

*Concordia
Evangelical Lutheran*

*Make straight
the way of the Lord.*

John 1:23

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2024

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I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" Ps. 122:1

Instructions for Communion:

If you are a member of Concordia, see the pew card for help preparing to receive Jesus' body and blood for the forgiveness of your sins.

If you are a guest, welcome! Communion at Concordia is reserved for members of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregations. Please speak with Pastor Buchs about Communion before participating.

Didn't have a chance to talk with Pastor about Communion before church?

If you're member of an LCMS congregation, you are welcome to Communion, but please let Pastor Buchs know where you go to church when you come to the Communion rail.

Prayers for Worship can be found inside the front cover of the hymnal. More prayers are provided on page 305ff.

Order of Service

Opening Hymn: **#383 A Great and Mighty Wonder**

Confession & Absolution (Hymnal, p. 184)

Introit (Bulletin, p. 2)

Kyrie (Hymnal, p. 186)

The Gloria is omitted during Advent

The Readings (Bulletin, p. 3-4)

Apostles' Creed (Hymnal, p. 192)

Hymn of the Day: **#345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding**

Catechism Recitation: **The Third Commandment** (Hymnal p. 321)

Sermon

Offertory – **What shall I render to the Lord?** (Bulletin, p. 5)

Prayers (Hymnal, p. 192)

Service of the Sacrament (Hymnal, p. 194)

#334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

#348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

Nunc Dimittis (Hymnal, p. 199)

Closing Hymn: **#343 Prepare the Royal Highway**

Fourth Sunday in Advent

INTROIT *Psalm 19:1, 4–6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a*

Shower, O heavens, from above,

and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit;

let the earth cause them both to sprout.

The heavens declare the glory of God,

and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

**Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words
to the end of the world.**

In them he has set a tent for the sun,

which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,

and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

**Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of
them,**

and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Shower, O heavens, from above,

and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit;

let the earth cause them both to sprout.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.

GRADUAL *Psalm 145:18, 21*

The Lord is near to all who call on him,

to all who call on him in truth.

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,

and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 18:15-19

¹⁵“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—¹⁶just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’¹⁷ And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken.¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.¹⁹ And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’”

Epistle Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: John 1:19-28

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Offertory – What shall I render to the Lord?



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Learn By Heart for this week

The Fourth Commandment

Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

Next Sunday

Readings: Isaiah 11:1-5, Galatians 4:1-7, Luke 2:22-40

Hymns: 384, 389, 367, 358, 386

Collect of the Day: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Men, are you ready to test your mettle? Join us for a unique men's retreat combining Bible study and a strength competition that will challenge and encourage you. **Invite a friend!**

When: Friday Evening, Jan 31 & Saturday, Feb 1

Cost: \$20 (free for under-18 and non-competitors)

Exhortation: Dive into God's Word and be strengthened in faith.

Competition: Tire Flip, Sandbag Hoist, Farmer Carry, Pullup—four events to push you to excellence, with divisions for all ages.

Don't worry about your fitness level—start training now, do what you can, and enjoy the camaraderie! Registration: www.concordialcms.com/gideon

Prayer Requests

Donna Anderson

Avery Broich

(granddaughter of Robin Halverson)

Darlene Dillon

Robin Halverson

Halarie Haukaas

Pam Hutchings

Nikki James

(niece of Arlen & Verna Lea Salmela)

Teddy Kothe

Gracie Muehring

Marshall Neumiller

Dorothy Robuck

Lorraine Rose

Arlen Salmela

Emery Schmidt

Kaitlyn Stewart

Kathy Wohlman

Birthdays & Anniversaries

December 26 Mike & Gwen Wohlman

Pastor:	Rev. David Buchs
Elder:	Jason Buboltz
Organist:	Lynn Hoff

This Week's Schedule

Today	9:00 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Bible Study
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols
Wednesday	9:00 am	Christmas Day Divine Service
Friday	7:00 pm	AA Meeting
Next Sunday	9:00 am	Worship