DISMISSAL

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

## BENEDICTION

### CLOSING HYMN “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

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## POSTLUDE