concordia church



Epiphany of Our Lord

January 8, 2023

concordia church

Love God. Love Your Neighbor.

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.

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

Journey of the Magi

By T.S. Elliot

A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times when we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities dirty and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.
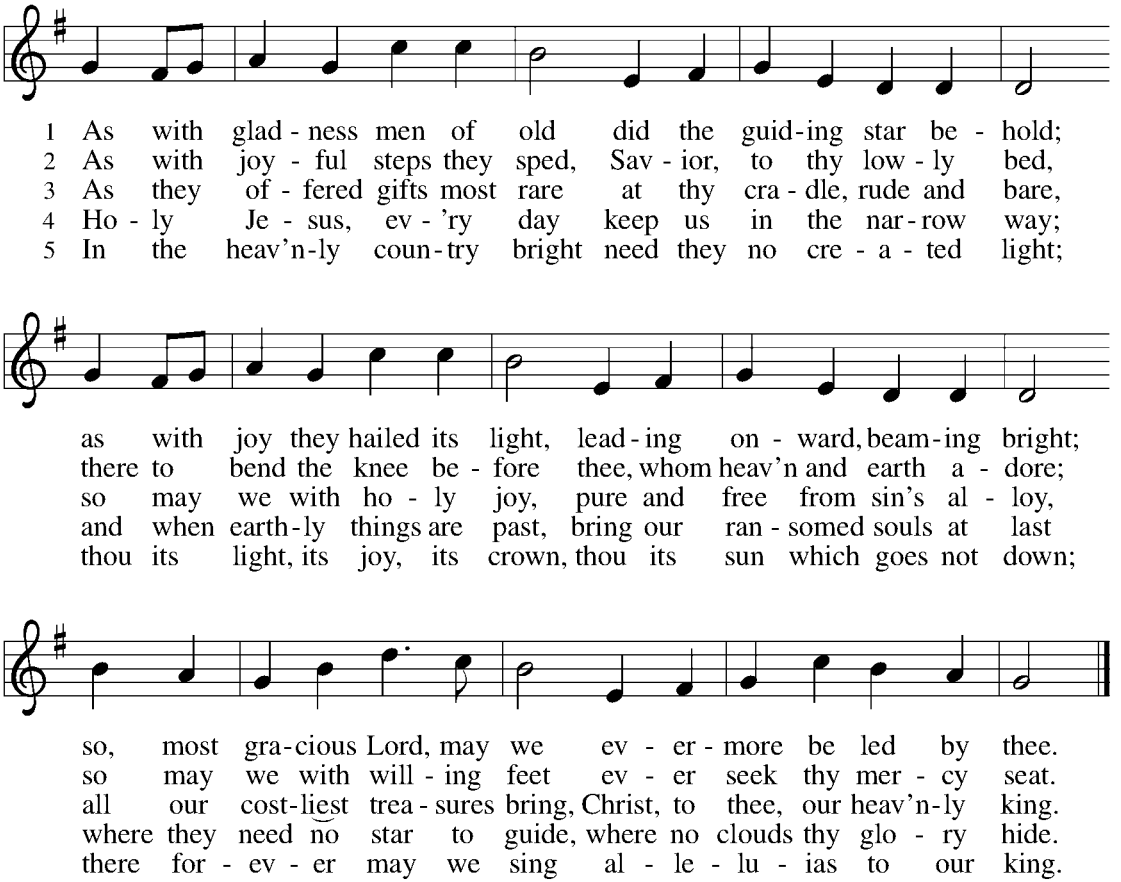
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Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wineskins.
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.
All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

Prelude

Processional Hymn ELW #302 "*As With Gladness Men of Old*"

(Verses sung during the procession to the four corners of the sanctuary)



Blessing of the Church

P: May peace be to this house (of God) and to all who enter here. By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.
Proverbs 24:3-4

Proclamation

P: As we prepare to ask God's blessing on our church, let us listen to the words of scripture.

A: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 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. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.
John 1:1-4, 14, 16

Inscription

20 + CMB + 23
20 two thousand
23 and twenty-three years ago.

The magi of old, known as

C Caspar,
M Melchior, and
B Balthasar

followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us

+ Christe mansionem benedica
+ Christ, bless this house, +
and remain with us throughout the new year.

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

First Reading — Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

L: Word of Word. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.
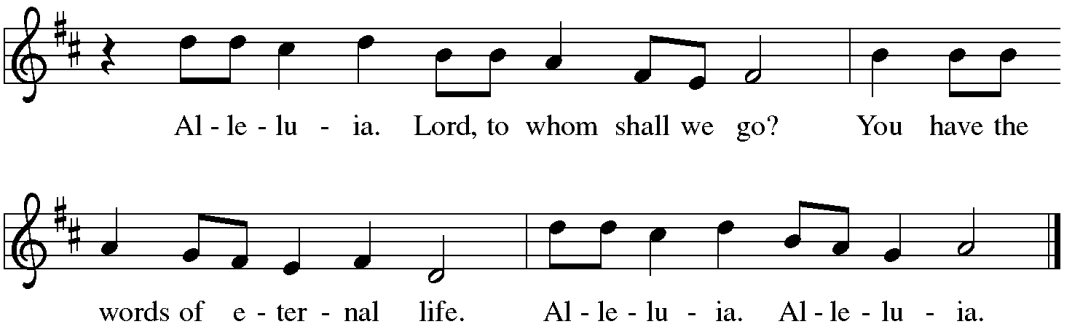
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Second Reading — Ephesians 3:1–12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation — *"Alleluia"*



P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel — Matthew 2:1–12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

> 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"
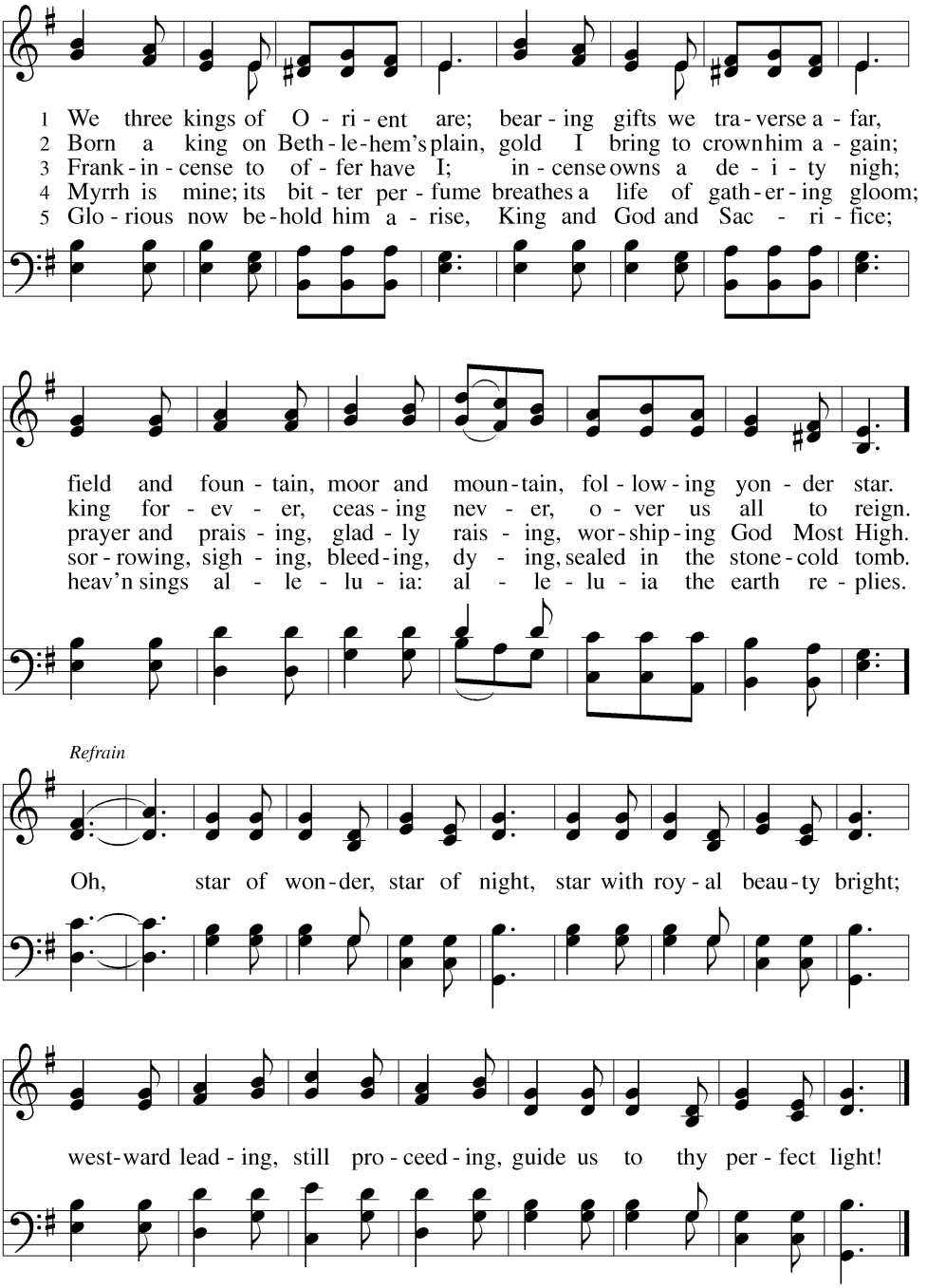
Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.
P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel Acclamation (repeat acclamation)

Sermon — Rev. Nicholas Zook

Presentation by Community Service Team Members

Hymn of the Day WOV #646 " *We Three Kings of Orient Are*"



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. Make your church holy that we who have been born again by the power of the Holy Spirit may live as witnesses to your grace and love for all people. 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: Carol, Perry, Lola, Gary, Glen, Lupe, Galen, Mike, Janet, Rachel, Kevin, Harry, all those diagnosed with COVID-19, and for those we name before you or silently in our hearts *[pause for names]* ...Lord, in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

A: Thanks be to God who calls us to witness to Christ's love in our community. We give you thanks for the ministries of our congregation, and the blessings of Concordia Church and Concordia Place. Use our gifts for those you have called us to serve. 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

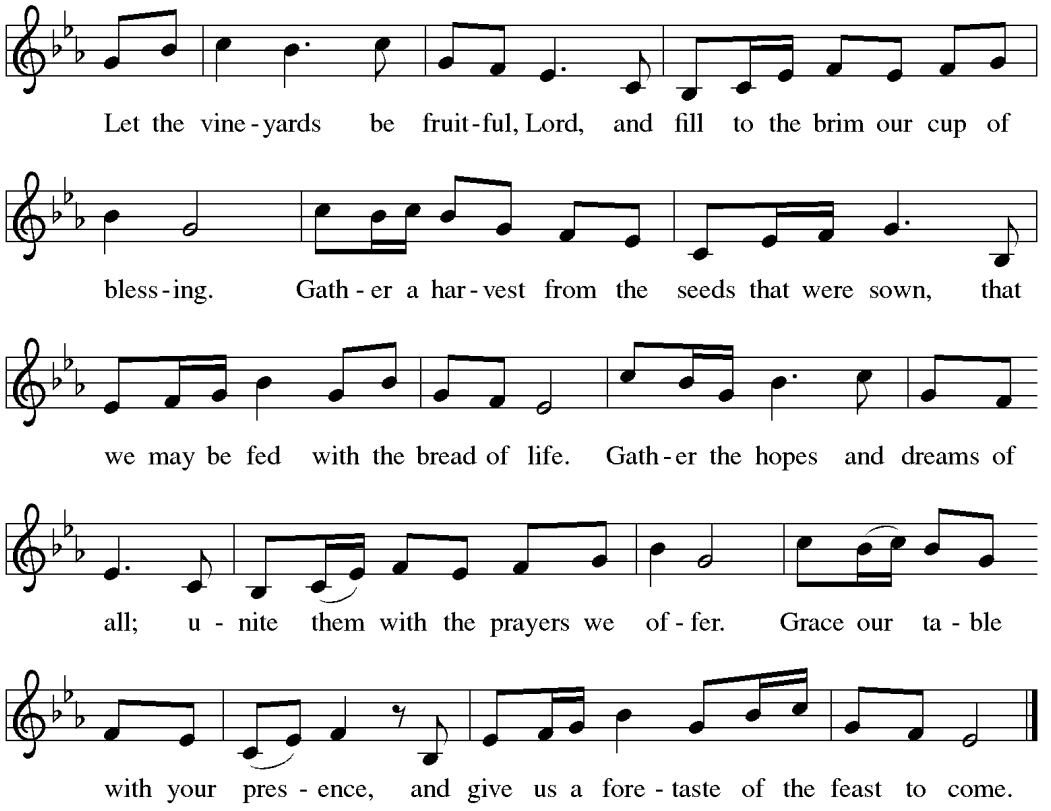
Offertory Anthem *sung by musicians*

Offertory Prayer

A: God of wisdom,
C: As the magi offered gifts to the Christ child, receive the treasures of ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body that we may be a light to all nations; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Offertory Hymn ELW #184 "*Let the Vineyards be Fruitful*"



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.

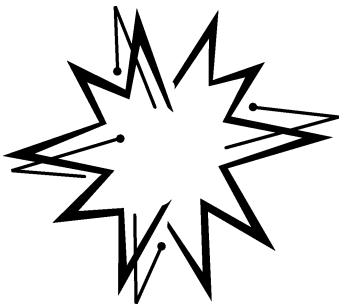
C: Amen

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.

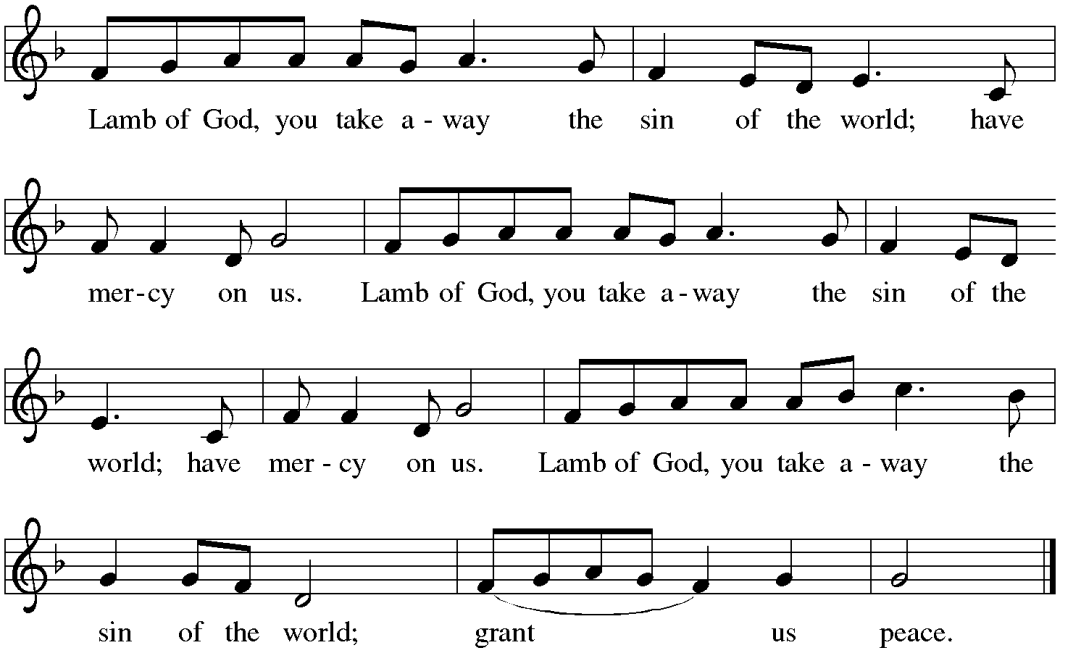
Communion Invitation

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*"



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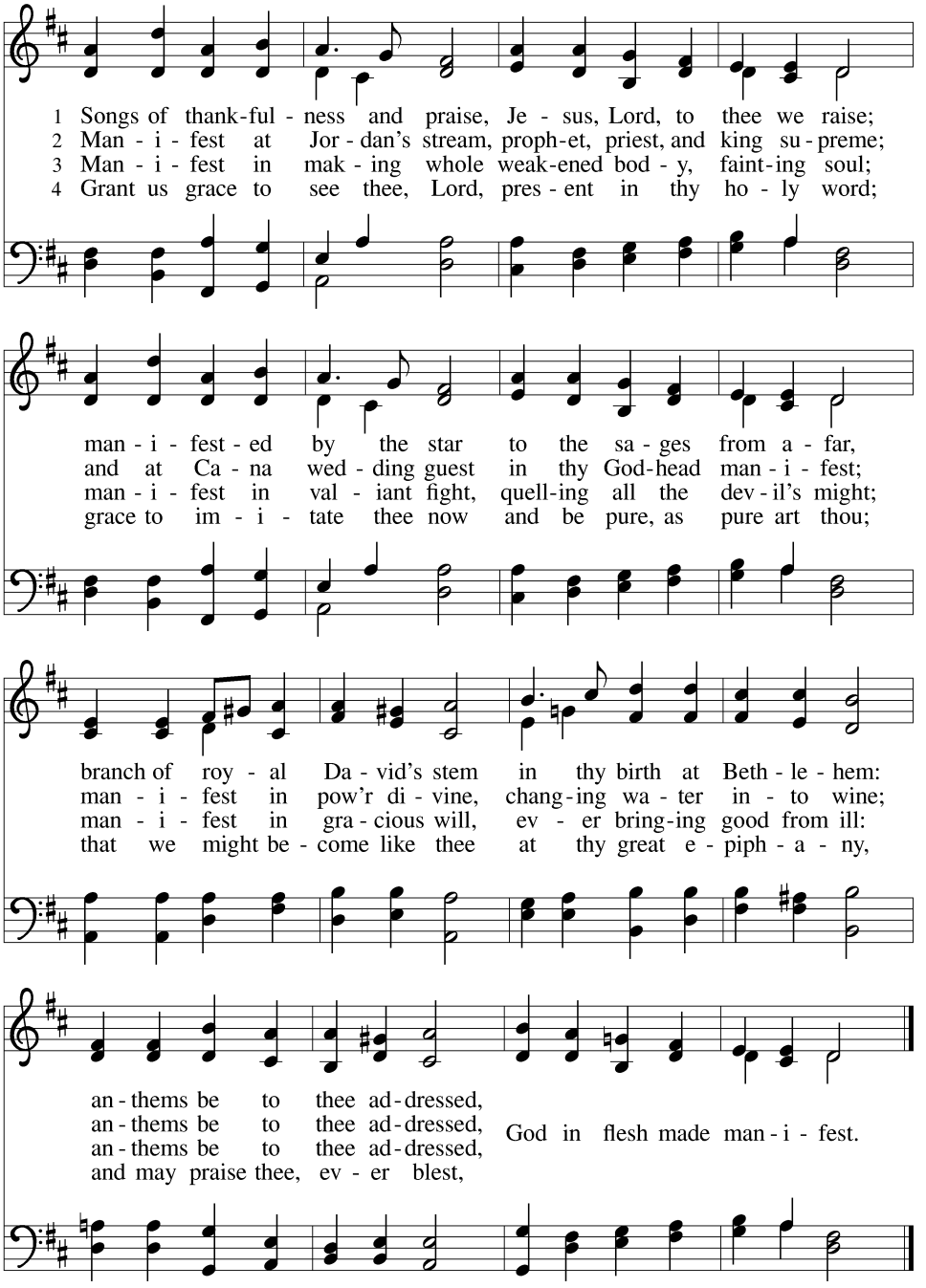
C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

P: 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 #310 "*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*"



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

Church De-greening—TODAY!

Please stay after worship today and help us 'de-green' (a.k.a. undecorate) the church! Refreshments will be provided to make the endeavor a bit merrier. We'd appreciate your help!

Adult Study—beginning January 15th

Maybe you've made a New Year's resolution to grow in your faith by participating in a study group, or…maybe you'd like to anyway. Starting next Sunday at 8:30 AM, you're invited to join in a discussion group meeting in the gym that will explore in depth the Sunday readings each week. We'll delve in deeper into the appointed readings and share our perspectives on how God's Word speaks to each of us. You can then hear how the preacher approaches the proclamation in the sermon.

Concordia's Anniversary Worship & Potluck—January 29th

January 29th is the official date of the 125th Anniversary of our congregation. Join us for a very special worship service, music, and guest preacher, Pastor Linnea Wilson who grew up in this church. Following worship, we'll host a congregational pot-luck in the gym. Sign up sheets in the narthex or on-line at www.concordiafaith.org.

Year-End Giving Statements

Giving statements for 2022 will be issued soon. We are counting and entering final gifts in order to issue accurate records to everyone. Please reach out to Desirae (dcontreras@concordiafaith.org) with any questions.

Important Dates to note:

- January 15th: Executive Team meeting following worship
- January 22nd: Council meeting following worship

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

concordia church

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

Free Childcare

50/50 RAFFLE

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 #302 "*As With Gladness Men of Old*"**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

Gospel Acclamation **"*Alleluia*" Setting 3**

Hymn of the Day **WOV #646 "*We Three Kings of Orient Are*"**

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891, alt.
Music: THREE KINGS OF ORIENT, John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820–1891

Offertory Hymn **ELW #184 "*Let the Vineyards be Fruitful*"**

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Communion Hymn **"*Lamb of God*" Setting 3**

Closing Hymn **ELW #310 "*Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*"**

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.
Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

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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Church Staff Contact Information



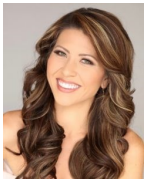
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