



And blessed is she
who believed that
there would be a
fulfillment of what
was spoken to her
from the Lord.”

Luke 1:45

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2024

11:00A

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH, CONOVER

AS WE GATHER The Advent season of preparing for the promised Savior to be born as one of us soon reaches its climax. Though in our homes and lives we may be wondering if we have done all we have needed to get ready for our own celebrations, we give thanks that at the center of our coming Christmas observations the Lord has prepared all we need. In this last Sunday of Advent and in the days ahead of anticipated Christmas joy, may we find peace in the preparations done freely for us out of grace, mercy, and perfect love centered on the Savior we soon welcome, who was born for us and all the world.

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *Jn. 1:5, 9; 3:16; Ps. 36:5–9*

P The fourth Advent candle has been known as the angel candle and the candle of love. As our Advent season soon ends, we await the angelic message of the good news of a Savior. We have come to know the love of the one true God this season and always as we have prepared to celebrate His birth. We know God’s promises come to fruition in Jesus, who later made known His Father’s love in His being born into this world; in His life, ministry, teaching, preaching, healing; and ultimately in His dying and rising. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

C The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

P Guided by the light of love, we respond with the psalmist: “Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds.

C Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast You save, O LORD.

P How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

C They feast on the abundance of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your delights.

P For with You is the fountain of life;

C in Your light do we see light.”

Four Advent candles are lit.

HYMN **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”** **357**

7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION *Heb. 10:22; Ps. 32:5; 80:7; 124:8*

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father.

Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean.

C Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

P We have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed.

C Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

P Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to be born in our flesh, to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins.

C Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

P As a called and ordained servant of the Word and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and the Holy Spirit. To those who believe on His name He gives the power to become the children of God

and has promised them His Holy Spirit. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

C Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Into the darkness, You bring light, and into our lives, You make known Your perfect and everlasting love. Make us ready for the celebration of our Savior’s birth, that we receive Him as He comes to us as a humble infant, bringing to fruition the new covenant of Your love; 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 READING

Micah 5:2-5a

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM “O Come, Redeemer of the Earth” Brian L. Hanson

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL CANTICLE “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Song continues on next page.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text and tune: Public domain

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.

C Glory to You, O 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

SERMON

“It’s Too Much”

Pastor Michael Geml

We stand.

APOSTLES’ CREED

Inside back cover of LSB

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, 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

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

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” 356

“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” 336

We stand.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord” 352

POSTLUDE