

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY W I S C O N S I N

BACCALAUREATE



DECEMBER 13TH, 2025

WELCOME!

All of us at Concordia feel privileged and proud to be part of your life story, and we encourage you to take a moment to reflect and rejoice. You have done it, and what you have done is a big deal! We are eager to celebrate your accomplishments. A commencement ceremony is a cherished academic tradition that celebrates a milestone accomplishment for graduates and their families.



Baccalaureate Program	3-13
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✠ ✠ ✠ THE CHAPEL OF CHRIST TRIUMPHANT ✠ ✠ ✠

BACCALAUREATE MATINS

December 13th, 2025

2025-2026 Theme: Free To Serve

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” – Galatians 5:13-14

How is a Baccalaureate service different from a graduation exercise? Quite simply the graduation or commencement exercise celebrates the fact that a student has completed all the academic work required in order to earn a certain degree. A baccalaureate service celebrates the calling of God in that person’s life into a specific vocation. During our service today, the hymns and the Scripture readings celebrate the fact that God in His grace is calling these women and men into his service as Teachers, Directors of Church Ministries, and our Pre-Seminary students ultimately to serve as Pastors. We also celebrate many students entering vocations that aren’t professional church vocations. They are all, however, Christian vocations. Our prayer of thanksgiving is that they have joyfully heard God’s call in their life, confident that His plans for them are good.

The Prelude

Please stand as the Processional Hymn begins

The Processional Hymn Holy God We Praise Thy Name LSB 940

1 Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn An - gel choirs a -
 3 Lo, the a - pos - tles' ho - ly train Join Thy sa - cred

bow be - fore Thee. All on earth Thy scep - ter claim,
 bove are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name to hal - low; Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,

All in heav'n a - bove a - dore Thee. In - fi - nite Thy
 In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the heav'ns with
 And the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low, And from morn to

vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Thy reign.
 sweet ac - cord: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!
 set of sun Through the Church the song goes on.

4. Holy Father, holy Son,
Holy Spirit, three we name Thee;
Though in essence only one,
Undivided God we claim Thee
And, adoring, bend the knee
While we own the mystery.

5. Thou art King of Glory, Christ;
Son of God, yet born of Mary.
For us sinners sacrificed,
As to death a Tributary,
First to break the bars of death,
Thou hast opened heav'n to faith.

6. From Thy high celestial home,
Judge of all, again returning,
We believe that Thou shalt come
On that final judgment morning,
When Thy voice shall shake the earth
And the startled dead come forth.

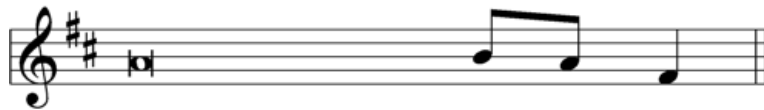
7. Spare Thy people, Lord, we pray,
By a thousand snares surrounded;
Keep us without sin today,
Never let us be confounded.
Lo, I put my trust in Thee;
Never, Lord, abandon me.

[Gentlemen, please remove your caps now and throughout the Service]

Stand



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



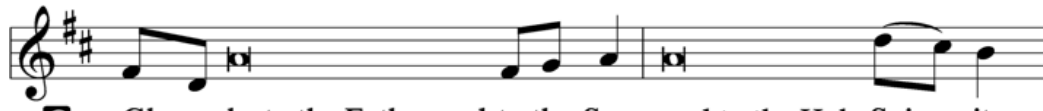
C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



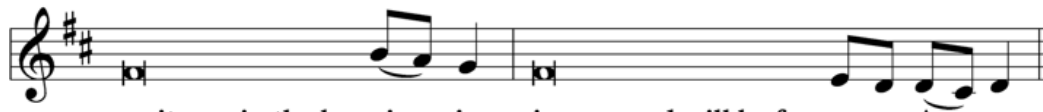
L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

Antiphon



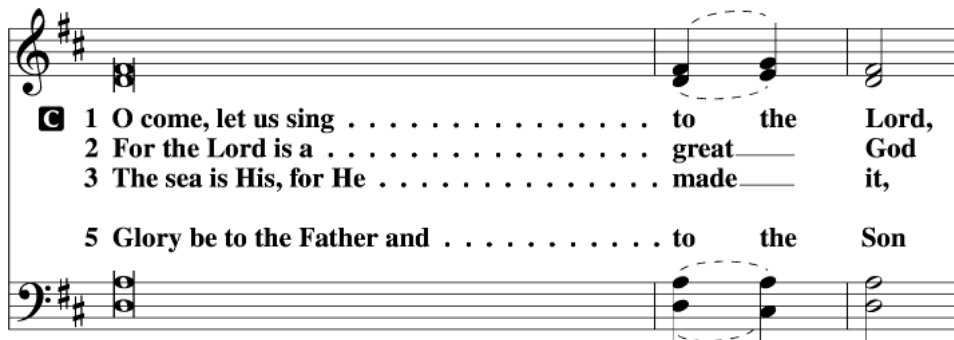
L Behold, the Lord comes to save us.



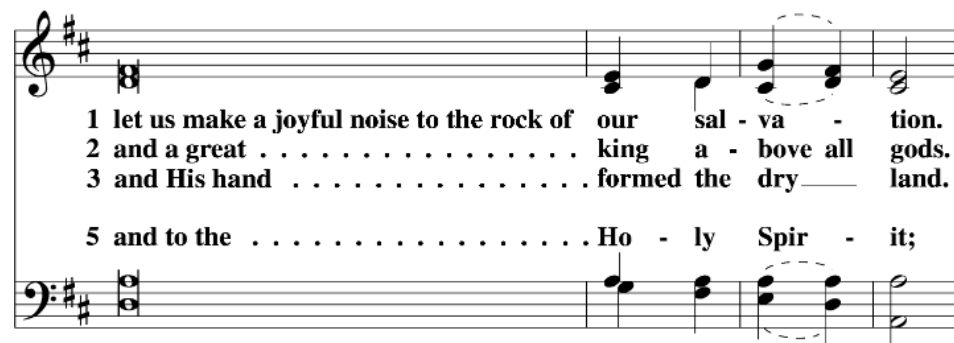
C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite

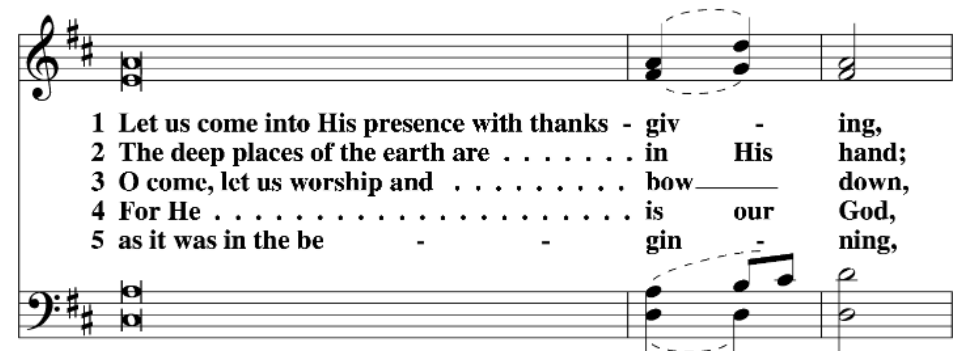
LSB 220



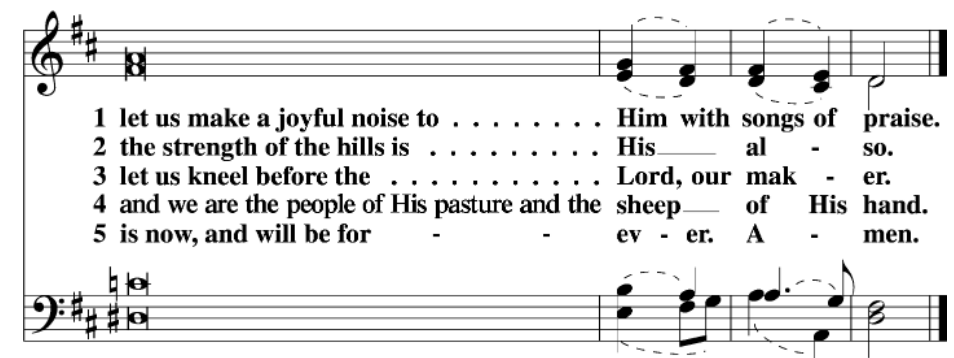
C 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
 2 For the Lord is a great God
 3 The sea is His, for He made it,
 5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son



1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
 3 and His hand formed the dry land.
 5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
 2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
 3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
 4 For He is our God,
 5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
 2 the strength of the hills is His al - so.
 3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
 4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
 5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Antiphon



L Behold, the Lord comes to save us.



G O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Psalm 146

Antiphon: v. 5



¹Praise | the LORD!*

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;***

I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.

³Put not your trust in | princes, *

in a son of man, in whom there is no sal- | vation.

⁴**When his breath departs he returns | to the earth;***

on that very day his plans | perish.

⁵Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob, *

whose hope is in the | LORD his God,

⁶**who made heaven and earth,**

the sea, and all that is | in them, *

who keeps faith for- | ever;

⁷who executes justice for | the oppressed, *

who gives food to the | hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

⁸**the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind. ***

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

the LORD loves the | righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners;

he upholds the widow and the | fatherless, *

but the way of the wicked he brings to | ruin.

¹⁰**The LORD will reign for- | ever, ***

your God, O Zion, to all generations. | Praise the LORD!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit

As it was in the be- | ginning, *

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Sit



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
 Δ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Reading

Isaiah 35

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

Reading

Galatians 5:1, 13-18

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

Matthew 11:2-15

When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'

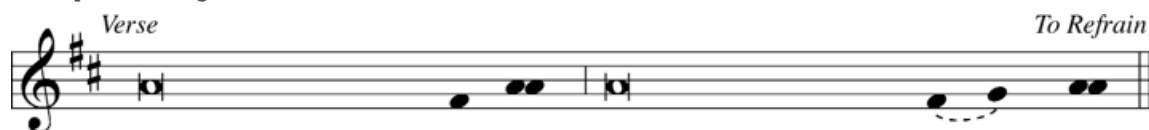
Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory

LSB 221



- L** 1 Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.
2 Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.
3 Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.



- C** Lord, I love
the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Sermon

Reverend David Blas, Pastor
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
LCMS Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach
Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

LSB 515



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.
In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

PRESENTATION OF CHURCH WORK GRADUATES

The Presentation of Lutheran Teaching Diplomas

Dr. James Juergensen, PhD | Director of Lutheran Teacher Placement

Dr. Brad Alles, PhD | Associate Professor of Education

The Presentation of Director of Church Ministries Certificates

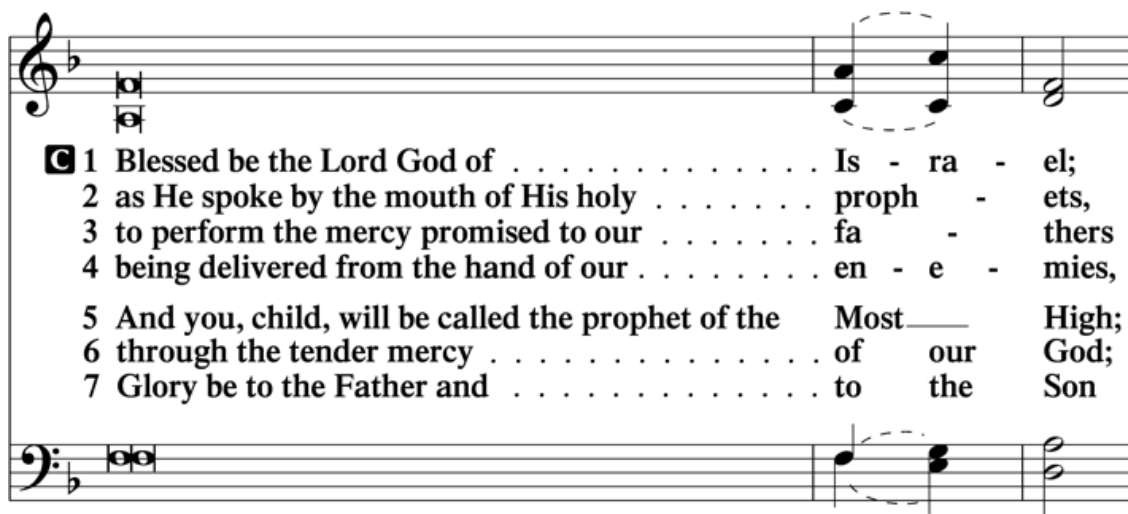
Rev. Dr. Kurt Taylor, DMin, STM | Director of Church Ministries Program

The Recognition of Students Completing the Pre-Seminary Program

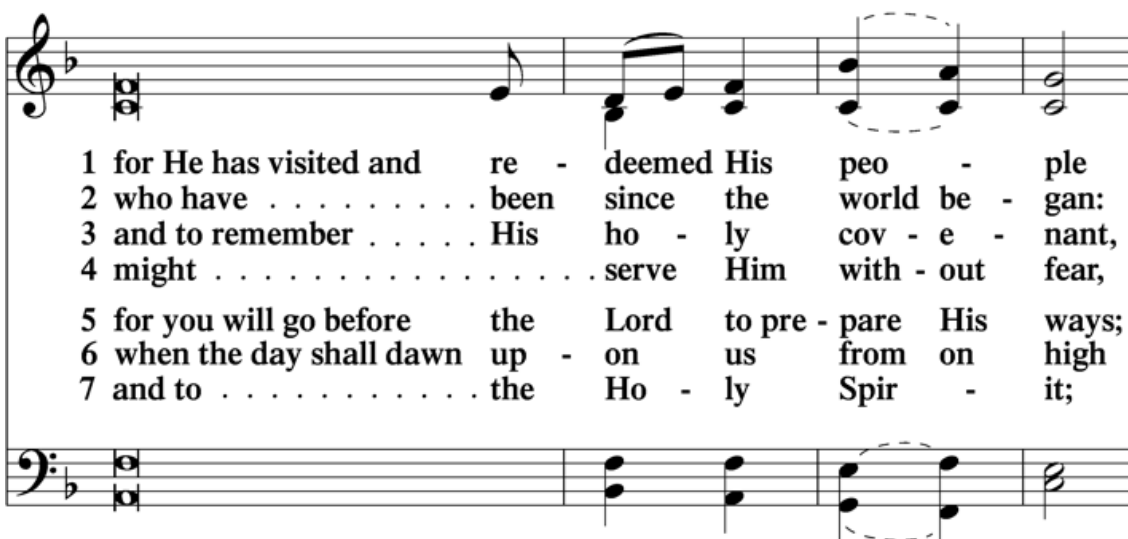
Rev. Dr. Joshua LaFeve, DMin, STM | Director of Pre-Seminary Program

Benedictus

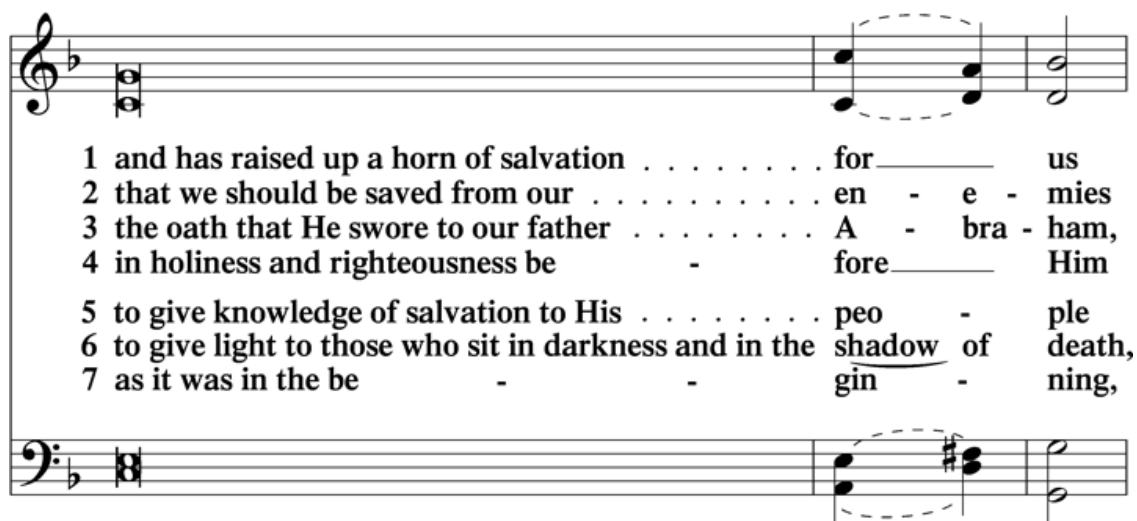
LSB 226



1 Blessed be the Lord God of Is - ra - el;
2 as He spoke by the mouth of His holy proph - ets,
3 to perform the mercy promised to our fa - thers
4 being delivered from the hand of our en - e - mies,
5 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most — High;
6 through the tender mercy of our God;
7 Glory be to the Father and to the Son



1 for He has visited and re - deemed His peo - ple
2 who have been since the world be - gan:
3 and to remember His ho - ly cov - e - nant,
4 might serve Him with - out fear,
5 for you will go before the Lord to pre - pare His ways;
6 when the day shall dawn up - on us from on high
7 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



1 and has raised up a horn of salvation for — us
2 that we should be saved from our en - e - mies
3 the oath that He swore to our father A - bra - ham,
4 in holiness and righteousness be - fore — Him
5 to give knowledge of salvation to His peo - ple
6 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
7 as it was in the be - gin - ning,

1 in the house of His ser - vant Da - vid,
 2 and from the hand of all who hate us;
 3 to grant us that we,
 4 all the days of our life.
 5 in the for - give - ness of their sins,
 6 to guide our feet in to the way of peace.
 7 is now, and will be for ev - er. A - men.

Prayer

Kyrie

LSB 227

C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

The Lord's Prayer

- C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Collects

L O Lord, hear my prayer.

C And let my cry come to You.

After each Prayer...

- P** ...one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 228



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 228



P The grace of our Lord ✠ Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



G A - men.

[Gentlemen, please put on your caps for the Recessional.]

Recessional Hymn

Joy to the World

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

The Postlude

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Evelyn Cassidy
Madeline Tom

Elementary Education

Heidi Hahn
Anna Splittgerber
Kristin Rindt

K-12 Education

David Blas-Domenech

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Jennifer Ferguson	Julianna Weden

Christian Teacher Certification

Tammi Daniel

Director of Church Ministries

Savannah Henn	Nikolas Mueller
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Pre-Seminary Program

Alexander Ford

ASSISTING WITH TODAY'S CEREMONY

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The Reverend David Blas, Pastor*
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
LCMS Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach
Sheboygan, Wisconsin

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The Reverend Jonathon Bakker
Campus Pastor

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Professor Kim Sesing, Ph.D.
Professor Michael Uden, Ph.D.
Professor Jeffrey Walz, Ph.D.

**It is Concordia's custom to have the father (LCMS pastor) of a graduating student serve as preacher for the Baccalaureate service. Pastor Blas is the father of graduating student David Blas-Domenech.*

Acknowledgments

Matins from Lutheran Service Book

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