

# **The Barren Fig Tree**



**LUKE 13:8-9**

'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

**MARCH 20, 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

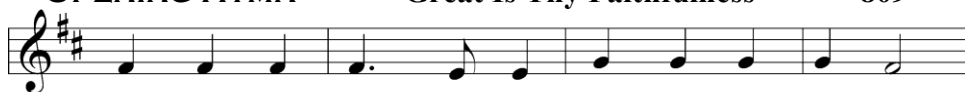
## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We stand.*

### OPENING HYMN

### "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

809



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.  
 Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;  
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Refrain*

Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Great is Thy faith-ful-ness!

Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see;

All I have need-ed Thy hand hath pro-vid-ed;

Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

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## INVOCATION

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

**C Amen.**

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for meditation and reflection.*

P O Lord,

**C we poor sinners cry to You and beg Your mercy. We confess that we have lived as if You did not matter and as if we mattered most of all. Our Lord's name we have not honored as we should; our worship and prayers have faltered. We have not loved God above all things, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done the good Your Word desires and have done the evil Your Word forbids. May God be merciful to us, forgive us all our sins, and strengthen our faith for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 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 Words; 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.**

**Ezekiel 33:7-20**

Pew Bible pg. 914

**ANTHEM** “How Deep the Fathers Love For Us” arr. Shackley

## **EPISTLE LESSON**

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

Pew Bible pg. 1217

*We stand.*

## VERSE FOR LENT



**C** Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra-cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in  
stead-fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 13:1-9**

Pew Bible pg. 1109

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

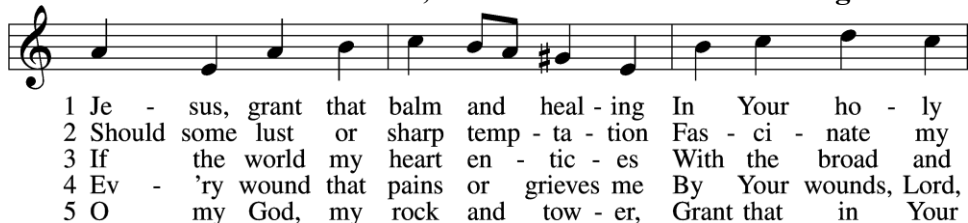
*After the Gospel is read:*

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*We sit.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY “Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing” 421



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In Your ho - ly  
2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion Fas - ci - nate my  
3 If the world my heart en - tic - es With the broad and  
4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds, Lord,  
5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, Grant that in Your



wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing Pains of  
sin - ful mind, Draw me to Your cross and pas - sion, And new  
eas - y road, With se - duc - tive, sin - ful vi - ces, Let me  
is made whole; When I'm faint, Your cross re - vives me, Grant - ing  
death I trust, Know - ing death has lost its pow - er Since You



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in  
cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,  
weigh the aw - ful load You were will - ing to en - dure.  
new life to my soul. Yes, Your com - fort ren - ders sweet  
crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let Your ag - o - ny



Tempt my treach - 'rous heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from  
Let me then be on my guard, Say - ing, "Christ for me was  
Help me flee all thoughts im - pure And to mas - ter each temp -  
Ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; For Your all - a - ton - ing  
Ev - er help and com - fort me; When I die be my pro -



sin - ning Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.  
wound - ed," That the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.  
ta - tion, Calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.  
pas - sion Has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.  
tec - tion, Light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

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**SERMON** "On Purpose or By Accident" Pastor Michael Geml

*We stand.*

**NICENE CREED**

*Inside back cover of LSB*

**PRAYERS 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, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son 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.**

*We sit.*

## DISTRIBUTION

“Lamb of God” John Reim  
“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” 761  
“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me” 722

*We stand.*

## DISMISSAL

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

## BENEDICTION

## CLOSING HYMN

## “Christ Be My Leader”

861



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the  
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or  
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my  
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though  
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.  
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.  
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

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## POSTLUDE