



So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Genesis 50:21

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST  
HOMECOMING SUNDAY**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2023**

**11:00AM**

**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH, CONOVER**

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**      **“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” 790**  
*St. 2 – treble voices, St. 4 – low voices*

## **INVOCATION**

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

## **OPENING SENTENCES**

*Psalm 66:1–3a, 4–5, 8*

P Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

**C sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

P Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds! . . .

**C All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they  
sing praises to Your name.”**

P Come and see what God has done:

**C He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.**

P Bless our God, O peoples;

**C let the sound of His praise be heard.**

## **CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

**P** Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

**C** **O most gracious God, we admit and confess our sinfulness.**

**We know well that we are by nature sinful and unclean.**

**Daily we have done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your faithful servants. We have been unforgiving and loveless and careless in the stewardship of Your creation. We deserve only Your punishment. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is not in ourselves but in the merits of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all our sins and guide us into renewed lives that reflect Your goodness and love.**

**P** God is indeed gracious and merciful and hears our supplications.

By the command of my Lord Jesus Christ and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **T** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE “O Guiding God”**

O guiding God, whose grace directs  
Your people on their way,  
In mercy hear the praises brought  
Before Your throne this day.

We bless You for the caring love  
That keeps You by our side  
With daily bread You strengthen us  
And for all needs provide.

Lord, when we come to heav’n at last  
Our thanks with joy to bring,  
May we, with all the sacred throng,  
Eternal anthems sing.

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## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** O God, You are always ready to hear the prayers of Your people. Grant that we may with all boldness and courage bring to You our petitions with the assurance that for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ You will hear them, forgiving our sins and granting us Your guidance in this life and every blessing in the life to come. This we ask through the same 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 READING**

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Genesis 50:15-21**

Pew Bible page 55

## **ANTHEM**

“Bless the Lord, My Soul”

Dan Edwards

## **EPISTLE READING**

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Romans 14:1-12**

Pew Bible page 1206

*We stand.*

**ALLELUIA**



Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker  
 Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Matthew 18:21-35**

Pew Bible page 1046

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18<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 “Where Charity and Love Prevail” 845

### SERMON

“Unconditional”

Pastor Corey Christians

*We stand.*

### CATECHISM

*The Second Article*

P In the Second Article of the Creed, we confess Jesus to be the Savior, the One who fulfills God’s promises and brings us forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

**C 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 What does this mean?

**C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is**

my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

## 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.

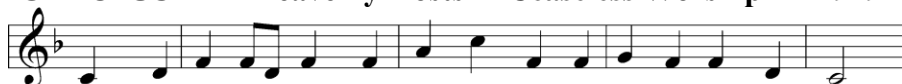
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

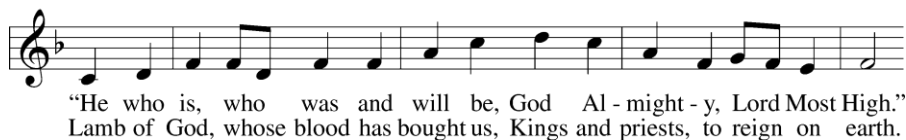
### PROPER PREFACE

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have come to redeem Your fallen creation. Through the saving work of Jesus Christ, our Lord, we are granted all good things by You in countless ways. Through the working of Your Holy Spirit, bestow upon us Your peace and abiding joy, now and forever. Together with angels and archangels and with all that rejoice in the courts of heaven, we laud and praise Your glorious name, joining their unending hymn singing:

## SANCTUS “Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship” 949



1 Heav'n-ly hosts in cease-less wor-ship "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly" cry;  
 2 All cre-a-tion, all re-demp-tion, Join to sing the Sav-ior's worth;



"He who is, who was and will be, God Al - might - y, Lord Most High."  
Lamb of God, whose blood has bought us, Kings and priests, to reign on earth.



Praise and hon - or, pow'r and glo-ry, Be to Him who reigns a - lone!  
Wealth and wis-dom, pow'r and glo-ry, Hon-or, might, do - min-ion, praise,



We, with all His hands have fash - ioned, Fall be - fore the Fa - ther's throne.  
Now be His from all His crea - tures And to ev - er - last - ing days!

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## **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 and drink His Holy Body and 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.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST** *1 Cor. 11:26; Rev. 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.**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

*We sit.*

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us” 851

“When Peace, Like a River” 763

*We stand.*

### **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

### **BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN “Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer” 918**

### **POSTLUDE**





## Sermon Notes

WHETHER

WE LIVE  
Or

WHETHER

WE DIE,

WE ARE  
THE LORD'S  
♥  
ROMANS 14:8

