Liturgy of Leave-Taking



Concordia Lutheran Church

40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, CT 06040

Eucharistic Liturgy of Leave-Taking

June 28, 2026

Prelude Adagio from Trio Sonata- Johann Sebastian Bach
Alla Sarabanda from Phantasy Quintet for Strings-
Ralph Vaughn Williams
Christe, Redemptor Omnimum- C Hubert H. Parry
John Anderson, Organ

Welcome

Gathering

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All stand as able and face the rear doors of the sanctuary.
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

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.
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 water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Hymn *The Church's One Foundation*
ELW 654

Greeting

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

Kyrie



Gloria



Prayer of the Day

O God, you have promised to be with your church forever. We give you thanks for those who founded this community of believers and for the signs of your presence in the Concordia Lutheran congregation throughout the years.

C: As we take the next step in our journey and move forward in history and hope—increase our faith and make our service an example to all people. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Address

Today we gather for the last time in this beloved place as the people of Concordia Lutheran Church. We give thanks for the faithful ministry that has happened in this building by this congregation. We are thankful for the parishioners who have been fed and nurtured in the Christian faith here throughout the years.

Even as we mark the end of an era in one place, we remember that our God of new life leads us forward. We are participants in God's mission—a mission that continues beyond this day and beyond these walls. So we place our trust in God, to lead us to new faith communities, new church homes, and to equip us for the ministry entrusted to our hands.

Word

First Lesson: Isaiah 66: 1-2

[1] Thus says the Lord: Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool;
so what kind of house could you build for me, what sort of place for me to rest?

[2] All these things my hand has made, so all these things are mine, says the Lord.
But this is the one to whom I will look, to the humble and contrite in spirit who trembles at my word.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm Anthem: *O How Amiable* Ralph Vaughn Williams

Second Lesson: Revelation 21: 1-4, 22-27

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed
away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out
of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice
from the throne saying,
"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them and be their God; 4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have
passed away."
22 I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the
Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light,
and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will
bring their glory into it. 25 Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night
there. 26 People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. 27 But nothing unclean
will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are
written in the Lamb's book of life.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*
ELW 597

(***two verses before the Gospel and two after the Gospel***)

Gospel: John 14: 15-21

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew …
Glory to you, O Lord.

15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and
he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth,
whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know
him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.
18 "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will
no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day
you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 They who have my
commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be
loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

All are seated.

Sermon **Pastor Rolf Hedberg**

All stand as able.

Hymn of the Day *Built on a Rock*
ELW 652

Thanksgiving for the Means of Grace

When we dedicate a church building, it is customary to ask God's blessing on the places of Word and sacraments. Because proclaiming the Word and celebrating the sacraments are at the heart of a congregation's ministry, today we return to these symbols of God's grace in our lives. We give thanks for the ways that God has nurtured this Concordia congregation throughout the years and has led us to serve others in Jesus' name.

At the place of the word
Let us pray.
O God, at the dawn of creation your mighty word breathed life into the earth and all of its inhabitants. By the gift of your incarnate Word in Jesus, you brought good news of life and salvation to all humankind. Through your word proclaimed in worship here, the people of Concordia have been challenged and healed. Let your voice, which has sounded in this place, echo in our lives as we proclaim your message of peace into the places you will send us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

At the place of baptism
Let us pray.
O God, through the flood in the time of Noah, and through the waters of the Red Sea, you saved your people of old. Through the waters of baptism in this special place, your children—the children of Concordia have been born to new life and have been commissioned for service in Christ's name. May all the baptized continue to give witness to your saving grace throughout the world; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

At the place of the meal
Let us pray.
O God, through manna on a wilderness journey and through loaves of bread multiplied on a hillside, you fed people who needed sustenance for their bodies and souls. May all who have been nourished here in this place, with the body and blood of Christ, be strengthened by this holy meal, and inspired give themselves away as food for the hungry. May all who have feasted here welcome others to the banquet of salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
✞ and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

United as one by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray for healing, wholeness and peace in all the earth.

For the one holy catholic and apostolic church in all times and places, of which this congregation has been a part. For the New England Synod, for Bishop Pipho and the

Synod Staff, and for all pastors and church leaders who have helped this congregation through the years- may they remain faithful to the Gospel as the serve in Christ's name.
we give our thanks and praise.

For the men and women who founded our Concordia Lutheran congregation,
who made personal sacrifices in order for it to grow and flourish,
and who used their talents and skills in building up a community of faith,
we give our thanks and praise.

For Concordia's ministries throughout its life, its gatherings for praise and prayer,
its faithful use of the means of grace, and its study of the scriptures,
we give our thanks and praise.

For the work of mission this congregation has supported and for other ministries that helped those in need; for our local partners in ministry especially MACC and GHIAA, and for the lives that have been blessed by God's work through us.
we give our thanks and praise.

For this building that has sheltered the parishioners of Concordia since 1961,
may our memories inspire our devotion to the God who makes all things new.
we give our thanks and praise.

For all who hold special attachments to this congregation and to this building; for those who have been baptized, nurtured in faith, confirmed, or married in this place; for those who have buried loved ones from this place, may the Spirit continue to sustain and guide us as we move forward from our life here.
God, comfort and strengthen us.

For the members of this congregation,
as we begin gathering as a people of God in new communities of faith,
may today mark not only the end of an era,
but also the beginning of new opportunities for worship and service.
May gifts for ministry be welcomed and shared so faith may grow and mission may flourish.
God guide and inspire us.

For all who have been a part of this congregation throughout its one hundred thirty two years, those who have remained constant in the face of challenges, siblings in Christ who have moved away, and those whom we have loved who now rest in you, we give you thanks. We look to the day when we will be reunited in one eternal communion.
God give us hope and healing; help us to always place our trust in you.

Exchange of Peace

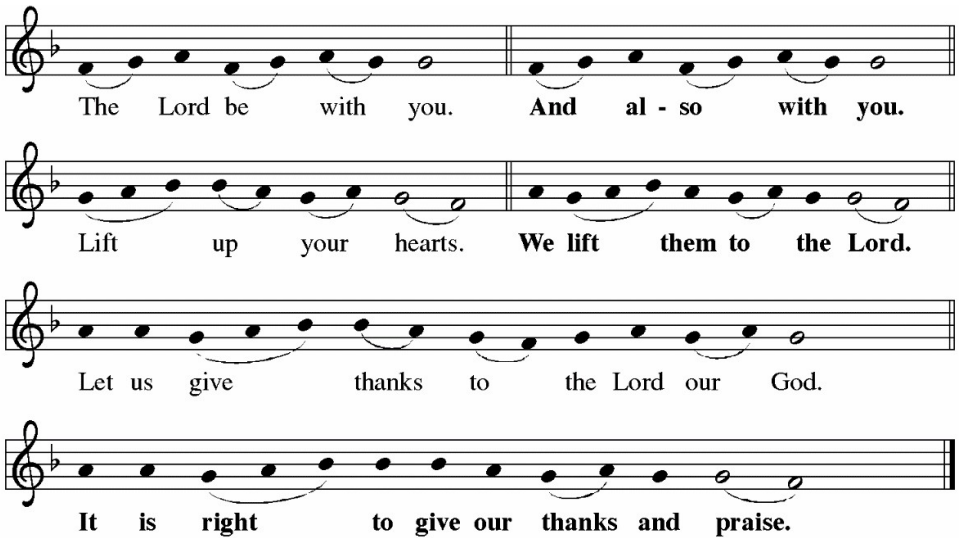
God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offertory Hymn *Now We Join in Celebration*
ELW462

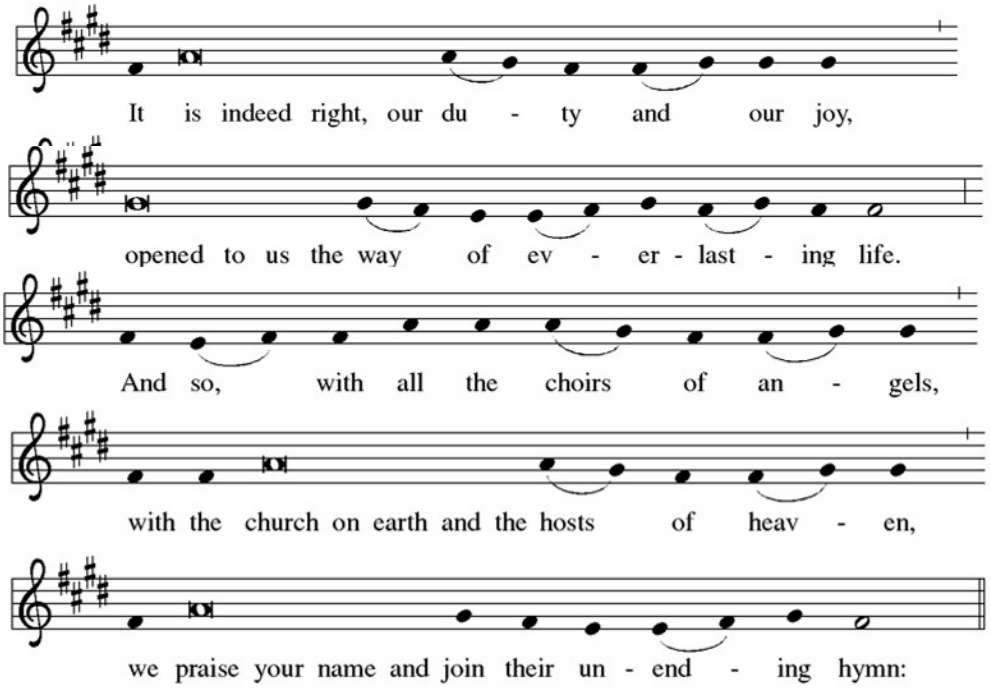
Offertory Prayer

Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

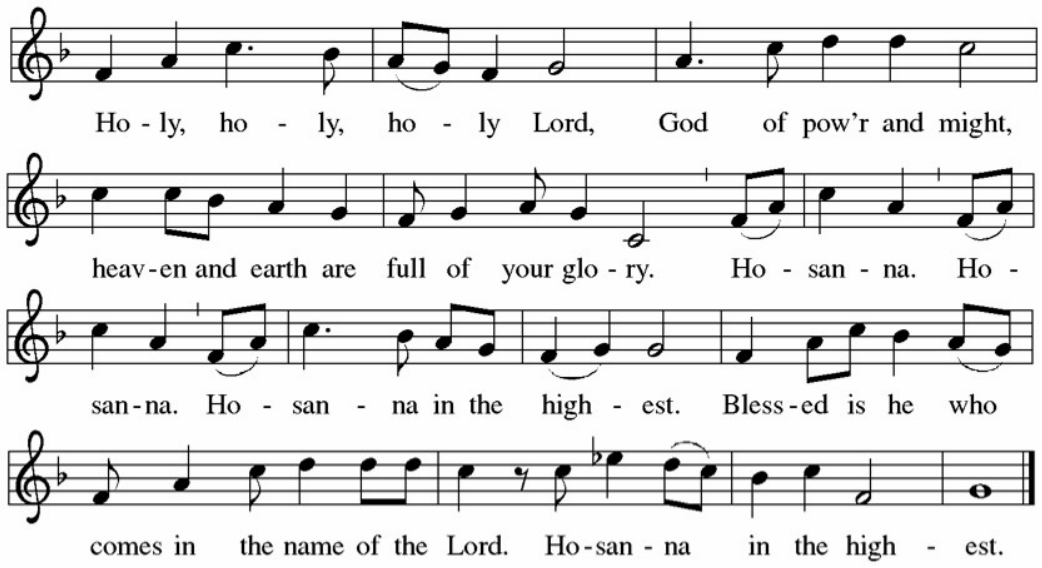
Dialogue



Proper Preface



Sanctus



Eucharistic Prayer

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.
In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light.
In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say,



Lord's Prayer

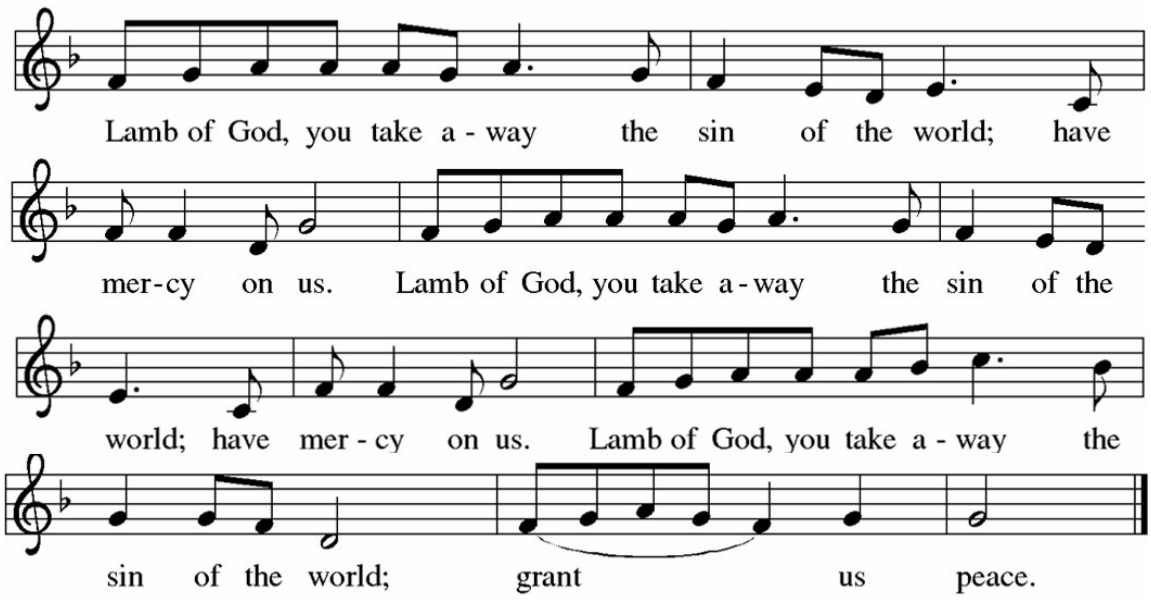
Being made one by the power of the Spirit, As our Savior taught us, so we pray:
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of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

Invitation to Communion

Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!

All are seated.

Lamb of God



Communion Anthem: *This Touch of Love* by Carl Schalk

Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.
Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God,
through the bread and wine at your table
you strengthen us for service wherever you will send us.
As we leave this place that has been a home for worship and mission,
care and fellowship in our community,
help us to gather in our new church homes with open minds and hearts
as we have new opportunities for our faith life and ministry.
Welcome us forever into your embrace,
until that day when all your people throughout the world worship together around the throne of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and send us in mission to the world.

Congregational Records and Assets

In remembrance and with thanksgiving, we hand over the documented history and official records that symbolize the joys and sorrows of the people of God in this place. Receive and preserve them so that the ministry of this congregation may be remembered.

Decommissioning Prayers

Let us pray. Almighty God …
For calling us to be Concordia Lutheran Church, in this place and time …
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For giving us a beautiful house of prayer and worship for these 65 years,
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For providing a holy place in which to bring our prayers and find your presence,
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For providing an empowering place to hear your word, grow in faith, and be challenged in mission,
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For inspiring those who came before us with the vision and faith to build Concordia
We give you thanks, O Lord.

For blessing those whose knowledge and gifts, whose sweat and labor, whose hope and faith, made this holy place all that it has been,
We give you thanks, O Lord.

God of all our days, most of us were not here when the plans for this building were envisioned, but we know they were made with hope and trust in your faithfulness. As we prepare to leave this place, help us to trust in you as they did.
We give you thanks, O Lord.

We thank you also for the gifts of crosses and crucifixes, communion vessels, offering plates, candles, altars, and Jesus Statue and all other sacred items which have served for us and for generations before us. As we decommission these sacred gifts, we are thankful for the blessing they have been to us.
We give you thanks, O Lord.

Gracious God, continue to guide us as we move forward in a new way. As we ourselves leave this place, remind us **we** are your church, as we are sent to share your mercy and love. Your work – our hands, feet, and voices.
Amen.

Declaration on Leave-Taking

With thanks to God for the work accomplished in this place,
I declare this congregation, Concordia Lutheran Church to be closed
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✞ and of the Holy Spirit.
May the witness of the people who have ministered in the name of Jesus Christ through Concordia Lutheran Church be undiminished and continue as they leave this place.
Amen.

Blessing

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Almighty God, Father, ✞ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Recessional Hymn *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* ELW 632

If you wish to take a hymnal home with you as you leave,
please do so as we follow the cross out the front doors of the church.

Dismissal

Let us go forth in peace, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Serving in Worship Today:

Presiding and Preaching:	**The Rev. Dr. Rolf Hedberg**
Representing the New England Synod:	**The Rev. Maria Hammons Associate to the Bishop - Missional Discernment and Legacy**
Assisting Minister:	**Mark Winzler**
	David Smith, Candace Wilson
Usher:	**Jan Salvatore**
Organist:	**John Anderson**

Altar Flowers
are given in honor of
and
in thanksgiving for Concordia
by Park Hill Joyce Florist