

Readings for August 22, 2021

Prelude: "Allegretto in C" by César Franck

Prayer of the Day:

P: Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

¹⁶Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so

that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel: John 6:56-69

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶"Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Hymn of Praise: Verses 1, 2 & 4

Closing Hymn: Verses 1, 2 & 4

Postlude: "Ave Verum Corpus" by W.A. Mozart arr. Leonard Van Camp

Prayer list: Carol, Nancy, Pastor Steve Swanson, Jean, Guy, Perry, Rose, Cindy, Corie, Sandy, Gary, Michael, Will, Gerry, Bob & Sue, Jennifer, Dave, Tyce, Jen, all those diagnosed with COVID-19, and those we hold in our thoughts.

Due to recent adjustments to guidelines outlined by the CDC and local governments, Concordia Church is also adjusting its worship protocols. We are now asking everyone to wear a mask during the worship service – regardless of vaccination status – for the safety of everyone attending on Sundays.

Join a time of fellowship following the service! Enjoy some coffee and reconnect with your Concordia family. Fellowship will occur in the gym immediately following the conclusion of the worship service.

Our Family Faith resources page has been updated! You can now visit www.concordiafaith.org/familyfaith and find all of the videos and at-home resources for the Summer Family Faith Series: Six Days of Creation. This page also hosts all prior video children's messages, as well as previous downloadable activities for your children and your family. We hope that these resources are a blessing to your faith this summer and beyond. Check it regularly for updates!

Concordia Church is partnering with the Common Pantry to support a 'Take What You Need' food pantry in the lobby of Swedish Covenant hospital, created for patients to grab grocery staples they need on their day of discharge. **Our next pick-up date is September 7th!** Please bring shelf-stable groceries (examples are: canned goods, pasta, jarred sauces, rice, boxed mixes, etc.) to the marked container(s) in the church's main entrance **on or before Sunday, September 6th.** Connect with [Jen Phillips](#) if you have any questions.

Upcoming Fall Events:

Sunday, August 29th: Blessing of the Backpacks

Join us as we share a special blessing with students and teachers as they head back to school

Sunday, September 12th: Holy Cross Sunday

We'll dedicate the new processional cross handmade by Gary Radtke and celebrate with a fellowship BBQ following worship!



The poster features a green background with a photo of various children's clothing hanging on a clothesline. The title 'Children's Clothing Swap' is centered in white text. Below the title, the event details are listed: 'Wednesday August 25, 2021 1:30–3:30 pm' and 'St. Nicolai Church 3000 N Kedzie Ave Chicago, IL 60618'. A blue banner below the details reads: 'Do you have outgrown children's clothes piling up? Pass them on to a family that could use them!' On the left, under the heading 'Donate', it says: 'Drop off gently used children's clothing anytime before Friday, August 20.' and 'Donations will be accepted at all Concordia centers.' On the right, under the heading 'Collect', it says: 'Need clothes for your little ones?' and 'Stop by St. Nicolai Church on Wednesday, August 25 to collect what you need.' At the bottom, there is contact information: 'Questions? Contact Kiki Collias at kcollias@concordiaplace.org or at 773.463.1600 x 420.' The Concordia Place logo is in the bottom left corner, and the text 'A Concordia family of ministries serving people and communities concordiaministries.org | concordiaplace.org' is in the bottom right corner.