



concordia  
church



Christmas Day

December 25, 2025

## Prelude

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**  
from the plainchant **‘Veni, Veni, Emmanuel’** setting  
for Trombone and Organ by Jeremiah Bates  
*Matt Flanagan, guest trombone*

## 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

<sup>7</sup>How 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."

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

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

<sup>10</sup>The 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

<sup>4</sup>When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he 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. <sup>6</sup>This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so 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**

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

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

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

<sup>14</sup>And 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**

Hymn of the Day

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

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

## Offering



*Thank you for supporting our ministries with our financial gifts.  
Scan the QR code to the left to easily make a one-time gift or  
establish a recurring gift.*

# 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.



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 life 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 - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce 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**

**“O Christmas Tree”, traditional  
Setting for Trombone and Organ by Jeremiah Bates**

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### **Today’s celebrants:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Nicholas Zook

**Lector:** *TBD*

**Section Leaders:** Jade Dasha, Kat Dalin

**Choir:** Marisa Buchheit, Benjamin Burney, Jade Dasha, Richard Gaul, Dan Lantvit, Kungying Li, Jordan Loyd, Mary-Ann Lupa, Betsy Ries, Wilma Stevens, Linda Storbeck, Avery Sujkowski

**Organist & Choir Director:** Paul Dykstra

# Announcements

Worship on Sunday, December 28th will be pre-recorded and available for virtual viewing only. There will be no in-person worship on this Sunday. You can find the December 28th service on our website, [www.concordiafaith.org](http://www.concordiafaith.org) OR on our YouTube channel—Concordia Church Chicago.

The church office will be closed December 24th through January 4th. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Zook at (773) 805-8191.

## Upcoming Events:

- Jan. 4th: Epiphany Sunday: worship at 10am
- Jan. 18th: Sunday School during worship at 10am
- Jan. 25th: Council meeting following worship

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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](http://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





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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](http://concordiaministries.org) | [concordiafaith.org](http://concordiafaith.org)



Love God. Love Your Neighbor.

[www.concordiafaith.org](http://www.concordiafaith.org)

773-281-1225

Concordia on Seeley

3855 N. Seeley

Sunday mornings:

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

Join the 10:00am 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.

Restrooms are located downstairs.

Hand sanitizer and face masks are available in the back of the sanctuary should you need them.

Questions? Contact Desirae, Parish Admin, at [dcontreras@concordiafaith.org](mailto:dcontreras@concordiafaith.org)

## 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

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#### 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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