

December 14th, 2025—Second Sunday of Advent

Prelude ***“Joy to the World”*** by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdi arr. for Piano, Organ and SATB
Voices by Joel Raney featuring a guest pianist Dana Brown

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.]]

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;

no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Magnificat / My Soul Magnifies

Translation and Music by Phil Barfoot and Rebecca J Peck arr. by Cliff Duren

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Luke 1:39-56

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name;
⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
 and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things
 and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
 in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”
⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

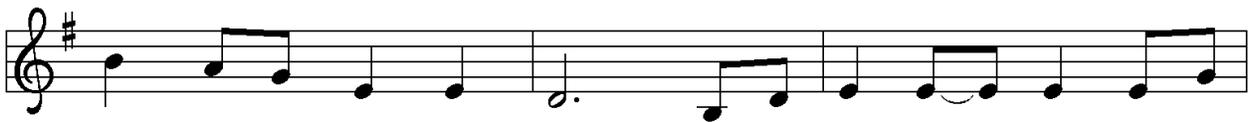
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

ELW #723 "The Canticle of The Turning"



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.

Hymn of the Day cont'...



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



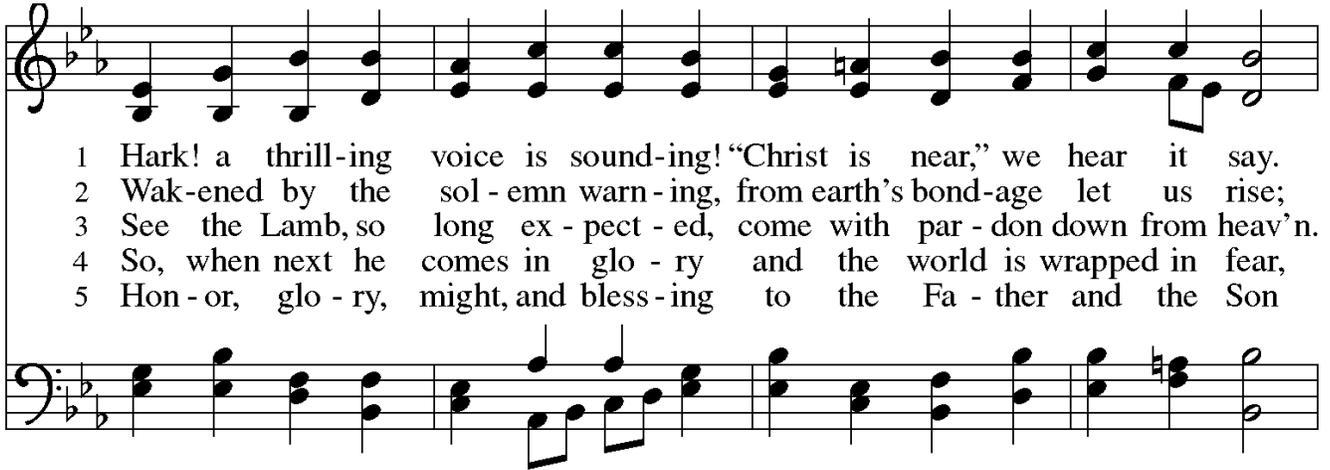
Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Anthem

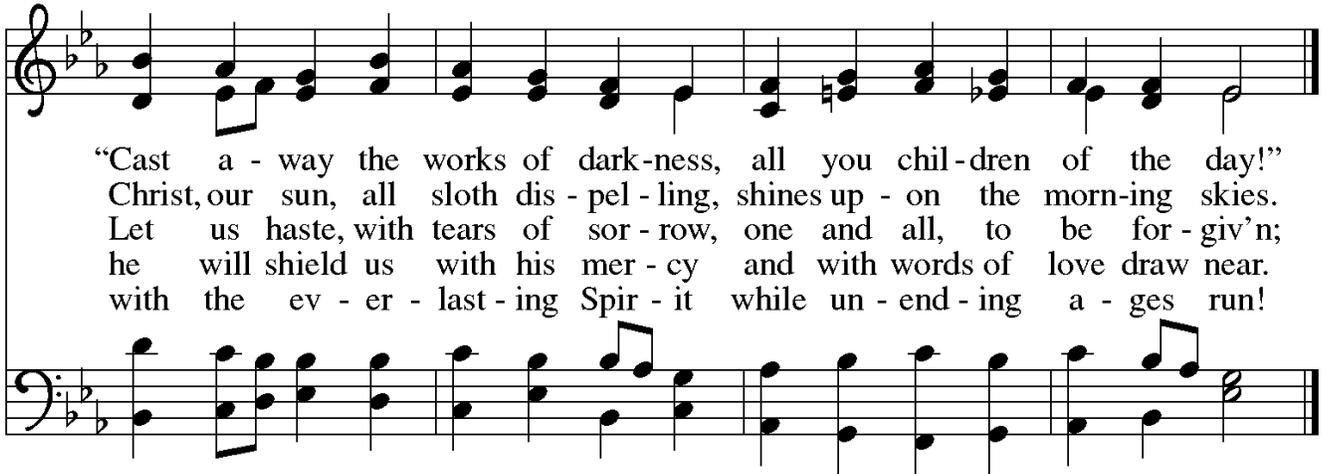
"Calypso Noel" by Gordon Krunnusz

Closing Hymn

ELW #246 "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
2 Wak-ened by the sol- emn warn- ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 See the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, come with par-don down from heav'n.
4 So, when next he comes in glo-ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son



"Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all, to be for-giv'n;
he will shield us with his mer-cy and with words of love draw near.
with the ev-er-last-ing Spir-it while un-end-ing a-ges run!

Postlude

Toccatà

Deacon: Christina Formeller

Lector: Marne Turner

Greeter: Jocelyn Lemish



3855 N Seeley Ave
Chicago, IL 60618

"For behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

Some stories never grow old, and this story of the birth of Jesus is one of the very oldest stories known to us. What makes this story of Christ's birth so new to me each year is the fresh telling by our children acting out the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, the arrival of the angels, their halos and wings askew, the procession of Shepherds followed by Magi, gifts in hand: all taking their part in sharing God's story. This year, we'll even have a lamb joining in. All together, they act out the mystery, wonder and delight of God's living gift of love and grace born to us in Jesus Christ.



This year's Children's Christmas Story will be shared with us during the 10 AM worship service on Sunday, December 21st. And there are more ways we are celebrating this year. Join us for a brass concert celebration by our resident musicians, Lakeshore Brass, on December 12th at 7 PM. Tickets for this concert posted on our website. Our Christmas Eve service will be celebrated on December 24th at 5 PM with harp and choir voices. The Christmas Day service of Lessons and Carols is at 10 AM.

Such good news deserves our celebration with great joy.

Christ's Blessings,
Pastor Nicholas Zook

And the good news does not all occur within the four walls of our beautiful sanctuary (although if you have not seen our church in all its Christmas glory, you are missing our own work of art). Concordia's Ministries are having an impact in our communities every day - providing the joy of a Christmas gift to a child, lending needed support to a new mother and helping our new neighbors share in the joy of the good news. This happens because of you.

Please consider a Christmas gift.

Merry Christmas!
Dan Formeller, Council President



Scan the QR code to easily make a gift electronically! Choose 'Holidays' from the drop down menu.



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