

# Concordia Lutheran Church

**ADVENT MIDWEEK VESPERS 3**

***"You Shall Defeat Them As One Man"***

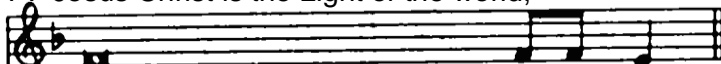
**Wednesday, December 20, 2023**

## ***ADVENT MIDWEEK VESPERS 3***

God's power is a hidden image. He comes as man, born of woman, and yet He is the mighty Redeemer. He has no army, but His kingdom shall endure forever. He becomes the victim and offers Himself in sacrifice upon the cross, yet His triumph brings salvation to the whole world. We complain that we are alone, we have no might, and our enemies are great; but in Christ, we see that we are not alone, His power is beyond all power, and His might has done what is impossible for us. Now let us stand as one in Christ, clothed in the garments of righteousness He gives us in Baptism.

### **Evening Service of Light**

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



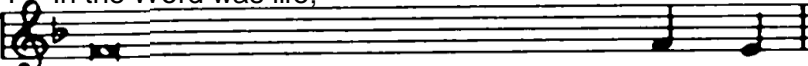
C: THE LIGHT NO DARKNESS CAN O- VER- COME

P: In the beginning was the Word,



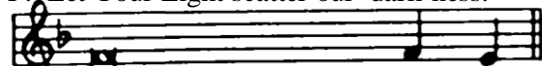
C: AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD.

P: In the Word was life;



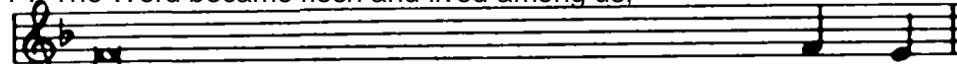
C: AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF ALL PEO - PLE.

P: Let Your Light scatter our dark-ness.



C: AND ILLUMINE YOUR CHURCH.

P: The Word became flesh and lived among us,



C: WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH

## Phos Hilaron - Hymn of Light

Jesus, joyous light of glory,  
Holy and blest,  
Son of the immortal Father,  
Highest and best:  
Now while day to night surrenders,  
In the sunset's fading splendor,  
Songs of praise to You we render—  
Lord, be our rest.

## Tune Maroon Hymnal #922

Christ, of all life's good the Giver,  
With one accord  
You are worthy, now and ever  
To be adored;  
So the world its glory bringing  
Joins celestial voices ringing:  
Father, Son, and Spirit singing—  
"One holy Lord!"

## Thanksgiving For Light

P: (Sung) Blessed are You, O Lord, our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen (Sung)**

## Psalm 141

## Tune Maroon Hymnal # 615

- |                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. LORD, LET MY PRAYER LIKE INCENSE RISE,<br>AND WHEN I LIFT MY HANDS TO THEE,<br>AS ON THE EVENING SACRIFICE<br>LOOK DOWN FROM HEAV'N WELL-PLEAS'D ON ME.    | 3. AND LORD REDEEM ME FROM THE SNARES<br>WITH WHICH THE WORLD SURROUNDS MY FEET,<br>ITS RICHES, VANITIES, AND CARES,<br>ITS LOVE, ITS HATRED, ITS DECEIT. |
| 2. SET NOW A WATCH TO KEEP MY TONGUE,<br>LET NOT MY HEART TO SIN INCLINE;<br>SAVE ME FROM THOSE WHO PRACTICE WRONG,<br>LET ME NOT SHARE THEIR MIRTH AND WINE. | 4. TO GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON,<br>AND GOD THE SPIRIT, THREE IN ONE,<br>SHALL GLORY, PRAISE, AND HONOR BE<br>NOW AND THROUGHOUT ETERNITY.              |

## Prayer

P: O Holy Wisdom and Holy Word of God, by whom the Creator governs all creation with Almighty, yet Fatherly care.

C: **Come, and show Your holy people the way to salvation.**

P: O Savior of ancient Israel, who revealed Yourself to Moses in the burning bush, and gave Your holy Law on Mt. Sinai to Your covenant nation.

C: **Come down O Redeemer, and stretch out Your mighty hand to set us free from sin, death and the devil. Grant this O Jesus, Messiah and Christ, even as you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen**

*(please be seated)*

HYMN

*"Come Thou Precious Ransom, Come"*

**Maroon Hymnal # 350**

### **Old Covenant Lesson -**

Judges 6:11-24 & 7: 2-9

A reading from Judges, the sixth (and seventh) chapter(s).

Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor." And Gideon said to him, "Please, my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian." And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." **And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man."** And he said to him, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me. Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you." And he said, "I will stay till you return."

So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them. And the angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them." And he did so. Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight. Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon

said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face." But the LORD said to him, "Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die." Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD Is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.

The LORD said to Gideon, "The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.' Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount Gilead.'" Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained.

And the LORD said to Gideon, "The people are still too many. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' shall go with you, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' shall not go." So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, "Every one who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set by himself. Likewise, every one who kneels down to drink." And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was 300 men, but all the rest of the people knelt down to drink water. And the LORD said to Gideon, "With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand, and let all the others go every man to his home." So the people took provisions in their hands, and their trumpets. And he sent all the rest of Israel every man to his tent, but retained the 300 men. And the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

That same night the LORD said to him, "Arise, go down against the camp, for I have given it into your hand.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

*Psalm 42*

L: Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you in turmoil within me?

C: **Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him,  
my salvation and my God.**

L: As a deer pants for flowing streams,  
so pants my soul for You, O God.

**C: My soul thirsts for God,  
for the living God.  
When shall I come and appear before God?**

L: My tears have been my food day and night,  
while they say to me continually,  
“Where is your God?”

**C: These things I remember,  
as I pour out my soul:  
how I would go with the throng  
and lead them in procession to the house of God**

L: with glad shouts and songs of praise,  
a multitude keeping festival.

**C: Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you in turmoil within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him,  
my salvation and my God.**

L: My soul is cast down within me;  
therefore I remember You  
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,  
from Mount Mizar.

**C: Deep calls to deep  
at the roar of Your waterfalls;  
all Your breakers and Your waves  
have gone over me.**

L: By day the LORD commands His steadfast love,  
and at night His song is with me,  
a prayer to the God of my life.

**C: I say to God, my rock:  
“Why have You forgotten me?  
Why do I go mourning  
because of the oppression of the enemy?”**

L: As with a deadly wound in my bones,  
my adversaries taunt me,  
while they say to me continually,  
“Where is your God?”

**C: Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you in turmoil within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him,  
my salvation and my God.**

**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.**

**Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you in turmoil within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him,  
my salvation and my God.**

### **New Covenant Lesson**

Luke 1:67–75

A reading from St. Luke, the first chapter.

And John the Baptist's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;

to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant, the oath that He swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days."

**L: O Lord, have mercy on us.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT**

**P: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.**

**C: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P: In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.  
C: **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
C: **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

## **HOMILY - YOU SHALL DEFEAT THEM AS ONE MAN**

### **Offering**

**Advent Offertory - "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" Maroon Hymnal # 344**  
*(Please stand for last verse as you are able)*

### **Offertory Prayer**

P: Lamb of God, You once came to rid the world of sin;  
C: **Cleanse us now from every stain of sin.**

P: Lord, you came to save Your fallen creation;  
C: **Come with Your salvation power, so those You redeem shall be released from the fear of death and the evil one.**

P: We have come to know You in faith;  
C: **May we have unending joy when You come again in glory. Grant this even as you live and reign with Father and the Holy Spirit, and have taught us to always pray.....**

### **Lord's Prayer**

### **Order of Holy Communion**

### **Words of Institution**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you alway!  
C: **Amen.**



**The Agnus Dei**

**The Distribution**

**The Nunc Dimittis**

**The Collect for Peace**

P: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

**C: Even unto life everlasting.**

P: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

**C: To honor his gracious Name, at the rising of the sun.**

P: To sing praises to the most high God all day long.

**C: And rest in His mercy at the close of the day.**

P: May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus fill you with you with every spiritual blessing so you may live in faith, fear, hope and wonder, now and forever.

**C: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Unto life everlasting. Amen.**

**HYMN**

*“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”*

**Maroon Hymnal # 336**