



"And he shall stand and  
shepherd his flock in the  
strength of the Lord"  
Micah 5:4

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**DECEMBER 19, 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

### "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
 While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.  
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
 O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
 And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!  
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

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## INVOCATION

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

**C Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Luke 1:49–51, 54, adapt.*

P The mighty Lord has done great things and holy is His name.

**C We thank You, O Lord!**

P The Lord's mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.

**C We adore You, O Lord!**

P The Lord has shown the strength of His arm.

**C We praise You, O Lord!**

P The Lord has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy.

**C We worship You, O Lord!**

## CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

*Psalms 25:6–7*

P Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

*A time of silence is observed.*

P We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not always been instruments of Your peace. Our homes have at times been places of strife and turmoil by our own fault. Even in the church sometimes we have chosen to fight rather than to make peace.

**C Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

P Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

**C according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

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 ✠ 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

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.*

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Micah 5:2-5a**

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

And he shall be their peace.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God!**

**ANTHEM****“Bethlehem Wind”**

Joseph Martin

Blow, blow, Bethlehem wind, over the hills and the valleys.  
Blow, blow, Bethlehem wind, God’s promise of love and salvation.  
Blow, blow, Spirit of Truth, carry the news of a Savior.  
Blow, blow, Spirit of God, preparing the world for God’s Son.

Blow, blow, Bethlehem wind, carry the song of the angels.  
Blow, blow, Bethlehem wind, move through the hearts of the nations.  
Blow, blow, Spirit of Hope, scatter the leaves of our sorrow.  
Blow, blow, Spirit of God, warm the whole world with your love.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**EPISTLE READING****Hebrews 10:5-10**

When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body have you prepared for me;  
in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,  
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

℣ This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God!**

*We stand.*

## ALLELUIA & VERSE

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

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

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

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

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 1:39-45**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

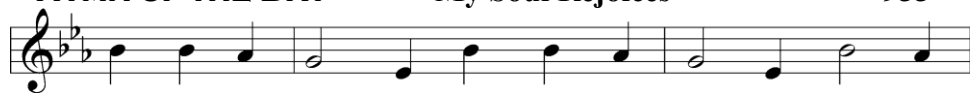
**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

*We sit.*

# HYMN OF THE DAY

## "My Soul Rejoices"

933



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

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**SERMON**

"Good Things Come"

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**

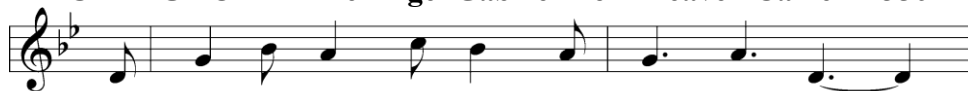
## **PAX DOMINI**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*We sit.*

# DISTRIBUTION “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” 356



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
 All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
 “To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.  
 In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
 Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 “My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”  
 And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!  
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!

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*We stand.*

**DISMISSAL**

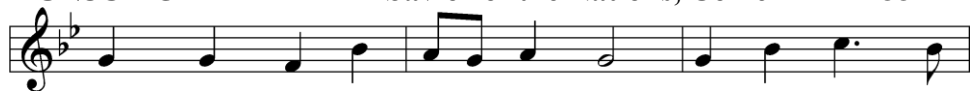
**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

# CLOSING HYMN

# “Savior of the Nations, Come”

332



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and  
 Δ 8 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther sing, Glo - ry to the



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,  
 Son, our king, Glo - ry to the Spir - it be



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
 God was there up - on His throne.  
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.  
 Now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

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# POSTLUDE