



Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



*We celebrate gathering together
this fourth Sunday of Epiphany!
As always, everyone is WELCOME here!
January 28, 2024 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, January 28, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.

Congregation participation in bold in bulletin

ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymn Book,

Setting 10 pg. 203

**=please stand*

GATHERING

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

Welcome

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord, you people of God.

**We have come to sing, and laugh,
and shout God's praises for all to hear!**

Listen to the Lord, you people of God.

**We have come to hear God's word,
and ponder the mysteries of God's sacred promises.**

Praise the Lord, you people of God.

Our God is an awesome God, greatly to be praised.

Children's Time

***Gathering Hymn** *Dearest Jesus, at Your Word* ELW 520

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.**

***Hymn of Praise** *Glory* pg. 204

Prayer of the Day

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

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

First Reading

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy, the eighteenth chapter.

Moses said: ¹⁵The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.” The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Vocal Choir

Our Grateful Hymn of Praise

arr. Mary McDonald

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 8: 1-13

A reading from first Corinthians, the eighth chapter.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him. ⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. ⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours

does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall. The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia!

pg. 205

Gospel

Mark 1: 21-28

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.

²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. The Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Wendy Moen

***Hymn of the Day**

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW 886

Prayers of Intercession

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God’s blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer especially Pat, John, George and those we name out loud or silently in our hearts. <Pause- Silence for 5 seconds> God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives. We trust that Jean Gjermo and all who have died rest in your loving care. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Exchange of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

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

Announcements

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. **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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

pg. 207

Holy God, mighty Lord: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast. **Amen.**

Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light. **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Creator, 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

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

Communion Hymns

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| <i>Lamb of God</i> | pg. 208 |
| <i>Healer of Our Every Ill</i> | ELW 612 |
| <i>Come Let Us Eat</i> | ELW 491 |

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

Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

Blessing

God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Sending Hymn

Let the Whole Creation Cry

ELW 876

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
Thanks be to God.



Care to contribute to our Church and ministries?
Scan this QR Code to give digitally with Vanco Online Giving.
Or visit www.covluth.org and click 'On-line Giving'!



Ministry Matters™ | Worship Elements: January 28, 2024

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Announcements:

- ✠ Annual Congregational Meeting after worship TODAY Members please stay for voting!
- ✠ **Bible Study Meets** Wednesday Evening **Jan 31st** and **Feb 7th** at **5pm** in the Gateway Room-
- ✠ Join our Confirmation class **Feb 7th 6pm for a Powerful Contemplative Dr. King address**
- ✠ **Lunch Bunch- 1st Wed of the Month at 11:30am Feb 7th** Join at *BBJack's* in Cottage Grove
- ✠ Join Book Group **Feb 8th** discussing *Northwoods* by Amy Pease Meeting at 1pm in Gateway
- ✠ Feed the Hungry Feb 9th 10:30a-1:30p at St. Marks in Madison, every 2nd Friday of the month
- ✠ **Movie Night: 6:30pm Feb 9th** watch *The Emperor's New Groove* with Popcorn & Lemonade
- ✠ **Enjoy a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feast- Feb 13th 5:30pm-6:30pm** Pancakes & Fellowship
- ✠ Ash Wednesday Worship Service **Wed. Feb 14th 7pm** begins our 40 days of Lenten Worship
- ✠ **Social Action meets February 19th** - work on inclusion right here at Covenant with our team
- ✠ **Dinner** served at 5:30pm weekly, prior to Wed evening Worship **Feb 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20**
- ✠ **Feb 14, 21, 28, March 6, 13 and 20** Wednesday Evening Lenten Worship will be offered
- ✠ Maundy Thursday is **March 28th**, and Good Friday is **March 29th** and Easter is **March 31st**
- ✠ Looking for a winter hobby? Join **Blanket Makers** Tues Mornings 8-Noon, they'll teach you!
- ✠ Thank you to our Vocal Choir Members: Kristin Johnson, Larry Judd, Angie Kettner, Eileen Nelson, Jack Nelson, Meghann Proper, Glenn Van Rossum, Jim Seamonson, Donna Tarpinian, Laurie Woodhouse, pianist Michelle Bolstad, director Beth Gardner, for offering *Our Grateful Hymn of Praise* today!

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: *Pastor Wendy Moen;*

Acolyte: *Alex Reuter; Assistant Minister: Kathy Andrusz;*

Lector: *Philayne Chose; Greeters: George Craig, Carol Pritchard;*

Communion Worship Assistants: *Philayne Chose, Judy Heil;*

Organist/Pianist: *Michelle Bolstad;*

Ushers: *Mark, Evan, Caleb and Garrett Herbst, Rhetta Smith, Bill Cook;*

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

Altar Guild: *Eileen and Jack Nelson; Communion Prep: Christy Unzicker;*

Altar Flowers: *Given by Penny and Greg Vodak celebrating their birthdays!*

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