

concordia
church



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1st, 2026

Lent 2026

The season of Lent in the Church calendar invites us to return to the source and wellspring of our faith, our Baptism where we can be renewed in our faith journey. The discipline of Lent takes up the practices of prayer and reflection, sacrificial giving and works of love for our neighbors. We encourage you to participate in our Lenten offerings this year.

Sunday, February 15th Lenten Preparation & Church Potluck following worship

At the end of our worship service, we'll gather outside to burn last year's palms and bid farewell to "Alleluia" for Lent. Bring a favorite dish to share at the Potluck—perhaps a favorite food you're giving up for Lent as a reminder of your Lenten discipline.

Wednesday, February 18th Ash Wednesday Service 7 PM

The Ash Wednesday Service starts the 40-day Lenten journey. The Imposition of Ashes serve as a sign both of our mortality and our baptism into Christ and life eternal. The discipline of Lent from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount serves as our reflection on the journey ahead.

Lenten Almsgiving Collection through the 40 days of Lent will be dedicated to our Concordia Ministries Fund used for the needs of our new neighbor families and Helping Hand support for those in need.

February 22nd through March 22nd Sundays in Lent

Sunday Worship Services will include **Temple Talk Presentations** by each of our ministry teams: Worship & Choir, Concordia Ministries, Education for Adults and Children, Wellness & Community, Concordia Place. Church leaders and their team members will share the impact of each ministry and the opportunities to participate in their work.

March 29th Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday recalls the triumphant entrance of Jesus into the holy city of Jerusalem at the beginning of the last week of his life. **Holy Week** is a weeklong service reflecting on the Passion that leads to the cross and grave and to the resurrection Easter morning.

Friday, April 3rd Good Friday Service 7PM

We hear the Seven Last Words of Christ with reflections of music. The service ends with the prayers for repentance and the adoration of the cross.

Prelude "Andante and Variations 2 & 3" by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

Opening Hymn

W&P #95 "Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace"



1 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
 2 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
 4 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.



Where there is ha - tred, let me bring your love;
 Where there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope;
 It is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,



where there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord;
 where there is dark - ness, on - ly light;
 in giv - ing of our - selves that we re



and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
 and where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.



3 O Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so



much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be



un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be



loved as to love with all my soul.



ceive, and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

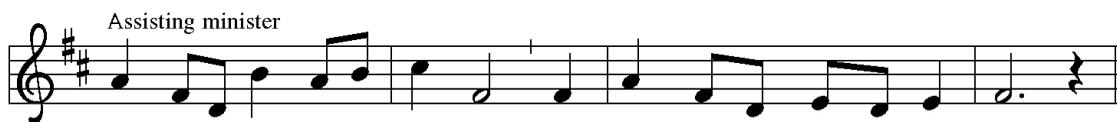
Prayer of the Day

P: Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Children's Message

Canticle of Praise



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

...continued on next page

Canticle of Praise con't...



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

First Reading

Micah 6:1-8

¹ Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ “O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 15

*Choir sings antiphon & odd verses
Congregation sings the bold verses*

R: Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill?

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart; R**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear
the LORD.**

They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst
the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. R

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Con’t on next page...

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 con't...

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

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.

P: The Gospel according to Matthew

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

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

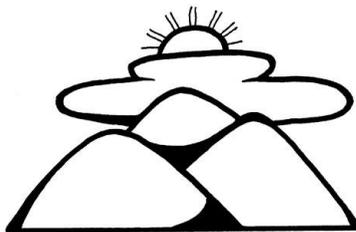
P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Gospel Acclamation (repeat acclamation)

Sermon

Rev. Nicholas Zook



Hymn of the Day

ELW #728 "Blest Are They"

Leader or All

1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . they shall in -
 3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy
 4 Blest are they who seek peace; . . they are the
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . all . . . be -

king - dom of God. Blest are they,
 her - it the earth. Blest are they who
 shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they who
 cause . . . of me. Re - joice, be glad,

full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.
 hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
 pure of heart; they shall see God.
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.
 yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain

All

Re - joice and be glad!

Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!

Re - joice and be glad!

Yours is the king - dom of God!

Apostle's Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**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.

**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. Amen.**



Prayers of Intercession

A: Remembering the Church, the world, and all those in need, let us offer our prayers to God. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Blessed be God, who gave us the light of the world and who desires that all people should come to know Christ's love and grace. Fill our hearts with your radiance and truth that we might walk as children of light. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Praise to you, almighty God and Father, you proclaimed Christ your Son at his baptism in the waters of the Jordan. We give you thanks for our baptism into Christ, we who have been born again by the power of the Holy Spirit. May we live as witnesses to your grace and love for all people. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Almighty God, you call us to witness to Christ's love in our community. We give you thanks for Concordia Place and the children, teens, and families we serve; for Concordia Music Ministry and the musicians and neighbors we bring together to experience God's love through inspiring music; for Concordia Ministries and our welcoming outreach to newly arriving migrants. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Lord God, through the ministry of your Son we have received grace upon grace. Bring light to those who dwell in darkness, joy to those in sorrow, hope to those in fear and despair. We pray especially for Ian, Margaret, Mike, Joanne, Dennis, Bernie, Mary, Chase, Aaron, Jack, Donna, Betty and Rich and for those we name before you or silently in our hearts ...Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: God of light and truth, whose love knows no bounds in your Son, Jesus. Bring us to a deeper understanding of the Gospel, help us to accept the challenge of Christian living, and lead us to the joy of faith in the family of your church. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O Lord our God, through Jesus Christ, for your mercy is everlasting, and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

C: Amen.

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

You are invited to share the sign of peace with others.

The Offering

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



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.

Offertory Anthem

“Lift Thine Eyes”
From Elijah, by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

Offertory Hymn

ELW #186 "Create in Me a Clean Heart"



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let Us Pray,

A: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and 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.

P: 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.

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

P: Holy are you, Heavenly Father. In the fullness of time you revealed yourself in your Son, Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Through him we are saved and baptized into your service.

In his baptism and in his table fellowship he took his place with sinners. He preached good news to the poor, proclaimed release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, set free the oppressed, preparing all who believe for the kingdom of God.

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

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples and said: "Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me.

Pour out upon us your Holy Spirit and upon these gifts that in the breaking of this bread and the drinking of this wine we may be joined to you in the presence of his living Christ; be one body in him, and look forward to his coming in final victory.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

C: **Amen.**



**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 Hymn

"Lamb of God"



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray,

A: God of glory, in this sacrament you unite us in the body of your Son. May we who have been guests at this table grow in love for one another, that through us your light may shine in all the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

ELW #669 "Rise Up, O Saints of God!"



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
 as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
 re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
 stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
 and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!



Announcements

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son (+), and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

*“Molto Allegro E Vivace” For Pianoforte
by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Op.193*

Today's celebrants:

Pastor: Rev. Nicholas Zook

Deacon: Christina Mitchell

Lector: Mark Croll

Greeter: Jocelyn Lemish

Song Leaders: Marisa Buchheit, Jade Dasha, Benjamin Burney, Avery Sujkowski

Choir members: Richard Gaul, Dan Lantvit, Mary-Ann Lupa, Betsy Ries, Wilma Stevens, Linda Storbeck

Organist & Choir Director: Paul Dykstra

Announcements

Concert postponed to February 22nd, 2026

The concert scheduled for last week has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 22nd at 2pm. Make plans to attend and hear duo pianists Dana Brown and Paul Dykstra, joined by a group of talented musicians, perform Bach, Schumann, and more! This concert is FREE! See the flyer on page 22 for more details.

Potluck - February 15th

Make plans to stay after worship on Sunday, February 15th for our next potluck! This is the final Sunday before Lent begins, and we will eat and fellowship together as we prepare our hearts for the Lenten season. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church, or email Desirae your RSVP at dcontreras@concordiafaith.org.

Sunday School

Sunday School is in session today. The lesson theme will be 'Loving Others' as we celebrate Valentine's day. Children will hear the children's message with Pastor Zook and will then join their teachers in the gym for the lesson. Children ages 4-11 years old are invited!

Piano Benches - FREE!

Concordia Church has 1 more piano bench that is free to a good home! We no longer have need for it and would love to see it get some use. Please speak with Pastor Zook or Desirae if you are interested in one of them.

Announcements con't...

Blankets needed

We are currently looking for donations of new or gently used blankets for some families in our community. If you have gently used blankets at home (free of stains or tears) that you are willing to share, or if you are able to purchase new blankets, we have many local families who could make good use of a warm blanket this winter. Please bring any donations to the church. If you have any questions, reach out to Desirae at dcontreras@concordiafaith.org.

Crib wanted

A family in Concordia Place's Home Visiting program is in need of a safe and appropriate crib for their infant. We are seeking a crib that is in good condition and meets current safety standards. If you have a crib you'd be willing to donate, please reach out to Desirae at dcontreras@concordiafaith.org or Gabriela Servin, Director on Seeley, at gservin@concordiaplace.org. Additionally, if you know of someone who may have a crib to donate, please share this message with them. We appreciate your support!

Wheelchair wanted

A church member is in need of a wheelchair; if anyone has one that they are willing to donate, please reach out to Desirae or Pastor Zook.



Musically yours!

St. Valentine's Day

Concert feat. Très Belle
with Pianist Paul Dykstra

Friday, February 13th - 7 PM



Tickets: \$25 - kids free
(including 1 drink)

Valentine's sweets
and treats included!

Concordia Church
3855 N. Seeley



Concordia
Concerts
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3855 N Seeley Ave
Chicago

Sunday Concert



Dana Brown & Paul Dykstra
duo pianists

*performing works by J.S. Bach, Robert Schumann,
Darius Milhaud, & William Bolcom*

*Featuring Cara Schlecker Ketter, Concertmaster;
Fiona Chisholm, Horn; and Midtown Strings.*

**NEW
DATE!**

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 22
2pm

Free
admission



concordiafaith.org/concerts

Bringing our neighbors together to experience God's love through inspiring music.

Important Dates to note:

- February 1st: Sunday School during 10am worship
- February 13th: Valentine's Day Gala at 7pm with Tres Belle
- February 15th: Sunday School during 10am worship
Potluck following Worship
- February 18th: Ash Wednesday service at 7pm
- February 22nd: Council Meeting at 11am
Concert at 2pm

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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
- 3) Via cash or check left in the offering plate or mailed to the church at:

3855 N Seeley Ave
Chicago, IL 60618





Love God. Love Your Neighbor.

www.concordiafaith.org

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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 in the fellowship hall; exit the sanctuary through the back and follow the stairwell downstairs.

Masks and hand sanitizer are located in the back of the sanctuary should you need either.

Questions? Contact Desirae, Parish Admin, at 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

W&P #95 "Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace"

Text: Sebastian Temple
Music: PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS, Sebastian Temple
Text and music © 1967 OCP Publications

Hymn of the Day

ELW #728 "Blest Are They"

Text: David Haas, b. 1957
Music: BLEST ARE THEY, David Haas
Text and music © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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Offertory Hymn

ELW #186 "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Closing Hymn

ELW #669 "Rise Up, O Saints of God!"

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893
Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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