December 7th, 2025—Second Sunday of Advent

Prelude ***Dance on "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"***
arranged for organ by Paul Fey

Prayer of the Day
Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

First Reading **Isaiah 11:1-10**

1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
4 but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
6 The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
7 The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
9 They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

[10] On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.
L: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 ***Sung Responsively; Congregation Sings the Bold Text***

Choir Antiphon
R: May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace.

[1] Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
[2] that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;
[3] that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
[4] Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R
[5] May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
[6] Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
[7] In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
[18] Blessed are you, Lord God, the | God of Israel;
you alone do | wondrous deeds!
[19] And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen. R

Second Reading **Romans 15:4-13**

[4] Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. [5] May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, [6] so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

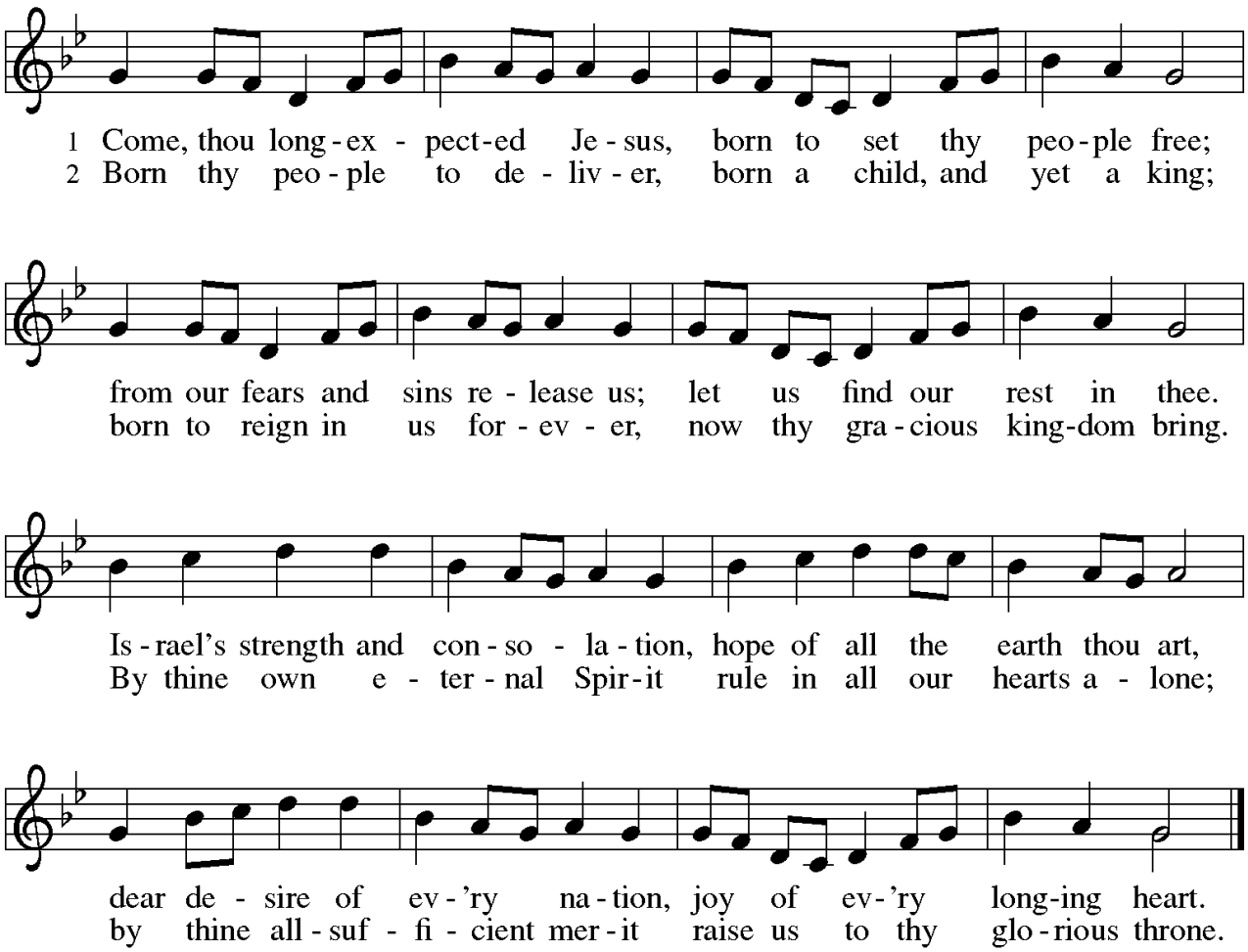
[7] Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. [8] For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors [9] and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,
"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name";
[10] and again he says,
"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";
[11] and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";
12 and again Isaiah says,
"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope."
13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
L: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel **Matthew 3:1-12**

1 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,
"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.' "
4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.
7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, 9 and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.
11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."
P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day **ELW #254 *"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"***



Anthem ***'Behold that Star'* by Thomas W. Talley, arr. By Frank Cunkle**

Closing Hymn **ELW #436 "*Wake, O Wake For Night is Flying*"**



Closing Hymn cont'…



Postlude **Toccata on *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"* arranged for organ by Paul Fey**

Deacon: Christina Formeller
Lector: Veronica McMillion

Announcements

Church Greening

Today, we will green the church following worship. We will put up the tree, hang wreaths and garland, and make sure the sanctuary and exterior of the church is ready for the Christmas season!

Light refreshments will be provided for those who stay to help.

Concordia Place Wishing Stars

Thank you to those who have purchased gifts for our Concordia Place families through the Amazon Wish List. There are still a few items left on the list; QR code to the list is in the Advent bulletin. However, we are greatly in need of donations of $20 gift cards for the teens in our programs. Please bring any gift card donations to the church or send to Concordia Place at 3300 N. Whipple St. Chicago, IL 60618.

concordia church

3855 N Seeley Ave
Chicago, IL 60618

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

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



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

Such good news deserves our celebration with great joy.

Christ's Blessings,
Pastor Nicholas Zook

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

Please consider a Christmas gift.

Merry Christmas!
Dan Formeller, Council President

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