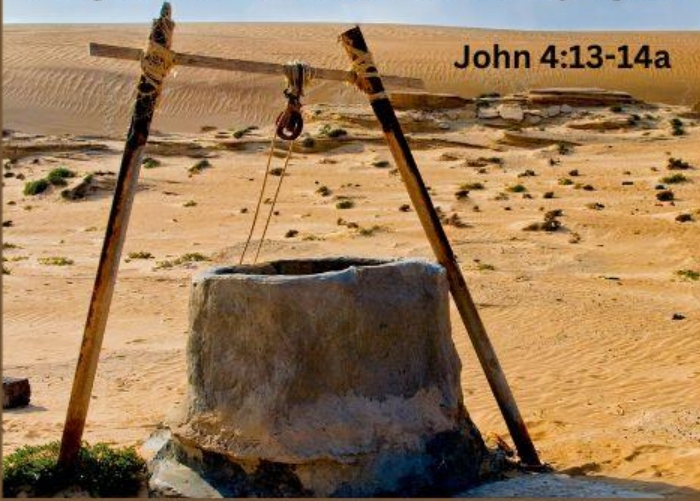


**Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again.**

**John 4:13-14a**



**THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

**MARCH 12, 2023**

**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL, 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** “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” 435

## **INVOCATION**

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

**C** Amen.

## **OPENING SENTENCES**

*Psalm 34:1–3, 5, 22*

**P** I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**C** My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

**P** Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!

**C** Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. The LORD redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

## **CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

P Almighty God, we know and admit that we are sinners. We are conceived and born sinful, and we add on to that burden of sin throughout our lives by our heedless thoughts, careless words, and loveless deeds. Indeed, we deserve God's punishment now and eternally. When we reflect honestly on our lives, we readily see that we need repentance and renewal that can only come through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Let us then make confession to our gracious God.

**C Almighty God, we repent of our sins in thought and in word and in deed. You know too well our failings and our transgressions. Be merciful to us and for the sake of Jesus, grant us Your forgiveness so that, as Your redeemed people, we may find rest in You and with refreshed hearts serve You in time and in eternity.**

P 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, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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.*

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Exodus 17:1–7**

Pew Bible pg. 75

## RESPONSIVE PSALM

**Psalm 95**

Cantor and Congregation:



Cantor:

- 1 A saving rock, a king of gods, the Lord our God, our maker—  
O sing to Him, give praise to Him, the Lord our God, our shepherd.  
The deepest rock below our feet, the mountain peaks— He rules them.  
The sea is His, the land is His; He fashioned them, He owns them. *Refrain*
- 2 O worship Him, bow down to Him, we dwell within His pasture.  
We are the sheep for whom He cares, He is our God, our shepherd.  
A saving rock, a king of gods, the Lord our God, our maker—  
O hear His voice, the time is now to hear and to obey Him. *Refrain*
- 3 A warning comes from days gone by, from Meribah and Massah.  
“The ones who saw Me save their lives— how could they seek to test Me?  
I could not stand their straying hearts— for forty years they wandered.  
They never came into My rest; they walked within My anger.” *Refrain*

## EPISTLE LESSON

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Romans 5:1–8**

Pew Bible pg. 1198

*We stand.*

## GRADUAL HYMN

## “For All the Faithful Women”

855



1 For all the faith-ful wom - en Who served in days of old,  
2 Re - call the out - cast wom - an With whom the Lord con-versed;  
3 O God, for saints and ser - vants, Those named and those un - known



To You shall thanks be giv - en; To all, their sto - ry told.  
Christ gave her liv - ing wa - ter To quench her deep - est thirst.  
In whom through all the a - ges Your light of glo - ry shone,



They served with strength and glad - ness In tasks Your wis - dom gave.  
Like hers, our hearts are yearn-ing; Christ of - fers us His Word.  
We of - fer glad thanks-giv - ing And fer - vent prayer we raise



To You their lives bore wit - ness, Pro - claimed Your pow'r to save.  
Then may our lips be burn - ing To wit - ness to our Lord.  
That, faith - ful in Your ser - vice, Our lives may sing Your praise.

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## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 4:5–26**

Pew Bible pg. 1131

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 4<sup>th</sup> 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

**“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” 849**

## **SERMON** “Is the Lord Among Us or Not?” Pastor Michael Geml

*We stand.*

### **CREEDAL STATEMENT**

*The First Article*

P As we reflect on how God intersects with His people at the crossroads of life and graciously meets their physical and spiritual needs, we speak the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed and its meaning as set forth in the Small Catechism, which relates the loving work of God the Father for us.

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

P What does this mean?

**C I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. 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.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

¶ It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And now we thank You that by the working of Your Holy Spirit through the Gospel, You have called us as Your own and given us eternal promises through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, as the perfect offering, has taken upon Himself the sins of the world and has, by His rising from the grave, opened to us the very gates of heaven. With all the company around the throne of the Lamb in His kingdom, we join the unending praises:

### **HYMN**

**“Holy, Holy, Holy”**

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!**

**Day and night we join to praise Your love and majesty.**

**You alone are holy, worthy, and righteous.**

**God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!**

**We rejoice to join the hymns Of earth and sky and sea.**

**Generations praise You, with saints and angels.**

**Holy and bless'd through all eternity.**

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### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

¶ Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for all You have done for Your people in Jesus Christ, our Lord. We thank You for all of creation and for every good gift with which You bless us. Accept our praise, Lord, and grant that all who partake of Christ's holy body and blood this day be refreshed and filled with Your heavenly peace and joy. As we receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, grant that we be sanctified in body and soul and spirit and finally be granted our place with all Your saints in glory. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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**

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”	699
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“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”	761
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*We stand.*

**DISMISSAL**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**BENEDICTION**

<b>CLOSING HYMN</b>	“What Wondrous Love Is This”	543
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**POSTLUDE**