



She will bear a son, and you shall  
call his name Jesus, for he will  
save his people from their sins.

# **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 18, 2022**

**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 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” 341**

## **INVOCATION**

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

**C Amen.**

## **BAPTISM OF RONALD BUMGARNER**

Holy Baptism is God's loving work for us. Through water and His Word, our God, makes an everlasting promise to us. Here He places His name on us. Here He calls Himself, “Father,” because in Baptism He claims us as His children. Here we are connected to Jesus, “the Son” who has rescued us from sin and death. The Bible teaches that in Baptism we are united with Jesus in a most special way. We are joined with Him in His death and raised anew by the power of His resurrection. Thus, God's work in Baptism forgives our sins and gives us the promise of eternal life. In Baptism, we receive “the Holy Spirit” to believe and trust this promise until we reach His welcoming arms in heaven. Thus God's work begun in Baptism is ongoing through the Holy Spirit as He daily forgives our sins, daily gives us renewal and strength to live as holy people and daily He fills us with hope to see by faith our home with God in everlasting life. Hear now

some of these promises of God expressed in His Word:

“But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.” *Titus 3: 4-8*

Remembering God’s saving of Noah through water, St. Peter points us to the saving power of Baptism:

“This water (of the flood) symbolizes Baptism that now saves you also - not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God.” *1 Peter 3: 21*

P These are the promises of the Lord.

**C We believe them and are glad to hear them again.**

Together as the Body of Christ, we will join Ronald in speaking a testimony to the gifts God gives in this sacrament. As we have already heard, God has promised the forgiveness of sins and new life for Ronald in this sacrament. Let us now profess our faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we Baptize.

P Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

**C I do renounce them.**

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

**C Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

**C Yes, 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 Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C Yes, 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.**

Ronald Bumgarner, do you desire to be baptized?

**Yes.**

Ronald Bumgarner, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit; who has forgiven all your sins; and who has adopted you as His son, strengthen you with His grace until you see His promise complete in life everlasting. God's peace go with you forever. Amen.

(A Candle is presented symbolizing Jesus, who is the light of the world)

Through Baptism God has added Ronald Bumgarner to His own people to declare the wonderful deeds of our Savior, who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

**C We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, to work with us in His Kingdom.**

The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth and forevermore. Depart in peace in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

*We stand.*

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

**“Arise, O Christian People”**

**354**

## SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*We sit.*

## ANTHEM

“Pat-a-Pan”

Hart Morris

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Isaiah 7:10-17**

Pew Bible page 727

## ANTHEM

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Bridges/Poston

## EPISTLE READING

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

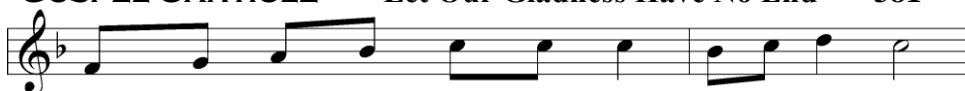
**Romans 1:1-7**

Pew Bible page 1194

*We stand.*

## GOSPEL CANTICLE

“Let Our Gladness Have No End” 381



1	Let	our	glad - ness	have	no	end,	al - le - lu - ia!
2	Proph - e -	sied	in	days	of	old,	al - le - lu - ia!
3	See,	the	love - liest	bloom - ing	rose,		al - le - lu - ia!
4	In - to	flesh	is	made	the	Word,	al - le - lu - ia!

For to earth did Christ de - scend, al - le - lu - ia!  
 God has sent Him as fore - told, al - le - lu - ia!  
 From the branch of Jes - se grows, al - le - lu - ia!  
 He, our ref - uge and our Lord, al - le - lu - ia!

*Refrain*

On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save  
 us; Christ, His Son, to save us.

Text and tune: Public domain

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Matthew 1:18-25**

Pew Bible page 1026

℟ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

℟ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*We sit.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come” 350

**SERMON** “Twas the Week Before Christmas” Pastor Michael Geml

*We stand.*

**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, who in giving Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to accomplish our salvation has fulfilled the hope of the prophets and of Your people for countless generations. We thank You for calling us to be Your people in this time and place and for inviting us to Your holy Table. Joined together in the name of our Lord and in the communion of saints, we pray You to send Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**C** Amen.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**     *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 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.**

*We sit.*

**DISTRIBUTION**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Paul McKlveen

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

**356**

*We stand.*

**DISMISSAL**

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

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

**POSTLUDE**