



# Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



*We celebrate gathering together this  
second Sunday in Advent!  
As always, all are WELCOME here!  
December 3, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.*

The People of Covenant are called to:

**Gather, Grow and Go Serve**

...With God's Love!

**Welcome Thank you for joining us for Worship today!**

**WORSHIP ORDER – Sunday, December 3, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.**

*Congregation participation in **bold** in bulletin*

*ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymn Book, Setting 10*

*and the Holden Morning Prayer insert by Marty Haugen*

*\*=please stand*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **Prelude**

### **Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 2**

**\*Hymn** *Oh Come, O Come Emmanuel* vs. 3 ELW 257

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn** *Oh Come, O Come Emmanuel* vs. 4 ELW 257

### **Welcome and Children's Time**

**Service of Light** Holden p. 2

**Morning Hymn** Holden p. 2

**Psalm 141** Holden p. 3

### **Greeting**

May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives. **Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ,

our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

### First Reading

**Isaiah 40: 1-11**

*A reading from Isaiah the fortieth chapter.*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Bell Choir

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

arr. Lloyd Larson

### Second Reading

**2 Peter 3: 8-15a**

*A reading from second Peter the third chapter.*

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow

about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel**

**Mark 1: 1-8**

*The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” <sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

Pastor Wendy Moen

**\*Annunciation and the Magnificat**

Holden p. 7

## Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Everlasting God, you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.**

**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness  
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.**

**We are complicit in systems of exploitation.**

**We choose comfort over courage.**

**We are careless with creation's bounty.**

**Look upon us with mercy.**

**Turn our hearts again to you.**

**Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways  
for the sake of our waiting world.**

**Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

## Exchange of Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Let us share a sign of peace safely with one another.*

## Announcements

## Offering Prayer

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## Liturgy of Holy Communion

# Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Gathered into one by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray as our Lord taught us:*

## The Lord's Prayer

**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

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.

Come, take your place at the table.

## Communion Hymns

*As the Grains of Wheat*

ELW 465

*By Your Hand You Feed Your People*

ELW 469

## Post Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

## Prayer after Communion

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## Blessing

Holden p. 9

## \*Sending Hymn

*Hark, the Glad Sound!*

ELW 239

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**



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Or visit [www.covluth.org](http://www.covluth.org) and click 'On-line Giving'!



## Announcements:

- ✚ **What is the Doctrine of Discovery? Find information in the December 3rd Friday email**
- ✚ Help us Grow in Community! Wear your nametag to each Worship Service- Thank you!
- ✚ Wednesday Evening Bible Study meets- **You're Invited** - Join at 5pm in the Gateway Room
- ✚ **Parents Day Out- Dec 10<sup>th</sup>** kids stay 11am-3pm for fun while you shop. Sign up w/ Karla
- ✚ Lunch Bunch- 1<sup>st</sup> Wed of the Month at 11:30am **Dec 6<sup>th</sup>** meeting at Café on Main in Edgerton
- ✚ Feed the Hungry at St. Marks in Madison, 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month **Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 10:30a-1:30p**
- ✚ Join Book Group **Dec 14<sup>th</sup>** *Beautiful and Terrible things* Meeting at 1pm in Gateway room
- ✚ Christmas Services offered **Sunday, Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 9:30am, 4pm and 7pm.** All are invited to join!
- ✚ The office will be closed **Dec 25<sup>th</sup>** for the Christmas Holiday- Enjoy, knowing you are loved!
- ✚ **Social Action is on break until January 15<sup>th</sup>** - work on inclusion here at Covenant with them
- ✚ Save the Date-Budget Listening Session **Jan 21<sup>st</sup>** and Annual Meeting **Jan 28<sup>th</sup>** Please Attend!
- ✚ Hospitality **Sign-Up in the Narthex**, bring treats whenever works for you- We're a team
- ✚ Thank you to our Bell Choir Members:

Susan Diebold, Lars Forde, Doug and Dianne Johnson, Angie Kettner, Jacob Kettner, Judy Luschen, Sue Richards, Lisa Stout, Donna Tarpinian, Kelsey Tarpinian, Robin and Scott Wendt, director Meghan Proper, for offering *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*.

### WORSHIP NOTES

**Pastor:** *Pastor Wendy Moen; Acolyte;*

**Assistant Minister:** *Jean Sime; Lector:* *Gary Tarpinian;*

**Greeters:** *Carol Pritchard, George Craig;*

**Communion Worship Assistants:** *Philayne Chose, Christy Unzicker;*

**Organist/Pianist:** *Meghann Proper;*

**Musicians for Advent:** *Chris Melland, John Surrell, Denise Pigarelli;*

**Ushers:** *Tamarine Westrand, Greg Vodak, Gary Tarpinian, Judy & Matthew Heil;*

**Sound/projection:** *Lars Forde, Amanda Burian;*

**Altar Guild:** *Norm and Jean Sime;*

**Communion Prep:** *Jean and Norm Sime;*

**Altar Flowers:** *Given in Loving Memory of Marion (Haried) Sime by the Sime Family!*

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