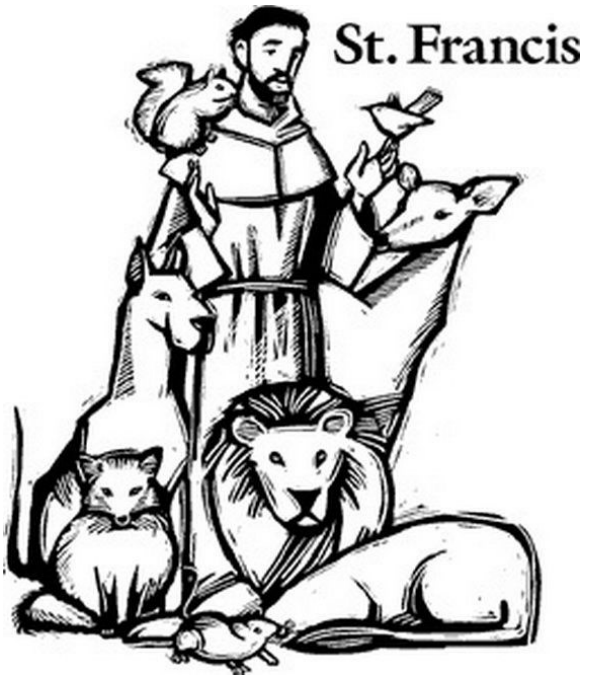
concordia church



St. Francis of Assisi

October 4th, 2026

St. Francis of Assisi

By the time of his death on October 4, 1226, Francis was already regarded as a "second Christ," so exemplary was his life to the teachings and humility of our Lord. Renouncing his family's wealth at the age of 27, Francis chose to live by a rule of poverty, humility, and service. He sought to live as faithfully as he could the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes. Followers adopted his lifestyle, and committed their lives to live in poverty, preaching, and service to the sick and suffering. The Order of Franciscan Friars was formed in 1210, and today continues the work of the order throughout the world.
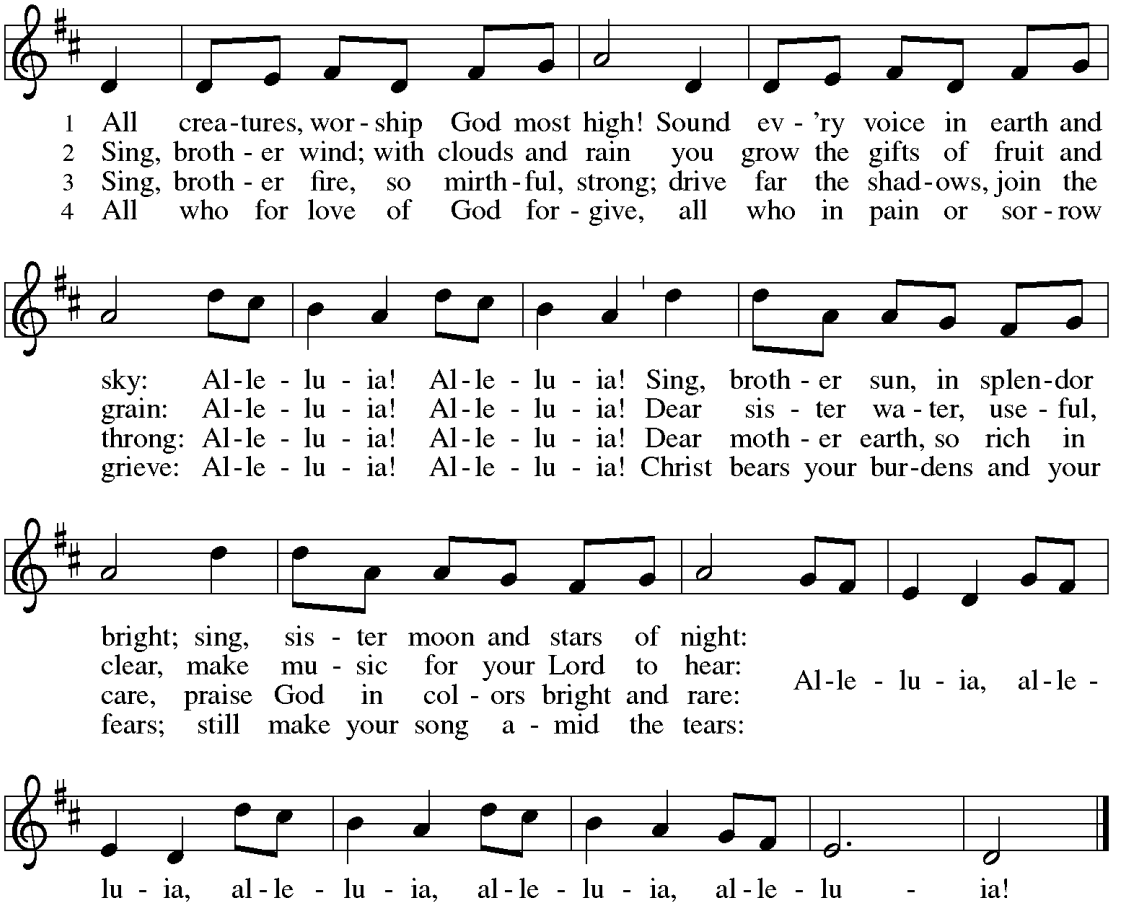
Francis demonstrated a love of God's creation; it is attributed that he even preached to the animals of the forest. The hymn "*All Creatures Worship God Most High*" was composed by him as a song of praise to God for creation. The blessing of pets is one of the ways Francis is commemorated on this day.

The Prayer of St. Francis attributed to him expresses well the spirit of this 13th century saint whose influence is still strongly present today.



Prelude *"Joyfully, In One"*
Tanzanian traditional setting by J. Wayne Kerr

Opening Hymn ELW #835 *"All Creatures Worship God Most* High!"



5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia.

Opening Dialog — Psalm 9:1-10

A: I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;
C: I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

A: I will be glad and exult in you;
C: I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

A: When my enemies turned back,
C: they stumbled and perished before you.

A: For you have maintained my just cause;
C: you have sat on the throne giving righteous judgment.

A: You have rebuked the nations; you have destroyed the wicked;
C: you have blotted out their name forever and ever.

A: The enemies have vanished in everlasting ruins;
C: their cities you have rooted out; the very memory of them has perished.

A: But the LORD sits enthroned forever;
C: he has established his throne for judgment.

A: He judges the world with righteousness;
C: he judges the peoples with equity.

A: The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed,
C: a stronghold in times of trouble.

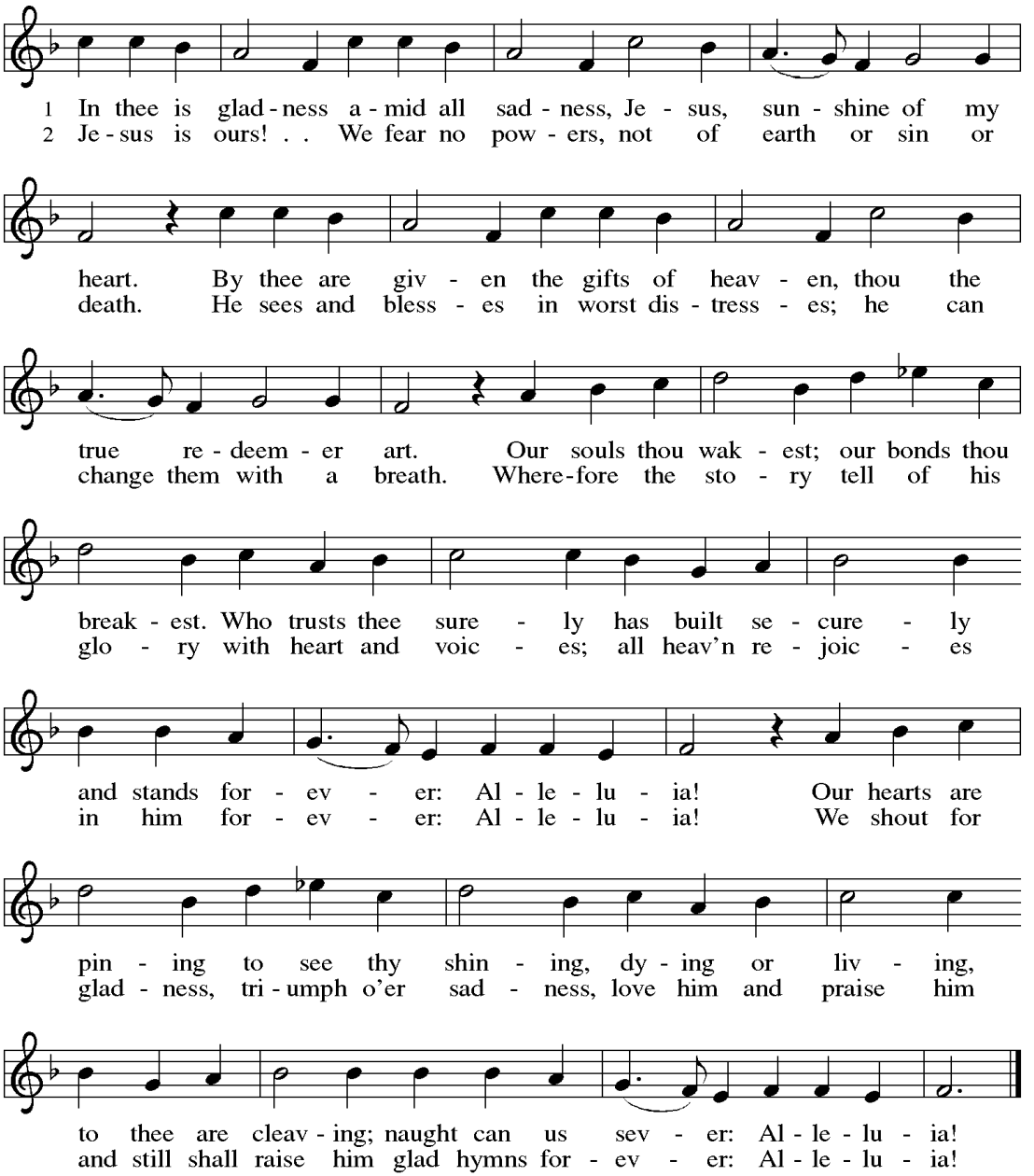
A: And those who know your name put their trust in you,
C: for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Most high, almighty, and good Lord, you have surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses. Grant that we, encouraged by the example of your servant, Francis, may joyfully persevere in the course that is set before us, to be living signs of the Gospel, and at last, with all the saints, to share in your eternal joy; through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

ELW #867 *"In Thee Is Gladness"*



First Reading **Micah 6:6-8**

With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

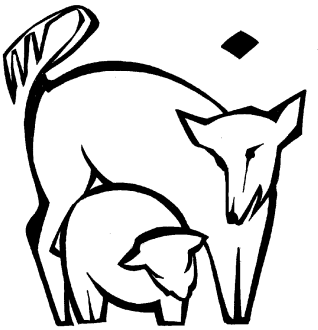
Psalm Anthem *"Lord Make Me An Instrument of Thy Peace"* **by Wayne Fisher**

Second Reading **Galatians 6:14-18**
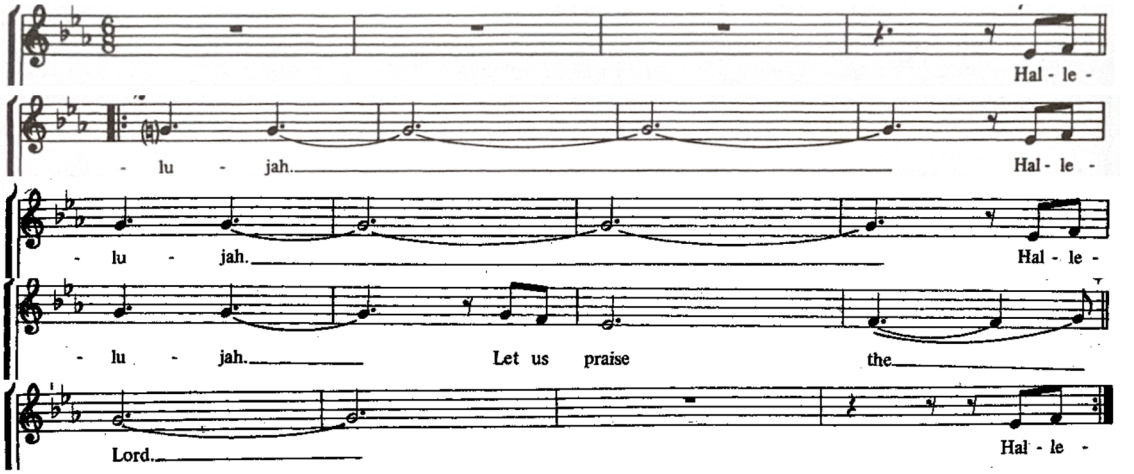
May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the Israel of God. From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

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 St. Matthew.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel Matthew 11:25-30

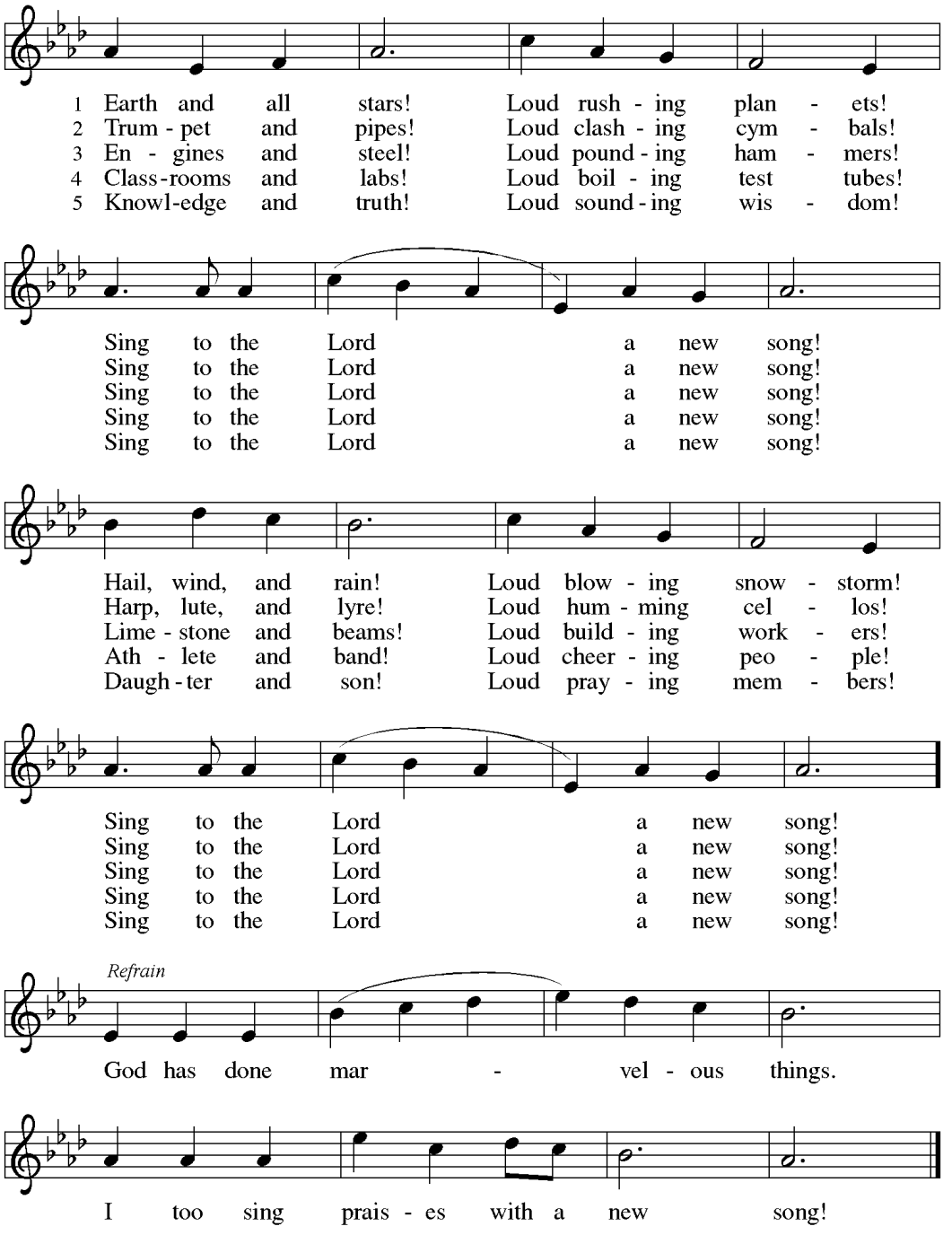
At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do. "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
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 #731 *"Earth and all Stars!"*



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: 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.

Prayers of Intercession con't...

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 *[pause for names]*, 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.



Pet Blessing of Animals

P: The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea.
They share in the fortunes of human existence and have a part in human life.
God, who confers gifts on all living things, has often used the service of animals or made them reminders of the gifts of salvation. Animals were saved from the flood and afterwards made a part of the covenant with Noah.

P: We ask God's blessings on our pets. As we do, let us praise the Creator and thank God for setting us as stewards over all the creatures of the earth.

Prayer Petitions

A: Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe, you create the animals and give us the ability to train them to help us in our work.
C: O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

A: Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe, you care for us even as you care for the birds of the air.
C: O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

A: Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe, for the sake of our comfort you give us domestic animals as companions.
C: O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

Prayer of Blessing

P: Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures.
You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land.
You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters.
We ask you to bless our companions we share our lives with in your creation.
By the power of your love, enable them to live according to your plan.
May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation.
Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! 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

"Put Peace into Each Other's Hands"
Irish Melody "St. Columba" Text by Fred Kaan
arr. Jane Holstein

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.
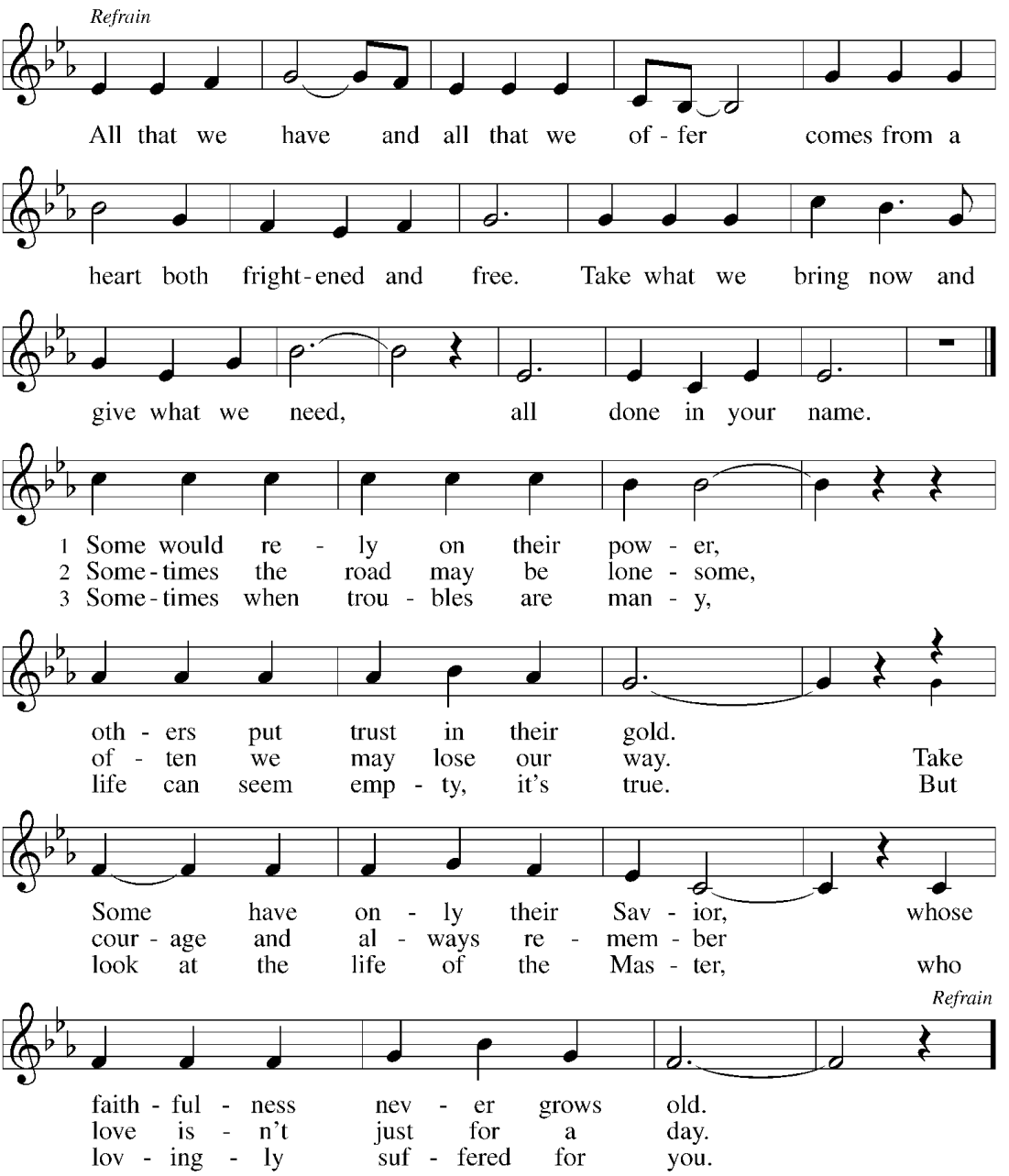
Support the **ministries of Concordia Church** through your offerings. There are multiple ways for you to give:

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

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.

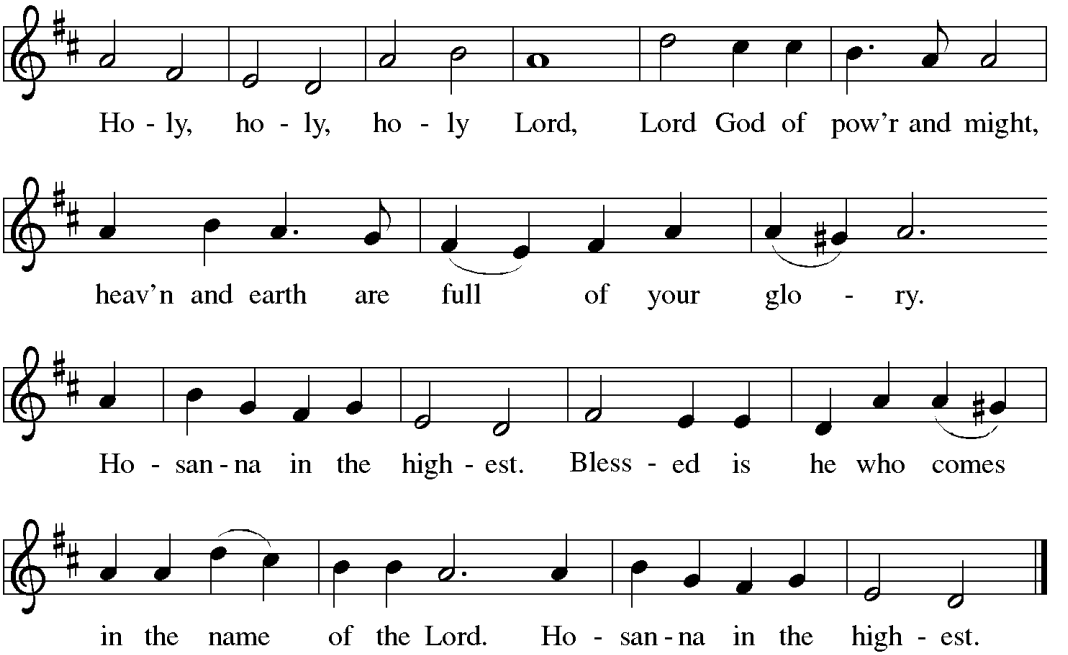
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.



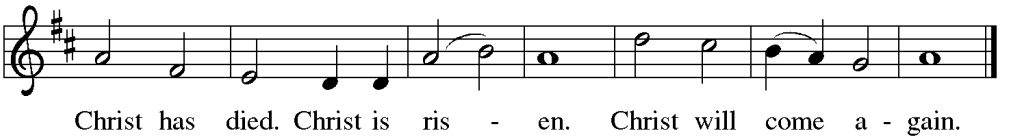
Sanctus



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.

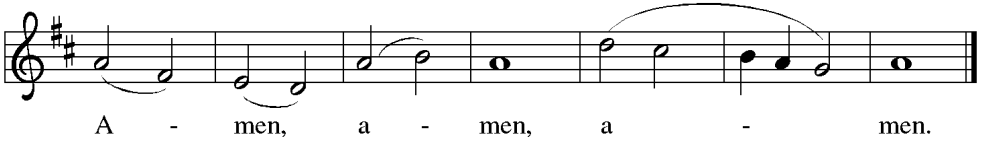
P: On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
the Lord Jesus took bread.
After giving you thanks, he broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
When the supper was over, he took the cup.
Again he returned thanks to you,
gave the cup to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



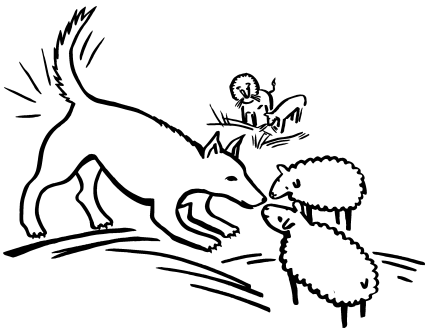
The Lord's Prayer

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

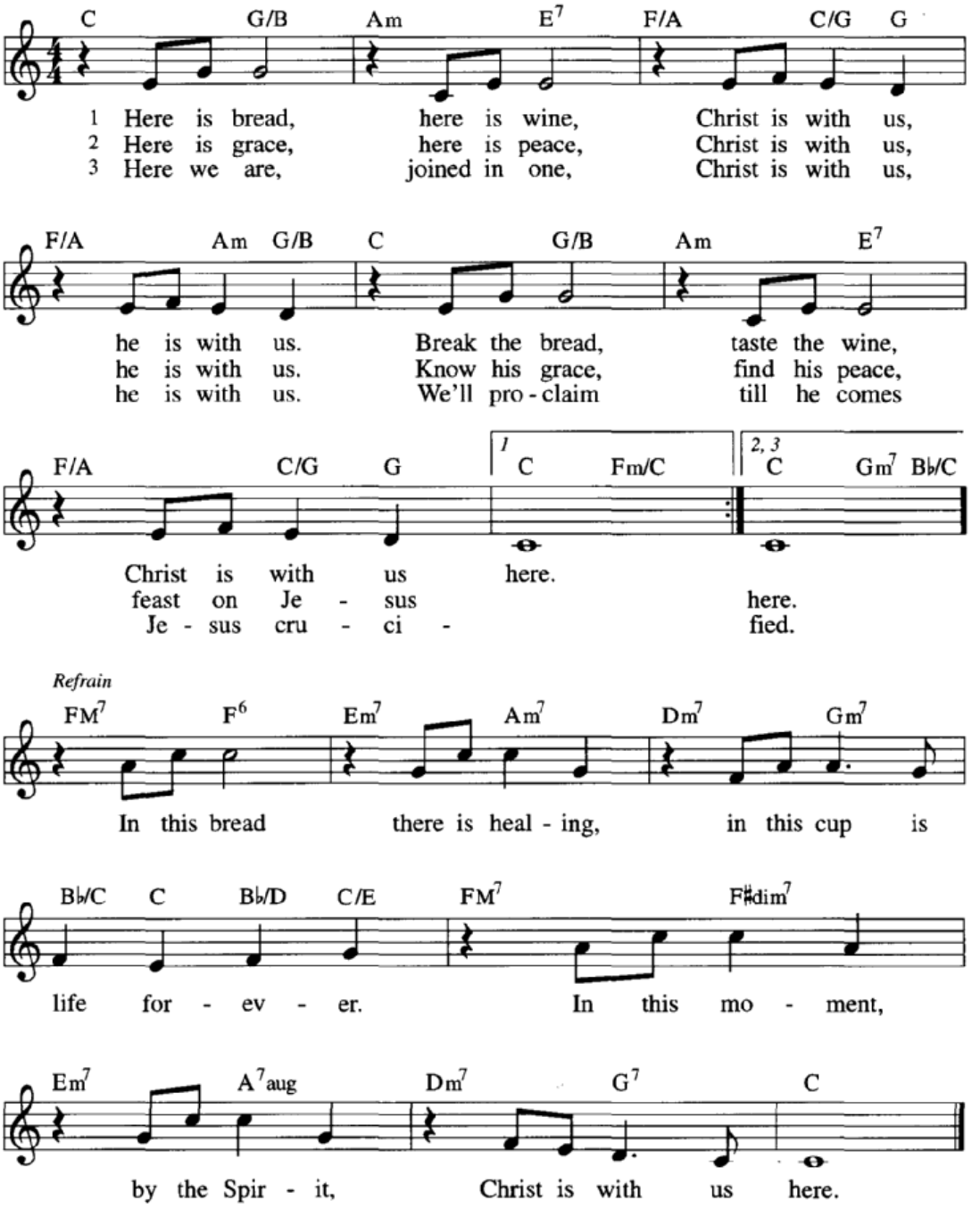
We invite all who are baptized in Christ to come forward for communion. All are welcome at the Lord's table. Parents of young children are asked to let the pastor know if they want their child to receive communion or a blessing.

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.

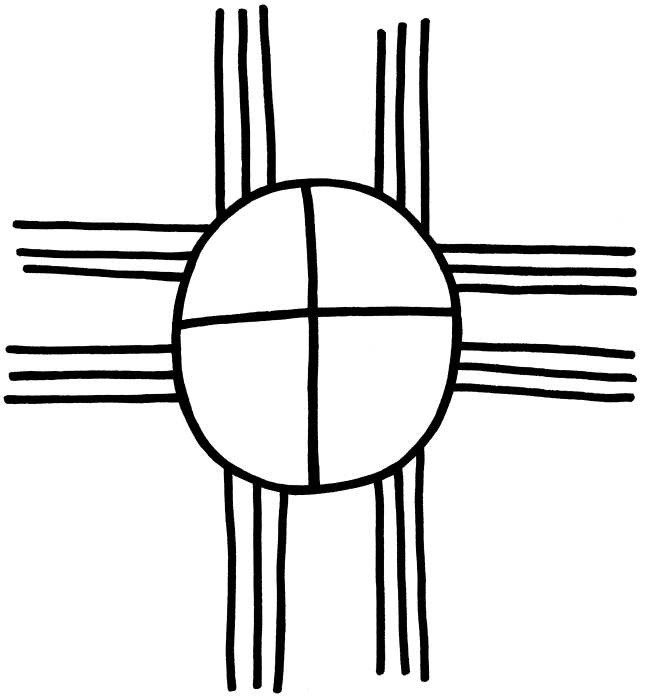
C: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer
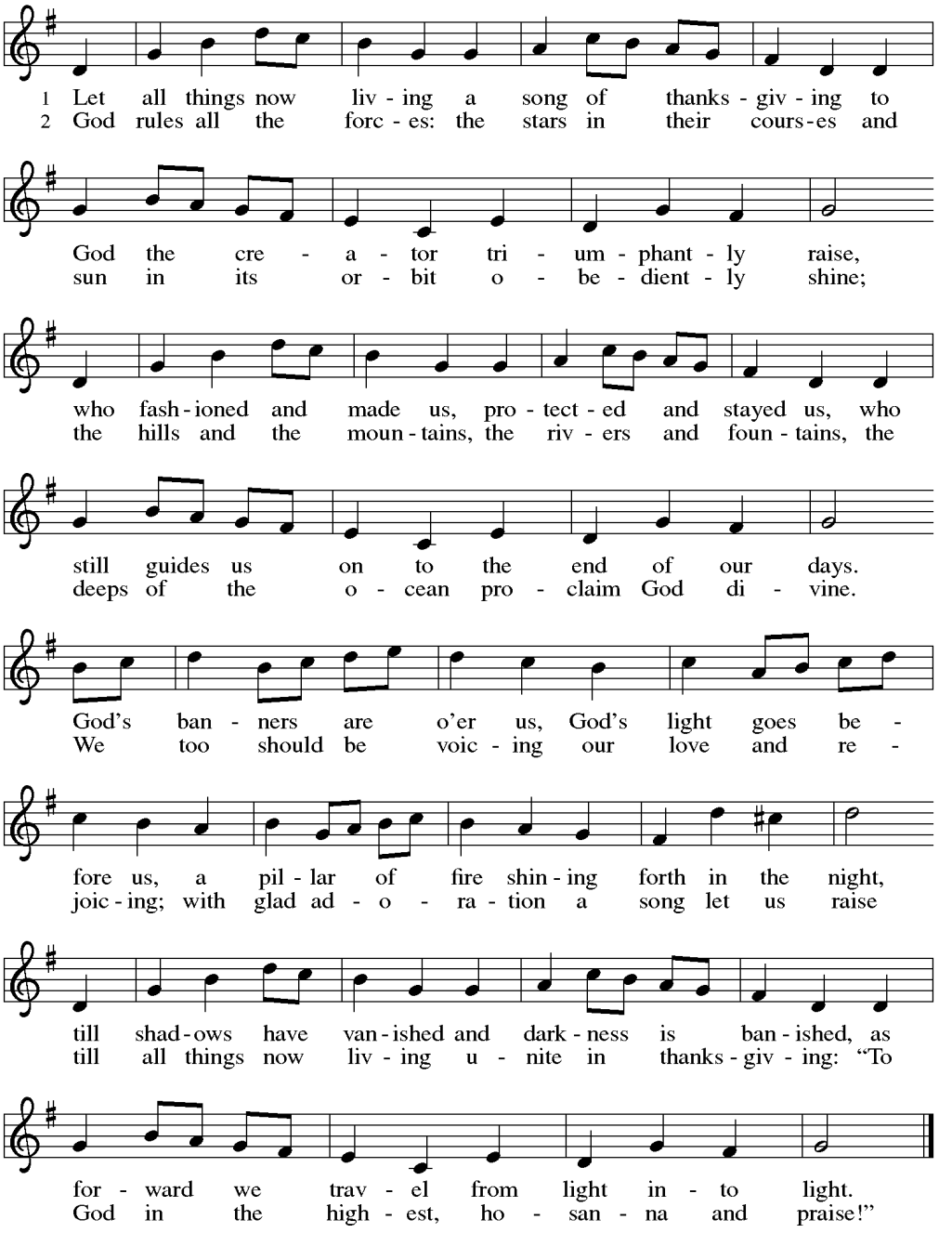
A: Let us pray.

A: 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 ELW #881 *"Let All Things Now Living"*



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 ***"When Twilight Comes" by Francisco Feliciano***
setting by J. Wayne Kerr

Today's celebrants:

Pastor: Rev. Nicholas Zook
Deacon: Christina Mitchell
Lector: Wilma Stevens
Greeter:
Song Leaders: Marisa Mladenovic, Jade Dasha, Benjamin Burney, Avery Sujkowski
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
A/V Engineers: Matt Flanagan and Katherine Beberman

Announcements

Worship is held each Sunday at 10am and available both in-person and via livestream.

We welcome visitors to fill out a visitor card so that we can connect with you further. Please also be sure to receive a 'Welcome bag' in the back.

Adult Study
Adult Study is each Sunday morning at 9am in the church office. Pastor Zook leads the study. Currently, the group is reading and discussing 'Becoming a Hybrid Church' by Dave Daubert, in conjunction with our Stewardship campaign.

Sunday School
Sunday School will be during worship this morning. The lesson for the day will focus on the theme or readings for that day and include a story and craft or activity. All kids are welcome to join and will leave service with their Sunday School teachers before the readings begin.

Youth Group
A joint Youth Group with Pilgrim Lutheran Church is in the works! We invite middle-school aged children, along with their parents, to join us here at Concordia on October 11th at noon for a kick-off week with pizza, activities, and information.

Stewardship this Fall
Our Stewardship campaign for the fall will kick off on Sunday, October 11th. This year, we are focusing on our connections - connections to each other, to our online worshippers, and our larger community. On three different Sundays this fall, we will take time during the worship service to share about our connections in these three areas and dream about what we can do to extend and strengthen these connections. The schedule will be as follows:

October 11th - Connections within our Concordia community
October 25th - Connections with our Neighborhood and Larger Community
November 8th - Connections with our Hybrid worship attendees

We invite you to take part in these discussions as you ponder and pray about your stewardship commitments of time, talent, and financial gifts as we prepare for 2027.

Healing Sunday
On October 18th, we'll host a service of healing at 10am. We will pray especially for those who are sick and lift up those who are suffering.

Fall Schedule of Events

October 4th

Verses and Voices at 4pm (Free concert!) - This performance presents original poetry and musical compositions created by young adults at the DC jail through an arts program. Through these works, participants share their stories and creativity, inviting audiences into a powerful reflection on voice, resilience, and connection.

October 11th

Stewardship Campaign begins (Week 1) - Our first Stewardship Sunday is this week as we explore and share about our connections with each other within our Concordia family.

Youth Group Kick-off event at 12pm - Parents and kids ages 9-14 years meet at Concordia Church for pizza and get-to-know-you activities. After eating together, kids will meet in the gym and parents in the sanctuary to learn more about the Youth Group program.

October 14th

Walk and Wonder at 6:30pm - Meet out front of church to walk through the neighborhood together!

October 15th

Tech Together at 6:30pm – FREE! - Tech troubleshooting session! Bring your device(s) and get answers to your question(s). No question is too big or too small.

October 18th

Healing Sunday at 10am - A special service of healing as we pray for those who are sick or suffering.

Sunday School during Worship

Navigating Grief and Loss: Tools to Cope Workshop at 11am - Veronica McMillion, LPC, will present a workshop on grief. Losing a loved one is a universal experience, yet the bereavement process can make us feel incredibly alone. Emotional and physical symptoms of grief after losing a friend, family member, or pet may feel overwhelming and confusion. In this presentation, you will learn how to reflect on loss, build strategies for healthy grieving, and care for yourself during

Fall Schedule of Events con't...

October 25th

Stewardship Campaign continues (Week 2) - Our Stewardship campaign continues as we consider ways we connect to our larger community.

Council Meeting following worship

October 28th

A special Halloween **Walk and Wonder at 6:30pm -** Meet out front of church to walk through the neighborhood together!

November 1st

All Saints Sunday - We will be naming the honored dead during the service this week. Please send names you'd like read to Desirae at dcontreras@concordiafaith.org or fill out the insert in your bulletin in late October.

Sunday School during Worship

November 6th

'A British Invasion!' by Lakeshore Brass at 7pm– A British Invasion is a concert celebrating the songs, sounds, and traditions of the British Isles. The program features music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Gustav Holst, Malcolm Arnold, and a few other proper legends — stirring melodies, rich harmonies, and just enough cheeky charm to keep things interesting. Popcorn and drinks with ticket purchase; purchase tickets at lakeshorebrass.com.

November 8th

Pledge Sunday (Stewardship Campaign Week 3) - Today is the third and final week of our Stewardship presentations. This week, we'll explore how to better connect with our hybrid worshippers.

November 11th

Walk and Wonder at 6:30pm - Meet out front of church to walk through the neighborhood together!

November 15th

Thanksgiving Service – We will worship together in gratitude for our good gifts.

Sunday School during Worship


Pilgrim Lutheran
CHURCH AND SCHOOL
Academic Excellence with a Heart
concordia church
YOUTH GROUP
INFO SESSION
SATURDAY, OCT. 11
12 P.M.
CONCORDIA CHURCH
Come learn more, enjoy some pizza, and meet new friends!
PARENTS & KIDS ARE BOTH WELCOME!

concordia church

3855 N Seeley Ave
Chicago

NAVIGATING GRIEF AND LOSS:
TOOLS TO COPE



FREE WORKSHOP

Sunday, October 18th
11:00am



Losing a loved one is a universal experience, yet the bereavement process can make us feel incredibly alone. Emotional and physical symptoms of grief after losing a friend, family member, or pet may feel overwhelming and confusing. In this presentation from a Licensed Therapist, you will learn how to reflect on loss, build strategies for healthy grieving, and care for yourself during this difficult time.



Workshop led by Veronica McMillion, LPC

Veronica is a Licensed Professional Counselor at Innervoice Psychotherapy and Consultation with a Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from DePaul University. She has experience supporting individuals through grief, trauma, anxiety, and life's challenges, and brings a compassionate, relationship-centered approach to her work.

Questions? Email Desirae, Parish Administrator, at dcontreras@concordiafaith.org

SCAN OR CLICK TO REGISTER!

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

Lakeshore
BRASS

presents

A British Invasion!



Nov. 6, 2026 | 7:00PM

Concordia Church
3855 N. Seeley Ave.

Every Ticket Includes

Two Adult Beverages

&

Free Popcorn

Scan for Tickets

Learn More at
www.lakeshorebrass.com

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concordia church

Love God. Love Your Neighbor.

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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 #835 "All Creatures Worship God Most High!"*

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

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

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Hymn of the Day — ELW #731 *"Earth and all Stars!"*

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987
Text and music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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 #881 *"Let All Things Now Living"*

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892–1980, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

Notes on the Liturgy:

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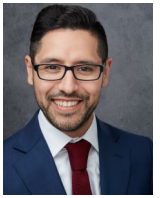
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