

concordia
church



Christmas Day

December 25, 2022



Love God. Love Your Neighbor.

www.concordiafaith.org

773-281-1225

Concordia on Seeley

3855 N. Seeley

Sunday mornings:

10:00am Festive Worship (In-person & virtual options)

Join the 10:00am livestream on Sunday mornings or view recordings of our past services on our YouTube channel.



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

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

The restroom is located in the gym; exit the sanctuary through the left door behind the altar and follow the hallway down the stairs.

Concordia Church continues to follow Chicago Department of Health and CDC guidelines to ensure appropriate protocols are in place for the health and safety of our worshippers, leaders, and staff. Please visit www.concordiafaith.org for the latest updates.

Questions? Contact Desirae, Parish Admin, at dcontreras@concordiafaith.org



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Prelude

Blessing of the Nativity Scene

P: O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence, and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever. **Amen.**

Proclamation of the Birth of Christ

A: Today, the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image.

Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant. Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as King; in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome.

The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, the eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since his conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.

Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

Opening Hymn

ELW #275 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Dialogue

A: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

A: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

A: To us a child is born, to us a son is given.

C: In him is life, and the life is the light of all people.

Opening Prayer

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Carol

ELW #270 “*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*”

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Carol

ELW #270 "*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

Second Reading

Titus 3:4-7

⁴When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Carol

ELW #270 *"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"*

- 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"



Gospel Reading

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel

John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

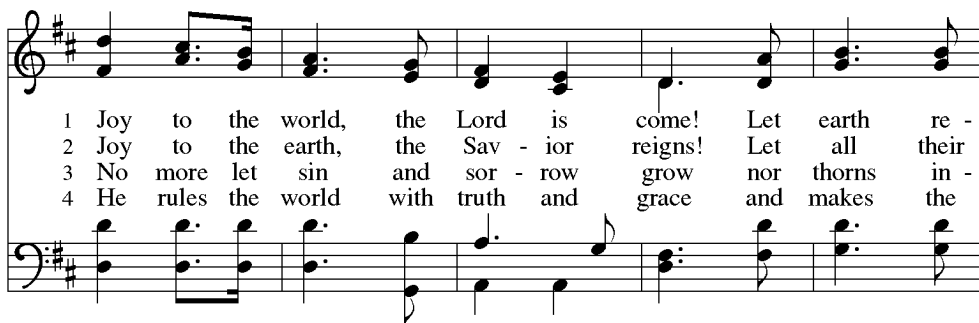
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Nicholas Zook

Carol

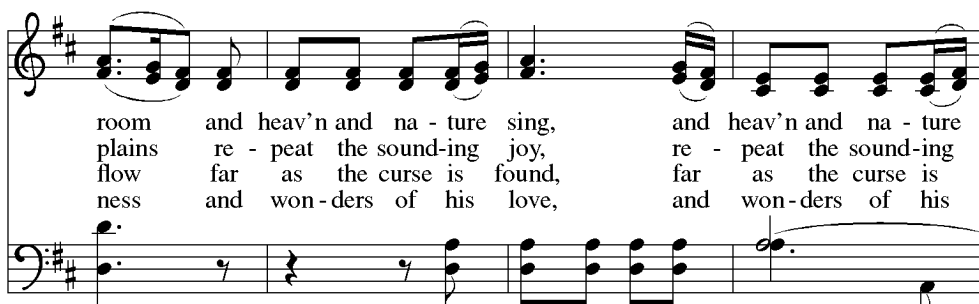
ELW #267 "Joy to the World"



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heav'n and na - ture sing,

Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.,
we acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Responsive Prayer

A: Glory to God in the highest

C: and peace to God's people on earth.

A: Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

A: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

A: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

A: Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

Offertory Anthem

"What Child is This?"

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

Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

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.

P: We give you thanks, Father,
through Jesus Christ,
your beloved Son,
whom you sent
in this end of the ages
to save and redeem us
and to proclaim to us your will.
He is your Word,
inseparable from you.
Through him
you created all things,
and in him you take delight.
He is your Word,
sent from heaven
to a virgin's womb.
He there took on our nature
and our lot and
was shown forth as your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit
and of the virgin Mary.
It is he, our Lord Jesus,
who fulfilled all your will
and won for you a holy people;
he stretched out his hands
in suffering
in order to free from suffering
those who trust you.
It is he who,
handed over to a death
he freely accepted,
in order to destroy death,
to break the bonds
of the evil one,
to crush hell underfoot,
to give light to the righteous,
to establish his covenant
and to show forth
the resurrection,

taking bread and
giving thanks to you, said:
Take and eat;
this is my body, broken for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
In the same way he took the cup,
gave thanks, and
gave it for all to drink, saying:
This is my blood
poured out for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, then,
his death and resurrection,
we lift this bread and cup
before you,
giving you thanks that
you have made us worthy
to stand before you
and to serve you
as your priestly people.
And we ask you:
Send your spirit
upon these gifts of your church;
gather into one
all who share
this bread and wine;
fill us with your holy spirit
to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise
and glorify you
through your Son, Jesus Christ.
Through him
all glory and honor are yours,
Almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church
both now and forever.

C: Amen

The Lord's Prayer

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

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.

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

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray.

Emmanuel, God with us, you grace us with light and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all.


C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

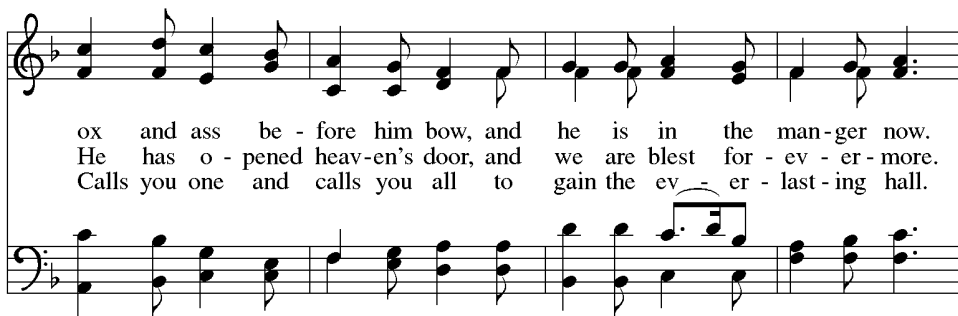
ELW #288 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Blessing and Dismissal

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and the Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Announcements

Support the **ministries of Concordia Church** through your offerings. There are multiple ways for you to give:

- 1) Mobile: Text 'Concordia' to 73256 and follow the link or scan the QR code here
- 2) Online: Visit www.onrealm.org/concordiafaith/give
- 3) Via cash or check left in the offering plate or mailed to the church at:

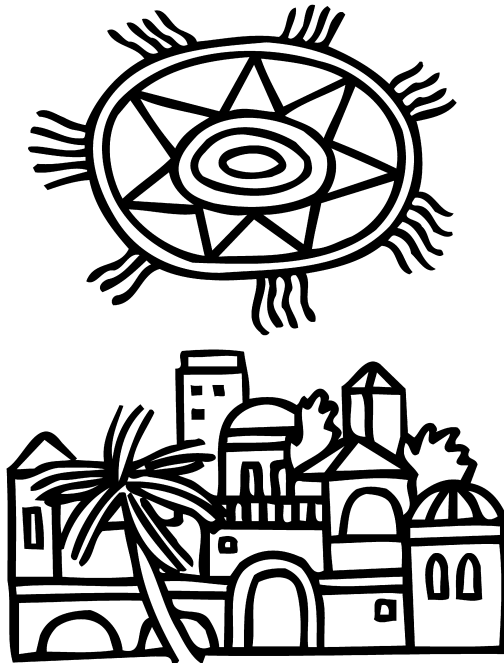
3855 N Seeley Ave
Chicago, IL 60618



Worship on Sunday, January 1st will be pre-recorded and available for virtual viewing only. There will be no in-person worship on this Sunday. You can find the service January 1st on our website, www.concordiafaith.org OR on our YouTube channel—Concordia Church Chicago.

The church office will be minimally staffed December 26th-January 8th. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Zook (773) 805-8191 or Jen Phillips (312) 933-4096.

Support Concordia Church's partnership with the Common Pantry through your donations of food or toiletry items or a monetary gift to this worthy cause. All donations will help sustain a "Take What you Need" food pantry in the lobby of Swedish Covenant Hospital for patients upon their discharge. Bring item donations to the church at any time. Text 'Concordia' to 73256 and choose the 'Social Impact' fund to give electronically.





From Pastor Zook—A Christmas Reflection

"...But one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Jesus Christ." Philippians 3: 13b-14

In the Church decorations for Advent at Concordia, you'll notice that our banners and liturgical paraments are all colored Blue, a nod to our Swedish ancestry. Advent in the Swedish tradition is Blue, the color of those long, dark midnight skies of the Nordic winters defused with the first hints of light, the color of what is to come, the color of Hope.

Advent is the season of Hope, and hope is looking to the future with joyful anticipation of wonderful things to come. St. Paul captures this Advent perspective with his description of a Christian life that strains forward, presses toward and reaches for the prize of our faith, the hope born of God's future for us in Christ. Like children eager for Christmas Day and the joy of what lies under the Christmas tree, let's be equally childlike in our outlook and stretch forward to the best that is yet to come.

Talk about looking forward, we are only a month away from the 125th Anniversary of Concordia Church—125 years of ministry from the first Swedish immigrants who formed our church to the generations of Christians who joyfully live their calling to ministry in this place. We're a congregation that knows the value of pressing forward and the joy of the prize of seeing our ministry open up in the lives of our neighbors.

I'm eager for what 2023 will bring. The signs all point forward. May God in Christ color your world Blue.

From the Church Council President—Our Christmas Appeal

Next year, in a matter of days really, Concordia Lutheran Church – our church- will celebrate 125 years in this community as a place of worship, a community center and a beacon of hope. I wonder sometimes, how many times, over how many years, has someone stood on the steps at the entrance to our church and thought – what will be next for us? The answer to that question has at least in part remained the same – we will be here, in this place, fulfilling the mission that we are called to.

In this Christmas appeal there are no hidden messages or agendas to be found. Just a straightforward appeal to your generosity. We are looking ahead to expanding Concordia's ministries – to do more, for more people and to reach further, deeper. We look forward with hope.

Our commitment and our faith fuels this hope, and our dollars enable us to make our hope a reality. In this season of generosity and gifts please consider giving a little more to Concordia. Every dollar matters and every dollar will have an impact.

Merry Christmas!

Daniel Formeller





invites all types of smarty-pants to our FUNdraiser



Friday, January 20

7pm @ 3855 N. Seeley Gym

\$15/Person OR \$100/Team of 8

Individual Players will be matched up to form teams

Pre-registration required by January 17th
concordiafaith.org/trivia

BYOB—Light snacks provided or bring your own

*All proceeds benefit the Common Pantry &
'The Cupboard' Food Pantry at Swedish Covenant Hospital*



Want to join in the fun and support another way?
Our 50/50 raffle opens January 1st

\$5 for 5 tickets

\$10 for 15 tickets

Best value! \$25 for 50 tickets

Register for Trivia and buy raffle tickets at concordiafaith.org/trivia

Questions? Contact Desirae at dcontreras@concordiafaith.org



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Copyright Information:

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

Opening Hymn

ELW #275 "*Angels from the Realms of Glory*"

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

Carol

ELW #267 "*Joy to the World*"

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Closing Hymn

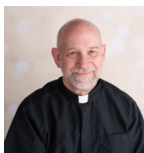
ELW #288 "*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*"

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

Notes on the Liturgy:

1. All liturgical music is from ELW, Setting 4
2. The Liturgy is printed from The Evangelical Lutheran Worship and is used with permission.
3. The offertory prayer, introduction to the prayers and conclusion are taken from Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress, 2019, and used with permission: license number 23952.
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