

concordia
church



Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021



Love God. Love Your Neighbor.

www.concordiafaith.org

773-281-1225

Concordia on Seeley

3855 N. Seeley

Sunday morning worship at 10am

In-person & virtual options

Join the livestream on Sunday mornings or view recordings
of our past services on our YouTube channel.

 **YouTube** Concordia Church Chicago

Welcome, and thank you for worshipping with us this morning.

Holy Communion happens at every service and is open to all
baptized.

The restrooms are located downstairs; exit the sanctuary
through the north doors in the back and follow the stairs down
to your right into the fellowship hall.

Service of Holy Baptism

Presentation

A: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

P: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *your child* baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

As you bring *your child* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *him* among God's faithful people,
bring *him* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *him* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in *his* hands the holy scriptures
and nurture *him* in faith and prayer,
so that *your child* may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help *your child* grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *this person* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support **Dakota** and pray for *him* in *his* new life in Christ?

We do.

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Baptism

Dakota Colt Six, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain **Dakota** with the gift of your Holy Spirit, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Anointing

Dakota, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Welcome

Let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**



First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

- ¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
- ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
- ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
- ¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
¹⁸as on a day of festival.
- I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
- ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
- ²⁰At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Taize

"Raise a Song of Gladness"

Two-voice canon

$\text{♩} = 84$ (A) D G A (B)

Ju - bi - la - te De - o om - nis ter - ra.
Raise a song of glad - ness, peo - ples of the earth.

Ser - vi - te Do - mi - no in lae - ti - ti - a.
Christ has come, bring - ing peace, joy to ev - 'ry heart.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, in lae - ti - ti - a.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev - 'ry heart!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, in lae - ti - ti - a!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev - 'ry heart!

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Congregation stands and sings the acclamation

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



P: The Gospel according to St. Luke.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?”

¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.”

¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Gospel Acclamation (repeat acclamation)

Sermon

Rev. Nicholas Zook

Hymn of the Day

ELW 260 "The King Shall Come"

1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.

when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
 and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
 the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

The Prayers

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. Lord, hear our prayer.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

A: God of majesty, we pray for the advent of your kingdom, and your reign of peace throughout the world, when violence and war give way to healing and life and the veil of darkness is cast off your world. Lord, hear our prayer.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

A: God of grace and truth, let the light of your church shine forth in the world. Illuminate your church with the grace and love of your Son and fill your people with gratitude and faith. Lord, hear our prayer.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

A: Father in Heaven, we pray for the advent of your Son as glorious Lord of all; bringing light to those who dwell in darkness, joy to those in sorrow, hope to those in fear and despair. We pray especially for *Carol, Nancy, Pastor Steve Swanson, Perry, Gerry, Bob & Sue, Lola, Morgan, Joe, James, all those diagnosed with COVID-19*, and for those who name before you...Lord, hear our prayer.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

A: Blessed are you, O God, Lord of all creation, we give you thanks for the ministries of our congregation, and the blessings of Concordia Church and Concordia Place. Use us to make radiant the lives of those you have called us to serve. We ask this through him whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Lord, hear our prayer.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*We encourage you to use this time for reflection & gratitude
as we prepare for communion.*

Offertory

“Wait for the Lord”

Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

The Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks...

...with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
 You have filled all creation with light and life;
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.
 You rescued Israel, your chosen people.
 Through the prophets you renewed your promise;
 and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son,
 who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom
 and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection,
that we who receive the Lord's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C: Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every
place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C: Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

Communion Invitation

We invite all who are baptized in Christ to come forward for communion. All are welcome at the Lord's table. Parents of young children are asked to let the pastor know if they want their child to receive communion or a blessing.

Communion is served by continuous table around the altar, and you are asked to take a place as openings appear.

Communion

Anthem *"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"* by Richard Shephard

Post Communion Blessing

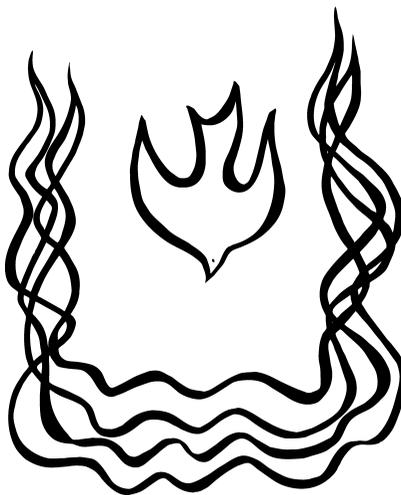
P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

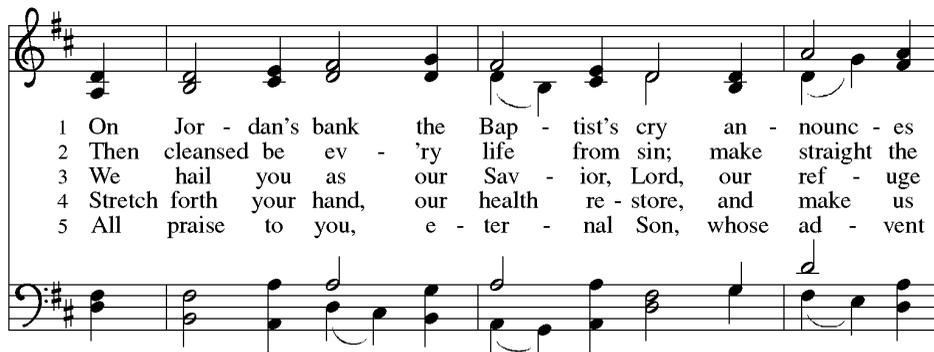
A: Holy and gracious God, you have blessed us at this holy meal and united us in the fellowship of our savior, Jesus Christ. Your generous blessings renew us to go forth to serve as your faithful people until your kingdom comes and your rule is established throughout the whole world.

C: Amen. Come Lord Jesus, Come.

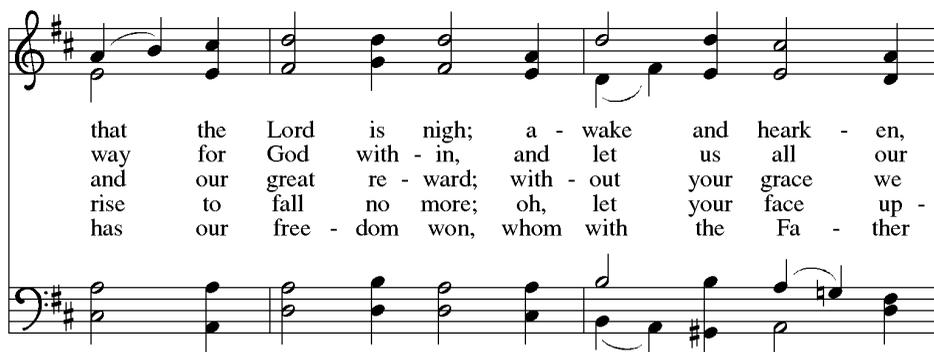


Closing Hymn

ELW #249 "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Announcements

Blessing

Dismissal

A: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Wachet Auf, Ruft Uns Die Stime” by J.G. Walther

The Postlude continues the feeling of our time together as we leave worship and go share God's love with our family, friends, and the community.

Wishing Stars is back again this year! Help provide a Christmas gift for a child at Concordia Place! Choose an ornament from the tree in the back of the church. The QR code on the ornament links to an Amazon wish list for a child. Once a gift is purchased, the gift is shipped directly to the church, where it is then wrapped and given to the child before Christmas. Each ornament equals one gift, so please take the number of ornaments equivalent to the number of gifts you will purchase.

You can also scan the QR code to the right or visit this link: <https://a.co/5cTZZPr>



We hope you are enjoying the Advent midweek music releases! If you have missed them, or would like to see them again, you can find them on our website at www.concordiafaith.org/christmas or on the church's YouTube channel: Concordia Church Chicago. Parts 1 & 2 have already been released. Look for Part 3 to be released Wednesday, December 15th at 7pm.

Reserve your seat for "Seasonal Sounds with Lakeshore Brass" on Saturday, December 18th at 7pm. Two familiar faces, Matt and David, are part of this Chicago-based quintet. You'll hear a variety of seasonal tunes, including both traditional and some lesser known. Admission is free; any donations made will support the music ministry and future Concordia Concerts. For those unable to attend in person, the concert will also be livestreamed on our YouTube channel: Concordia Church Chicago.

Register for in-person attendance at www.concordiafaith.org/christmas

A special virtual Christmas drama will be part of our worship service on Sunday, December 19th! Concordia's children and confirmation students will be presenting the Christmas story in a very creative and inventive way. While pre-recorded, the video will be shown both at worship in-person and during the service via livestream. You don't want to miss it!

The Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange is back! On Sunday, December 19th, bring 3 dozen cookies to church and drop them off in the gym before worship. After the service, you will pick up your container with an assortment of cookies in time for the holidays! One note: please bag your cookies in sets of 4 so that cookies can be sorted by bags and not handled individually. **If you are planning to participate, please let Betsy Ries know by Wednesday, December 15th. (betsyjack41@gmail.com)**

The Community Service team is excited to announce that through the generous support of monthly sponsors and individual gifts, our commitment to helping our neighbors facing food insecurity (via our partnership with Common Pantry and Swedish Covenant Hospital) is **fully funded** for the entire fiscal year. We give thanks to God for the generous blessings freely given by our Concordia community. We ask, how many more families can we help? Please consider supporting the food pantry in one of the following ways.

Concordia Church continues to partner with the Common Pantry to support a 'Take What You Need' food pantry in the lobby of Swedish Covenant hospital (newly re-named 'The Cupboard'), to support patients on the day of their discharge. ***The next delivery date will be December 7th!*** Please bring shelf-stable groceries and/or new toiletry items to the marked container(s) in the church's main entrance.

If you'd like to give a monetary gift, simply text the word "CONCORDIA" to 73256 to give using your mobile device and use the drop down list to choose our 'social impact' fund. All donations to this fund benefit our neighbors in need and is a tangible way we express our faith and gratitude for the blessings we've received. Please connect with [Jen Phillips](#) if you have any questions.



Hope for the holidays



We invite you to join us for the following events this holiday season



Seasonal Sounds with Lakeshore Brass

Saturday, December 18th at 7:00pm

Concert is free in the sanctuary on Seeley. Enjoy the sounds of the season with Chicago-based quintet Lakeshore Brass. Pre-register at the website below.



Christmas Eve Concert & Service

Friday, December 24th: Special music at 4:30pm; Worship at 5:00pm

We rejoice in the coming of Christmas with festive music and celebration!



Christmas Day Worship

Saturday, December 25th at 10:00am

Celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas morning!

Concert & services offered in-person and virtually
via livestream on our YouTube channel.



3855 N Seeley Ave

www.concordiafaith.org/christmas



YouTube Concordia Church Chicago



A Concordia family of ministries serving people and communities
concordiaministries.org | concordiafaith.org



Seasonal Sounds

with Lakeshore Brass

Saturday, December 18th at 7:00pm
3855 N Seeley Ave



**A variety of works to
celebrate the season
performed by Chicago-based
brass quintet!**

**Pre-register at the link in the
footer or scan the QR code**

*Admission is free. Donations received will
help support future Concordia Concerts*



@lakeshorebrass

Lakeshore
BRASS

www.concordiafaith.org/christmas



From Pastor Zook—A Christmas Reflection

"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promises I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah." Jeremiah 33:14

Behold! The prophets of old often begin their proclamation of God's message with this call to action. Behold! *"To have and keep in sight." Eyes on the prize. Keep this goal before you above all else. St. Paul echoes the prophets, "Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind I press forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14).*

Behold! In the turbulent swirl of our lives these past two years with all of its many distractions, obstacles, urgencies and unexpected setbacks, we are reminded to look through eyes of faith and to hold on to the promises born to us in Christ. The Advent journey leads us to Christmas. And Christmas sings the hope we have in God through Christ. We have been an Advent people long enough, living through the darkness of these times. Let's be a Christmas people—pressing forward with hope. Join us in the songs of the angels, the wonderment of shepherds and the adoration of the Magi at the birth of our Savior who fulfills the promise of our lives.



From the Church Council President—Our Christmas Appeal

At this time of the year our thoughts naturally turn to the events of the past year and to our hopes and goals for the year to come. We look backward and forward. I suggest however, that we think differently this year – instead of forward or backward with our thinking, we allow our thoughts to come together. We move back to the center of our lives – our families, our neighbors and our faith.

As we gather together this season, safely and cautiously, with family and friends, so let us also gather together in our church home at Concordia. The church will be prepared for the Advent season, familiar Christmas music will be heard, stories will be retold and we can experience the joy of belonging to a community of believers who see the light.

So many things have been transformed during the past 21 months. The way we work, the way we communicate and the way that we serve. Because of your steadfast faith and generosity, Concordia has been able to sustain its ministries and, despite challenges and hardship, we continue to serve so many in need.



The simple gift of giving awaits us all. Your meaningful gift to Concordia Church at Christmas will likely benefit someone you will never know. But that person or family will know that they are loved and that someone cares. Let's help share some light into those lives.

Will you please consider making Concordia Church and its ministries a part of your Christmas gift giving? Consider all the gifts you will give this Holiday Season and make a Christmas tithe – a gift of ten percent (10%) of your gift spending. Let your gift, a ray of light, join with others to shine a message of love, gratitude and hope. God's Blessing at Christmas!

Daniel Formeller, Concordia Church Council President

Copyright Information:

Below is a list of all the songs that we are using in today's liturgy with their copyright information located with them.

Opening Hymn

ELW #155

Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

Taize

"Raise a Song of Gladness"

Gospel Acclamation

Setting Eight

Hymn of the Day

ELW #260 "The King Shall Come"

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003

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Sanctus

Setting Eight

Anthem

"Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming," by Hugo Distler

Closing Hymn

ELW #249 "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Notes on the Liturgy:

1. The Liturgy is printed from [The Evangelical Lutheran Worship](#) and is used with permission.
2. The offertory prayer, introduction to the prayers and conclusion are taken from [Sundays and Seasons](#), Augsburg Fortress, 2020, and used with permission: license number 23952.
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— THIRD SUNDAY OF —
ADVENT