concordia church



Concordia Church

Homecoming Sunday

September 20, 2026



On behalf of the entire Music Team here at Concordia, I am thrilled to welcome Dr. Cornelius V. Johnson III to our special service this morning, paying tribute and homage to Chicago's remarkable history and leadership of Gospel Music! Dr. Johnson has actually performed both as chorister and soloist with our wonderful choir on many occasions, so we are honored to welcome him back to Concordia! However, for this special call out to Chicago's gospel music heritage, I am certain no one could lead us on the repertoire and style in the manner Dr. Johnson will today. Having been in awe of both his voice and his immaculate "keyboard stylings" for all these years (yep, many these days!!), I know we are all in for a special blessing and treat. Cornelius, we welcome having our eyes and hearts opened not only to your talents, but also to your knowledge and love of this grand gospel tradition. Thank you, our dear friend! ~Paul and the Choir

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Prelude — *"My Tribute"* by André Crouch

Processional Anthem — *"Sanctus"* from *"Gospel Mass"* by Robert Ray

Welcome



Opening Hymn

LMGM #247 "*I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy*"



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

Opening Dialog

A: Bless the Lord, O my soul.
O Lord my God, you are very great.
C: You are clothed with honor and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment.
A: You set the earth on its foundations,
so that it shall never be shaken.
C: By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;
they sing among the branches.
A: You cause the grass to grow for the cattle
and plants for people to cultivate,
C: You bring forth food from the earth
and wine to gladden the human heart,
and bread to strengthen the human heart.
A: O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
C: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
A: Bless the Lord, O my soul.
C: Praise be the Lord!

Prayer of the Day

P: Lord God, you call us to work in your vineyard and leave no one standing idle. Set us to our tasks of witness of your love and help us order our lives by your wisdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise — *"Ain't Got Time to Die"* by Hall Johnson
Benjamin Burney, tenor

First Reading — Jonah 3:10—4:11

4:1 But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 2 He prayed to
the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own
country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a
gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and
relenting from punishment. 3 And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it
is better for me to die than to live." 4 And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be
angry?" 5 Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made
a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would
become of the city.

6 The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give
shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy
about the bush. 7 But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm
that attacked the bush, so that it withered. 8 When the sun rose, God prepared a
sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint
and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

9 But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he
said, "Yes, angry enough to die." 10 Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about
the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into
being in a night and perished in a night. 11 And should I not be concerned about
Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty
thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many
animals?"

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

Anthem: — *"Ride On, King Jesus!"* from Cantata "Son of Man" by Hall Johnson;
Jade Dashá, soprano

Second Reading — Philippians 1:21-30

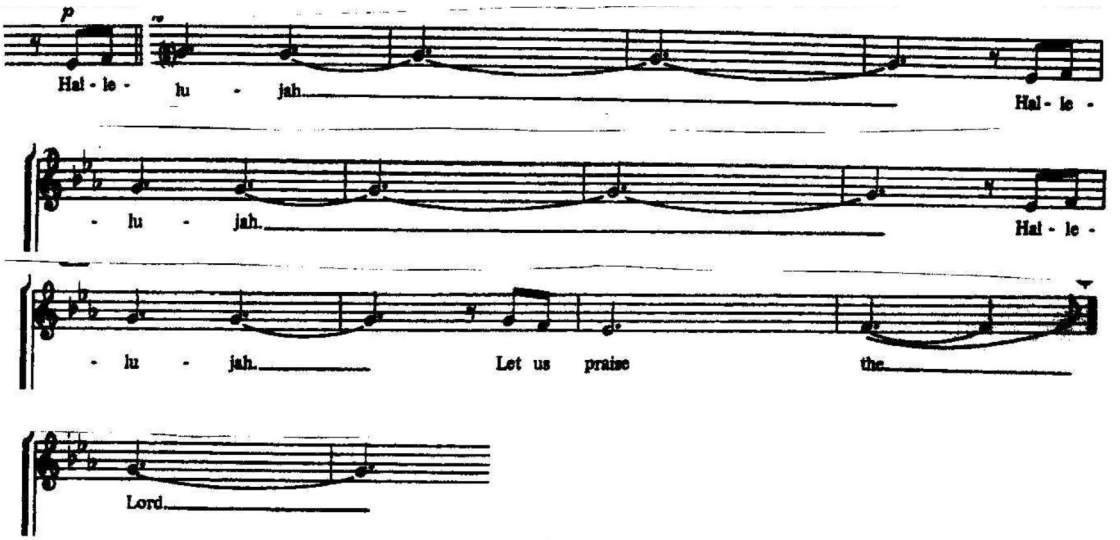
21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that
means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. 23 I am hard
pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far
better, 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 25 Since I am
convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your
progress and joy in faith, 26 so that, by my presence again with you, your boast
might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that,
whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you
are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of
the gospel 28 and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is
evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. 29 For
he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of
suffering for him as well, 30 since you are having the same struggle that you saw I
had and now hear that I still have.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation — "*Hallelujah, Praise the Lord*" from "*Gospel Mass*" by Robert Ray



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

Gospel — Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. [2] After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. [3] When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, [4] and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. [5] When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. [6] And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' [7] They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' [8] When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' [9] When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. [10] Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. [11] And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, [12] saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' [13] But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? [14] Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. [15] Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' [16] So the last will be first, and the first will be last."
P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel Acclamation (Repeat Acclamation)

Sermon — Rev. Nicholas Zook

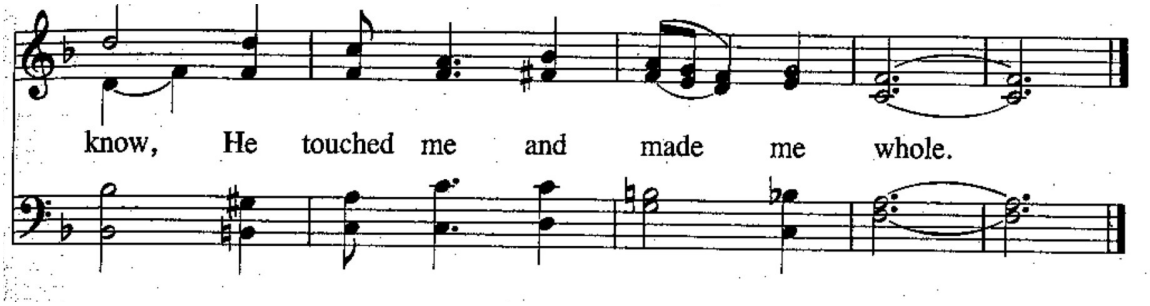
Anthem — 'This Little Light O' Mine', Negro Spiritual, arr. Hale Smith
Performed by Kimberly Jones, soprano

Hymn of the Day LMGM #167 *"He Touched Me"*



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Hymn of the Day con't... LMGM #167 *"He Touched Me"*



Apostles Creed

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

Prayers of Intercession

A: Let us give thanks to God our Father for all gifts so freely bestowed upon us:

A: For the beauty and wonder of creation, in earth and sky and sea,
C : We give you thanks

A: For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,
C : We give you thanks

A: For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,
C: We give you thanks.

A: For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,
C: We give you thanks.

A: For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,
C: We give you thanks.

A: For the brave and courageous who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,
C: We give you thanks.

A: For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, justice, and peace,
C: We give you thanks.

A: For the communion of saints, in all times and places,
C: We give you thanks.

A: Above all, let us give thanks for the great promises and mercies given to us and to all the world in Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C: To Christ be praise and glory, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. 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.

Offertory Anthem

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit" **by Doris Akers**
Dr. Cornelius V. Johnson III

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

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.



Offertory Hymn LMGM #278 "*Make Me A Blessing*"

Sung 2x



Offertory Prayer

A: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: 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.

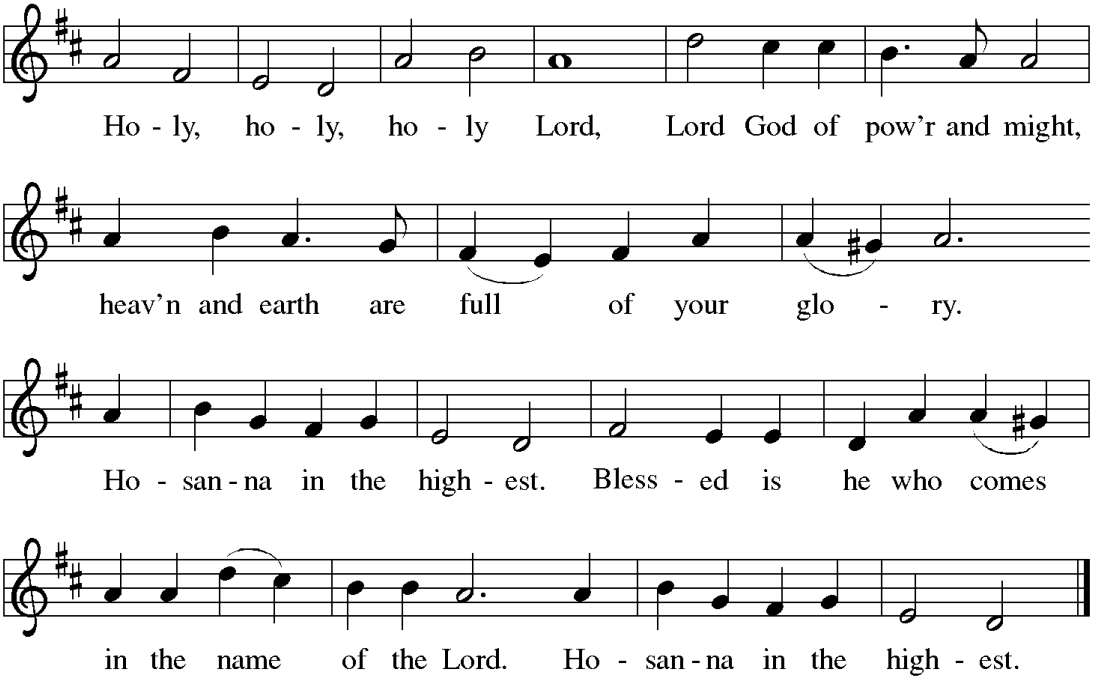
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.



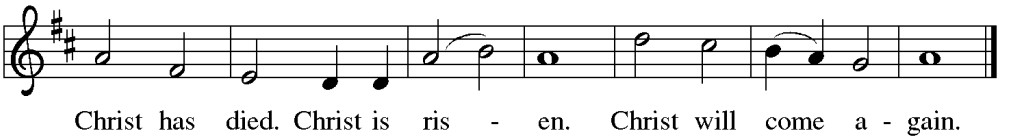
Sanctus



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.

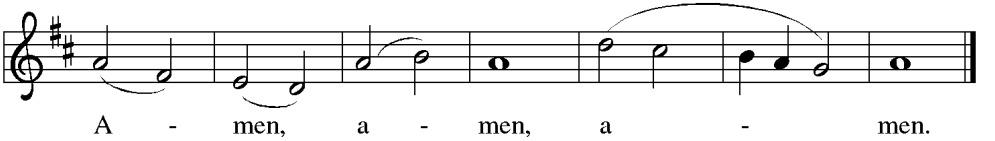
P: On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
the Lord Jesus took bread.
After giving you thanks, he broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
When the supper was over, he took the cup.
Again he returned thanks to you,
gave the cup to 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

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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 Anthem *"Lamb of God"* **from** *"Gospel Mass"* **by Robert Ray**

Communion Anthem *"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"*
Words by Cevilla D. Martin; music by Charles H. Gabriel
Arr. by Mark Hayes
Avery Sujkowski, baritone

Post Communion Blessing

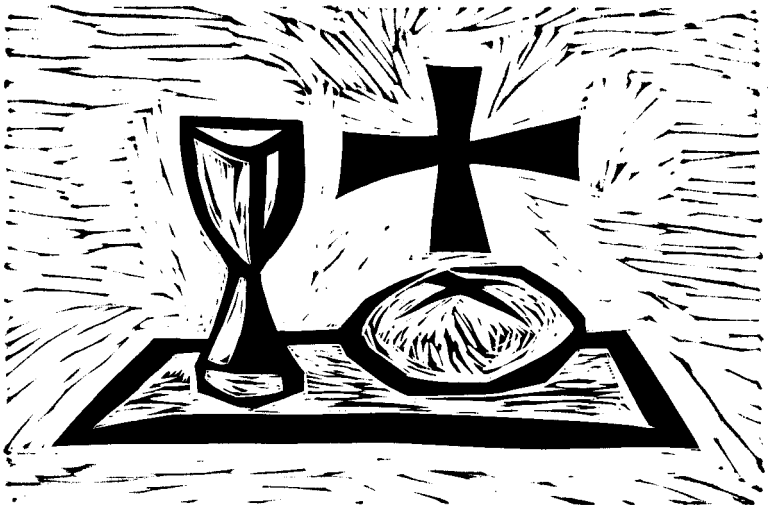
P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

A: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.



Closing Hymn LMGM #149 *"I'll Fly Away"*



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Closing Hymn con't... LMGM #149 *"I'll Fly Away"*



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.
C: Amen.

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

Postlude "Lift Every Voice" text by James Weldon Johnson
Music by J. Rosamund Johnson; Arr. by Roland M. Carter

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

Today's celebrants:

Pastor: Rev. Nicholas Zook
Deacon: Kim Baratta
Lector: Wilma Stevens
Greeter: Bob Beach
Soloists: Marisa Mladenovic, Jade Dasha, Benjamin Burney, Avery Sujkowski, Ryan Alexander
Choir: Dan Lantvit, Bates McIntyre Larson, Maggie Larson, Kunying Li, Mary-Ann Lupa, Betsy Ries, Wilma Stevens, Linda Storbeck
Organist & Choir Director: Paul Dykstra
A/V Engineers: Matt Flanagan and Katherine Beberman

Announcements

Following worship, join us in the gym for a potluck lunch. All are welcome!

Important Dates to note:

- September 23rd—Walking Group at 6:30pm
- September 24th—Tech Together: Smartphone photos at 6:30pm
- September 27th—Council meeting following worship
- October 4th– 'Verses and Voices' at 4pm
- October 11th-Youth Group kickoff event at Concordia at 12pm

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, 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

concordiaministries.org | *concordiafaith.org*

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 evening 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



FREE ENTRY

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 — LMGM #247 *"I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy"*

Text: George W. Cooke
Music: DOWN IN MY HEART, George W. Cooke

Hymn of the Day — LMGM #167 *"He Touched Me"*

Text: William J. Gaither, b.1936
Tune: William J. Gaither, b.1936
© 1963, William J. Gaither, b.1936

Offertory Hymn — LMGM #278 *"Make Me a Blessing"*

Text: Ira B. Wilson, 1880-1950
Tune: George S. Schuler, 1882-1973
© 1924, George S. Schuler. © Renewed 1952, The Rodeheaver Co. (A Div. of Word, Inc.). All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

Closing Hymn — LMGM #149 *"I'll Fly Away"*

Text: Albert E. Brumley
Tune: Albert E. Brumley
© 1932, 1960, Albert E. Brumley

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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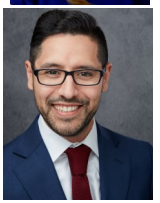
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