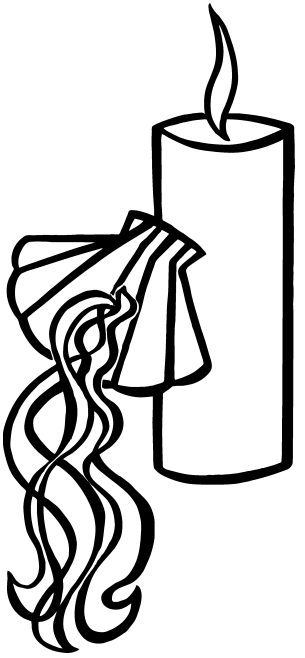
concordia church



Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 13th, 2026

Prelude

"Steal Away" Traditional Spiritual
arr. for organ by Marianne Kim

Opening Hymn

ELW #453 *"Baptized and Set Free"*



Sacrament of Holy Baptism

P: In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

P: Do you present Benjamin Bruce DeCoudres for baptism?

P: Evan and Nicole, as you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

> to live with him among God's faithful people,
> bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
> teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
> place in his hands the holy scriptures,
> and nurture him in faith and prayer,
> so that your child may learn to trust God,
> proclaim Christ through word and deed,
> care for others and the world God made,
> and work for justice and peace.

P: Do you promise to help Benjamin grow in the Christian faith and life?
Response: I do.

P: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Benjamin in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?
Response: We do.

P: People of God, do you promise to support Benjamin, Evan, Nicole, and Charlie, and pray for them in their new life in Christ?
C: We do.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
Response: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
Response: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

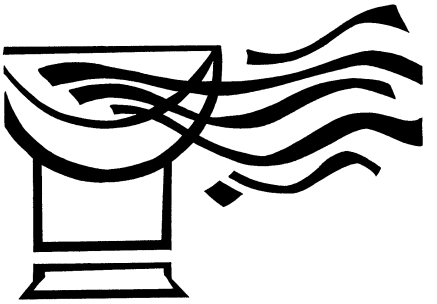
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

BAPTISM

Benjamin Bruce DeCoudres, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



ANOINTING & SEALING
P: Let us pray.
We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

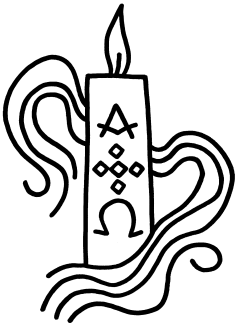
Sustain Benjamin with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.
Amen.

P: Benjamin, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
Amen.

WELCOME
Sponsor: Let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

A: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.



Hymn of Praise

ELW #867 *"In Thee Is Gladness"*



Prayer of the Day

P: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

First Reading — Genesis 50:15-21

15 Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still
bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to
him?" 16 So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction
before he died, 17 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and
the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the
servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18 Then
his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your
slaves." 19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? 20
Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to
preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. 21 So have no fear; I myself will
provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking
kindly to them.
L: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Anthem — *"Hymn to the Trinity"*

Text by O Pater Sancte; Music by John Leavitt

Second Reading Romans 14:1-12

[1] Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over
opinions. [2] Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. [3]
Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must
not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. [4] Who are you
to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand
or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

[5] Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to
be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. [6] Those who observe the
day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give
thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to
God.

[7] For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. [8] If we live, we
live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or
whether we die, we are the Lord's. [9] For to this end Christ died and lived again, so
that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

[10] Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you
despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of
God. [11] For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

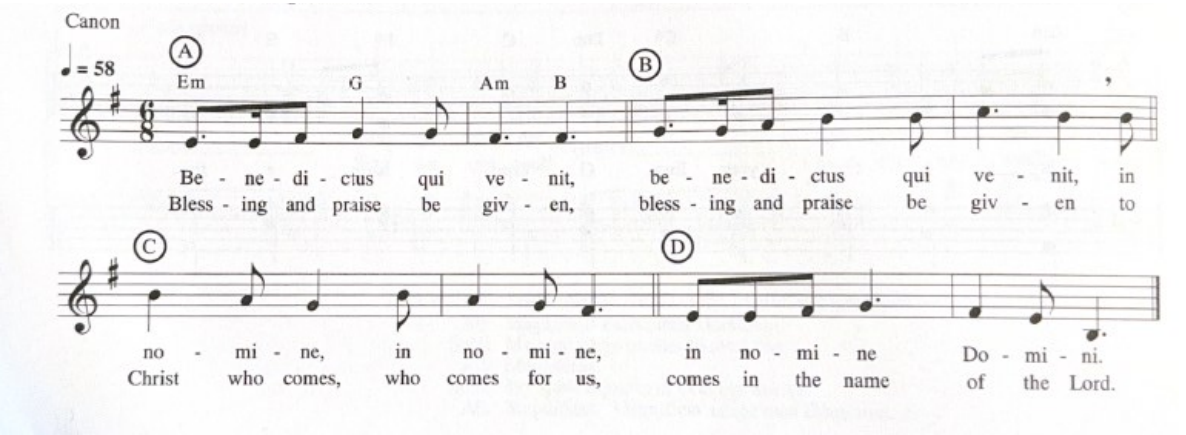
[12] So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation — Taize #27 *"Blessing and Praise"*



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

The Gospel — Matthew 18:21-35

21 Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me,
how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "Not
seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who
wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one
who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, 25 and, as he could not
pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his
possessions and payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him,
saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity
for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that
same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a
hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' 29 Then
his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will
pay you.' 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would
pay the debt.

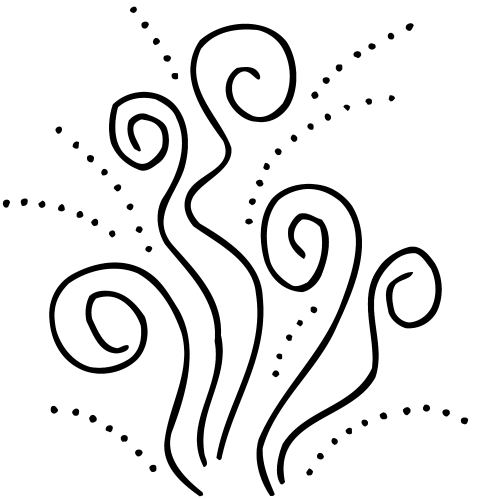
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The Gospel con't. Matthew 18:21-35

[31] When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed,
and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. [32] Then his lord
summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt
because you pleaded with me. [33] Should you not have had mercy on your fellow
slave, as I had mercy on you?' [34] And in anger his lord handed him over to be
tortured until he would pay his entire debt. [35] So my heavenly Father will also do
to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."
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 #454 *"Remember & Rejoice"*



Prayers of Thanksgiving

A: Called to the renewal of our faith in Baptism, let us offer our prayers to God.

A: In the waters of baptism, you join us to the life and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For the gift of forgiveness, we praise you.
C: Hear us, O God.

A: You send us your Holy Spirit to guide us and teach us. For all the gifts of the Spirit, we thank you.
C: Hear us, O God.

A: You nourish us with your word and welcome us to your table. For all the ways you care for us, we praise you.
C: Hear us, O God.

A: You call us to tell others about Jesus. For willingness to show Jesus by what we say and do, we pray to you.
C: Hear us, O God.

A: You send us to help other people and to work for what is right. For courage to be the body of Christ, we pray to you.
C: Hear us, O God.

A: You send your spirit of healing and strength to all who call upon you. For those who seek your healing presence, especially Ian, Margaret, Mike, Joanne, Dennis, Bernie, Mary, Chase, Aaron, Jack, Donna, Betty, Ivan, Rich, Pastor Dan, and for those we name before you or silently in our hearts *(pause for names]* ….we pray to you.
C: Hear us, O God.

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

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. There is also a plate in the back of the sanctuary for you to place your offerings.



Offertory Hymn

W&P #5 *"All That We Have"*



Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray,
Merciful Father
C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us -- ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist

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.

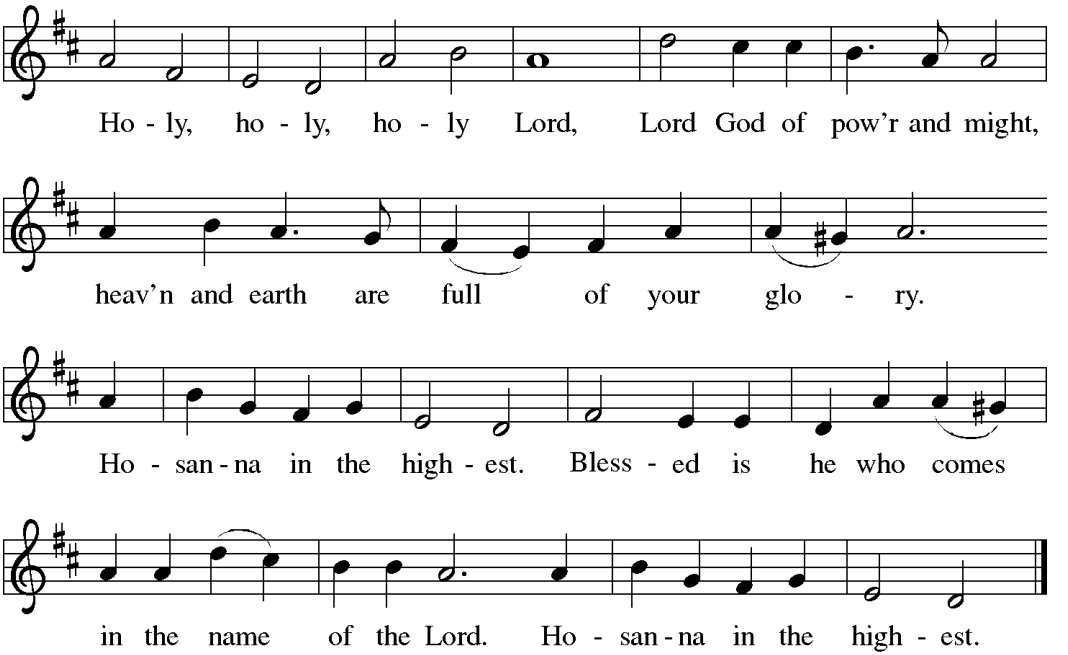
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should and at all times……. we praise your name and join their unending hymn.



Sanctus



P: You are indeed Holy, mighty, and merciful.
You loved the world so much
you sent your only Son to be our Savior.
The Lord of all life came to live among us.
He healed and taught, ate, with sinners,
and won for you a new people
by water and the Spirit.
We saw his glory.
Yet he humbled himself in obedience to your will,
freely accepting death on a cross.
By dying, he freed us from unending death;
by rising from the dead, he gave us everlasting life.

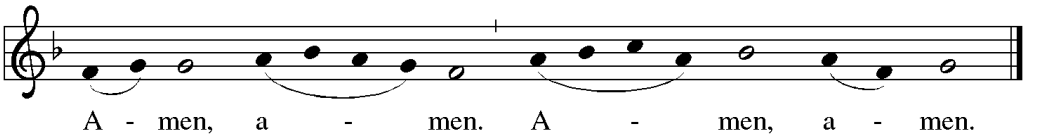
P: On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
the Lord Jesus took bread.
After giving you thanks, he broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
When the supper was over, he took the cup.
Again he returned thanks to you,
gave the cup to his disciples, and said:
Drink from this, all of you,
this is the cup of the new covenant in my blood,
poured out for you and many,
for the forgiveness of sins.
We pray for his coming in final victory,
as we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

C:



P: Send the power of your Holy Spirit on us,
gathered here out of love for you,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread
And may the Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in service to all the world.
Through your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, now and for ever.

C:



The Lord's Prayer

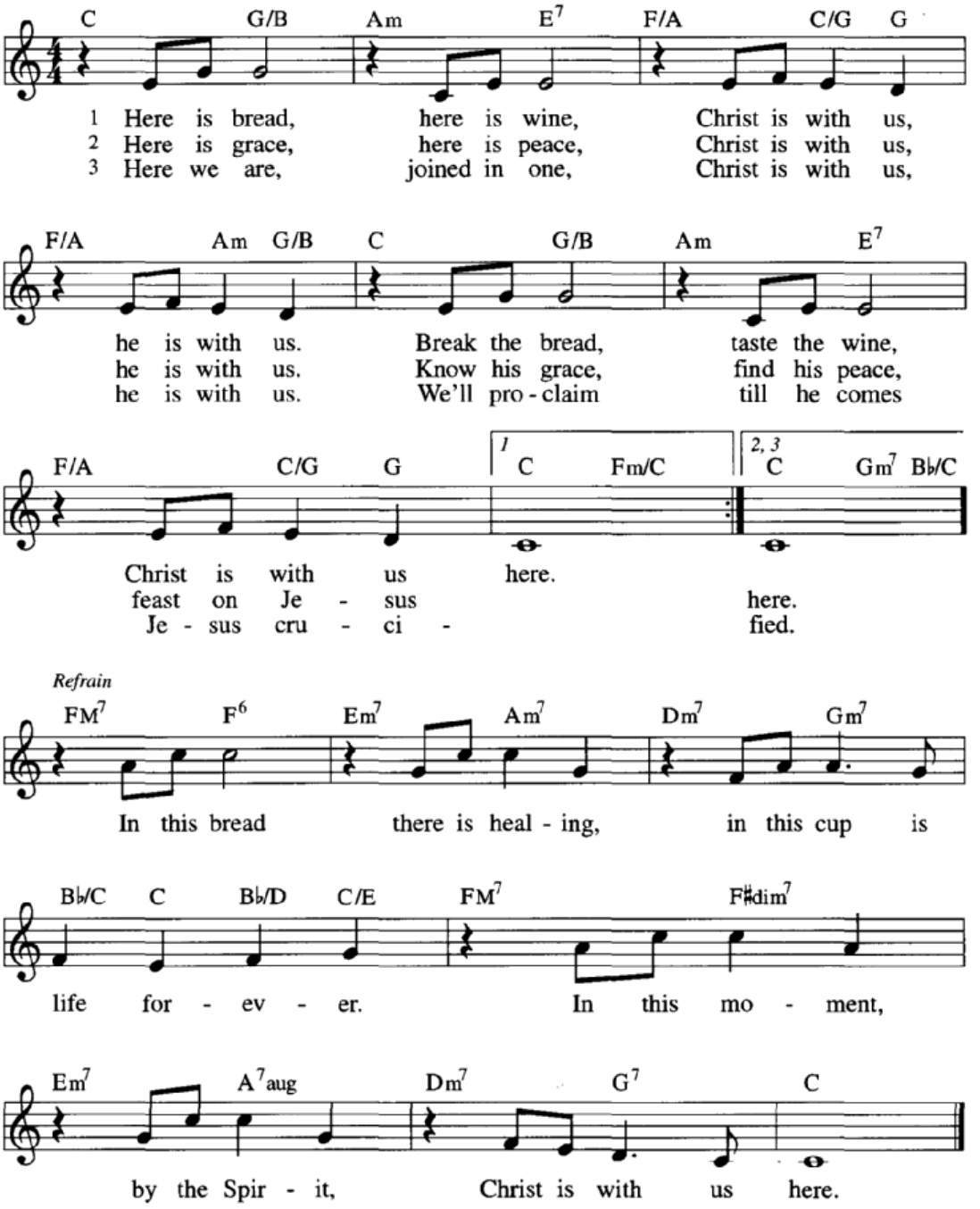
C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil,
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Communion 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 W&P #58 "*Here is Bread*"



Post Communion Blessing

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

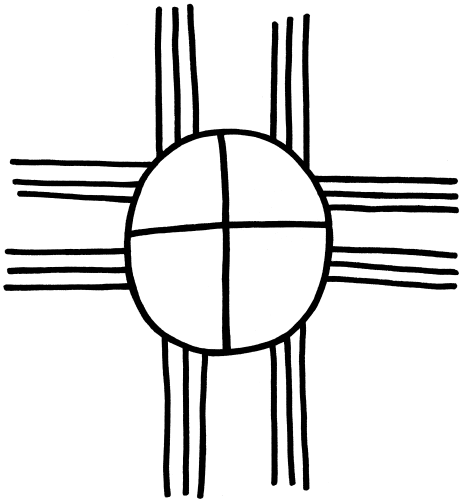
C: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

A: Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Lead us in our Lenten pilgrimage: that our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.



Closing Hymn

ELW #768 *"Lead Me, Guide Me"*



Announcements

Dismissal

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
C: Amen

A: Go in peace. Remember your baptism.
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude *"My Lord, What a Morning"* **Traditional Spiritual arr. for organ by Marianne Kim**

Today's celebrants:

Pastor: Rev. Nicholas Zook
Deacon: Kim Baratta
Lector: Marne Turner
Greeter: Bob Beach
Song Leaders: Marisa Mladenovic, Jade Dasha, Benjamin Burney
Choir members: Dan Lantvit, Bates McIntyre Larson, Maggie Larson, Kunying Li, Mary-Ann Lupa, Betsy Ries, Wilma Stevens, Linda Storbeck
Organist & Choir Director: Paul D. Dykstra

Announcements

Lenten worship is held each Sunday at 10am and available both in-person and via livestream. Sunday School is also held on certain Sundays during the season of Lent following the Children's Message in each service.

Adult Study is each Sunday during Lent at 9am in the church office. You may also participate via Zoom.

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Important Dates to note:

- March 1st: Sunday School during 10am worship
- March 15th: Sunday School during 10am worship
- March 20th: Lakeshore Brass "Brass Classics" concert at 7pm

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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



concordia church

3855 N Seeley Ave

HOMECOMING SUNDAY

September 20, 2026

Worship Service 10am

Celebrate Chicago's Gospel roots during the service. Cornelius Johnson and other guest musicians join Concordia's choir to share special music.

Acclaimed tenor Dr. Cornelius Johnson, praised for his "expressive and soaring" voice, has performed on opera and concert stages worldwide, he is also active as a choral director, church musician, and educator in the Chicago area.



Potluck Lunch 11am

Homecoming Sunday is a celebration of community, connection, and new beginnings. Whether you've been here for years or are visiting for the first time, join us as we gather in worship, reconnect with friends, and celebrate the start of a new ministry season.

RSVP HERE!

Scan Me

Questions? Email Desirae at dcontreras@concordiafaith.org

concordia church

A Concordia family of ministries serving people and communities

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concordia church

3855 N Seeley Ave, Chicago

TECH TOGETHER



Learn, ask questions, and discover new ways technology can help in everyday life. Each month we'll explore a different topic in a friendly, no-pressure environment.

Why Don't My Photos Look Like That?

Thursday, September 24th @ 6:30pm

You CAN take good photos with your smartphone! Learn how to take good pics, organize them, and share them with friends and family.





Can You Help Me With This?

Thursday, October 15th @ 6:30pm

Having problems with your devices or have questions about how to use a certain app or program? Bring your devices and your questions!

What is A.I. and How Can It Help Me?

Thursday, November 12th @ 6:30pm

Learn how A.I. works and discover practical ways it can save time, spark ideas, and simplify everyday tasks.



– All sessions are FREE and open to the public! –

Questions? Email dcontreras@concordiafaith.org

concordia place

Save the Date

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS

Recess



OCTOBER 1

THE RIVER ROOM

at Burning Bush Brewery

4018 N Rockwell St
Chicago, IL 60618

There will be

Dueling Pianos, Food, Drinks,
Silent Auction, and more

Scan Here

Learn more
about our event

concordia church

CONCORDIA PRESENTS...

VERSES & VOICES

IN COLLABORATION WITH PROJECT POETIC JUSTICE

Join us for an afternoon of music, poetry, and community! Showcasing works created in collaboration with residents at the DC jail, familiar favorites, and poetry readings, this event is meant to amplify marginalized voices & inspire the audience to take action.

CONCORDIA CHURCH
3855 N SEELEY AVE, CHICAGO, IL

4 OCTOBER 2026
4:00 PM



FEATURING THE VOICES OF:


KIMBERLY JONES


YOEL DAVIS


SOFIA GIRALDO


MARISA MLADENOVIC


JADE DASHÁ


RYAN ALEXANDER

FREE ENTRY

CONCORDIAFAITH.ORG

concordia church
3855 N Seeley Ave, Chicago



WALK & WONDER

Join us for casual one(ish)-hour walks around our neighborhood. Walk at your own pace, stay for as long as you'd like, and enjoy friendly conversation along the way.

2ND AND 4TH WEDNESDAYS EACH MONTH

beginning September 9th

6:30PM - MEET AT CONCORDIA CHURCH

Hosted by Concordia and open to everyone, Walk & Wonder is about community, curiosity, and light exercise —no religious program or expectations, just neighbors walking together.

Qustions? Email Desirae Contreras, Parish Admin, at dcontreras@concordiafaith.org

concordia church

A Concordia family of ministries serving people and communities

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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.

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 — **ELW #453 *"Baptized and Set Free"***

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner
Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

Hymn of Praise — **ELW #867 *"In Thee Is Gladness"***

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549–1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556–1622

Gospel Acclamation — **Taize #27 *"Blessing and Praise"***

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an imprint of Cassell plc, 1991
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Hymn of the Day — **ELW #454 "*Remember & Rejoice*"**

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776
Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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Offertory Hymn — **W&P #5 "*All That We Have*"**

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776
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Closing Hymn — ***ELW #768 "Lead Me, Guide Me"***

Text: Doris Akers, 1922–1995
Music: Doris Akers
Text and music © 1953 Doris Akers, admin. Unichappell Music, Inc.

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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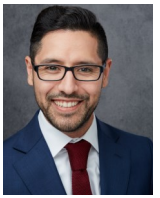
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