

concordia  
church



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8th, 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> through March 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

Evening Prayer "Abendsegen"

Music by Engelbert Humperdinck; Org Arr. Aubrey Tucker

Opening Hymn

ELW #665 "Rise, Shine, You People!"



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered  
 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;  
 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,  
 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to  
 he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and  
 your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the  
 Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.  
 wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.  
 world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.  
 Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.



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: Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through 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

Isaiah 58:9b-12

- <sup>9b</sup> If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
<sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.  
<sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you continually  
and satisfy your needs in parched places  
and make your bones strong,  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water  
whose waters never fail.  
<sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



## Psalm 112:1-9 [10]

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

**R: Light shines in the darkness for the upright.**

- <sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the Lord  
and have great delight in | God's commandments!
- <sup>2</sup> **Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;  
the generation of the upright | will be blessed.**
- <sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be | in their house,  
and their righteousness will | last forever.
- <sup>4</sup> **Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;**  
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion. R
- <sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending  
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.
- <sup>6</sup> **For they will nev- | er be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.**
- <sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the Lord.
- <sup>8</sup> **Their heart is established and | will not shrink,  
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.**
- <sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast  
forever;  
they will hold up their | head with honor.
- [ <sup>10</sup> **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and | pine  
away; the desires of the wick- | ed will perish. R]**

## Second Reading

## 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup> For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup> My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

**Con't on next page...**

## Second Reading

## 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 con't...

<sup>6</sup> Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. <sup>7</sup> But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory <sup>8</sup> and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup> But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him” –

<sup>10</sup> God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

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 Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

## **Gospel**

**Matthew 5:13-20**

<sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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 #715 "Christ, Be Our Light"



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

*Refrain*



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

## 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, Ivan, 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.*



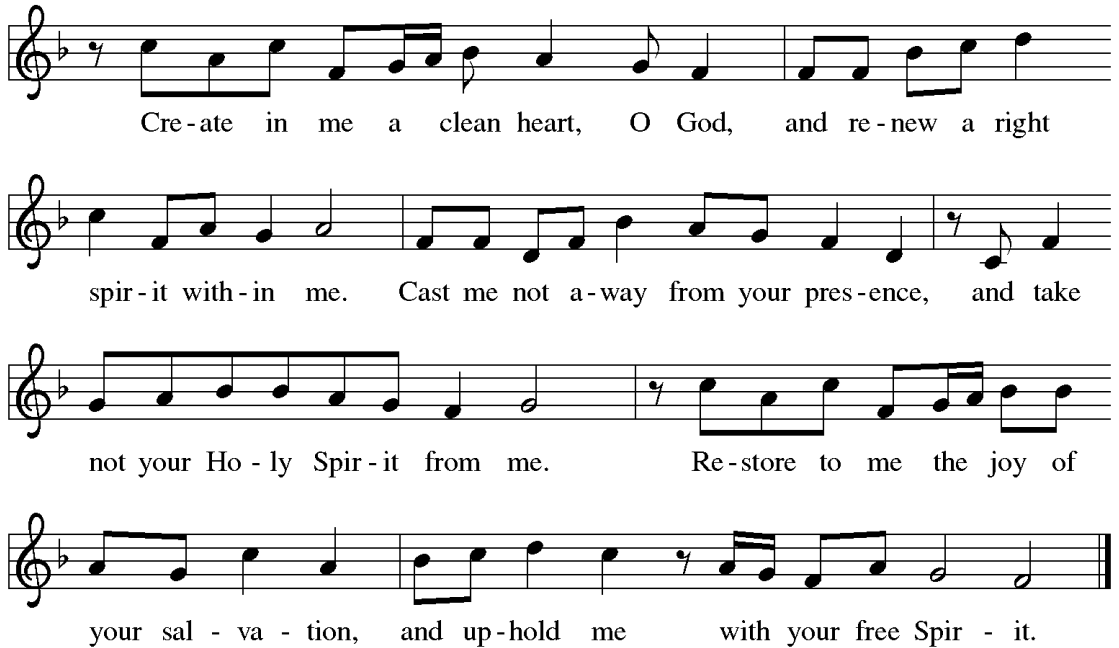
*Thank you for supporting our ministries with our financial gifts. Scan the QR code to the left to easily make a one-time gift or establish a recurring gift.*

### Offertory Anthem

***“Light of God, Within Us Shine”***  
**The Prayer from Hansel and Gretel;**  
**Music, Engelbert Humperdinck; Arr. Fred Shattuck**

## 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: 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.

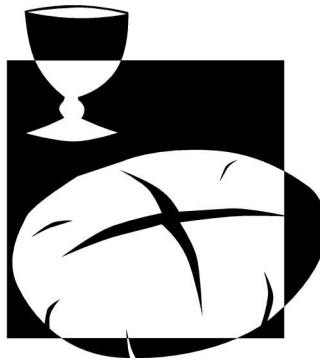
**C: Amen.**

**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 #677 "This Little Light of Mine"

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh, oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

oh,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

## **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**

*“Postlude for a Flute”*  
**Moderato for Organ by Paul Fey**

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### **Today’s celebrants:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Nicholas Zook

**Deacon:** Kim Baratta, Bob Beach

**Lector:** —

**Greeter:** John DeCorah

**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**

### **Transfiguration Sunday—February 15th**

Next Week, February 15th, is Transfiguration Sunday. Following the service, we will gather outside to “bury the Alleluia” for Lent, and burn last years palms. Please bring your palms from home.

### **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](mailto:dcontreras@concordiafaith.org).

### **Ash Wednesday Service**

Make plans to join us on Ash Wednesday for service beginning at 7pm. The service will include the imposition of ashes and will be available in-person and via livestream on our website [concordiafaith.org/worship](http://concordiafaith.org/worship).

### **Sunday School**

The next Sunday School session is on February 15th. The lesson theme will be 'Learning about Lent' as we prepare for the Lenten season. 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](mailto: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](mailto:dcontreras@concordiafaith.org) or Gabriela Servin, Director on Seeley, at [gservin@concordiaplace.org](mailto: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!



*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  
presents



concordia  
church  
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](https://concordiafaith.org/concerts)

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

## Important Dates to note:

- 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](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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[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 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](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 #665 "Rise, Shine, You People!"**

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.  
Music: WOJTKIEWICZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003  
Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

### Hymn of the Day

**ELW #715 "Christ, Be Our Light"**

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957  
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell  
Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.  
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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 #677 "This Little Light of Mine"**

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935  
Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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.
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*Matt Flanagan, Concert Operations*  
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