



# Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



*We celebrate gathering together this  
first Sunday of Epiphany!  
As always, all are WELCOME here!  
January 7, 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, January 7, 2023 – 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**

We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

**We will find the Babe in the laughter of children,  
in the wisdom of grandparents.**

We gather asking, 'where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

**We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope,  
where the oppressed are set free.**

We gather wanting to know, 'where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

**We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace,  
where hatred is overwhelmed by love,  
where all people are overwhelmed by joy.**

### **Centering Music**

### **Children's Time**

**\*Gathering Hymn**      *Angels from the Realms of Glory*      ELW 275

### **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**

Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show

yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, 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 60: 1-6**

*A reading from Isaiah, the sixtieth chapter.*

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord. The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

### **Vocal Choir**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Info on back

### **Second Reading**

**Ephesians 3: 1-12**

*A reading from Ephesians, the third chapter.*

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very

least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia!*

pg. 205

**Gospel**

**Matthew 2: 1-12**

*The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the second chapter.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ” <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

*A brief silence.*

Humble the hearts of your faithful people, that we seek to be servants of your gospel and witnesses to your mysteries. Give us boldness in faith, that we make the good news of Christ's birth known to all people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Establish justice on earth for all its inhabitants. Lead us to protect fragile ecosystems and endangered species. Empower the work of all who research, engineer, and make accessible alternative and renewable sources of energy. Make us careful stewards of your creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nations shall come to your light and kings to your dawning. Remove corruption and fear from the hearts of leaders and authorities. Lead governments to expand policies and resources that care for refugees and all migrants. Strengthen the work of resettlement agencies. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Defend the cause of all who are in need, all facing poverty, and all who are oppressed. Come quickly to those who feel that their lives and livelihoods are fragile. Give them strength and lead them forth with hope. We pray especially for Ana, Janine, Jennifer, Reggie, Lynda and Family, the family of David and those we name out loud or silently in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As the magi offered gifts to the Christ child, empower us to give generously. Prosper the work of ministry partnerships in our community. Together, help us share what we have to ensure that our neighbors have enough food, resources, and opportunities. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You have redeemed the lives of your faithful departed. Through the love of Christ, gather us into one body with them, and reveal to us the mystery

hidden for ages in the One who created all things. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace. **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**

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **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**

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**

Glory to God in the highest!  
Come to the table of peace.

## **Communion Hymns**

*Lamb of God*

pg. 208

*One Bread, One Body*

ELW 496

## **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**

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

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

## **Blessing**

God bless you and keep you, ✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **\*Sending Hymn**

*Rise, Shine, You People!*

ELW 665

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you! **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](http://www.covluth.org) and click 'On-line Giving'!





## Announcements:

- ✝ Safe Surrender info/orientation meeting planned for **TODAY**, see Pastor Wendy for info!
- ✝ Join Book Group **Jan 11<sup>th</sup>** discussing *The Last Supper Club* Meeting at 1pm in Gateway room
- ✝ Feed the Hungry at St. Marks in Madison, 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month **Jan 12<sup>th</sup> 10:30a-1:30p**
- ✝ Join **Jan 14<sup>th</sup>** for Worship to Appreciate Michelle Osterhaus's Music Ministry at Covenant
- ✝ **Social Action meets January 15<sup>th</sup>** - work on inclusion here at Covenant with them
- ✝ Budget Listening Session Scheduled for **Jan 21<sup>st</sup>** join to hear the hard work discussed for 2024
- ✝ The American Red Cross reports major blood shortages- Give Blood at Covenant **Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>**
- ✝ Annual Congregational Meeting planned for **Jan 28<sup>th</sup>** Member voting required & appreciated!
- ✝ **Lunch Bunch- 1<sup>st</sup> Wed of the Month at 11:30am Feb 7<sup>th</sup>** Join at *BBJack's* in Cottage Grove
- ✝ Looking for a winter hobby? Join **Blanket Makers** Tues Mornings 8-Noon, they'll teach you!
- ✝ Bible Study Returns later this month Wed Evenings in the Gateway Room- More info to come
- ✝ 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 Meghann Proper, director Beth Gardner, for offering *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* today by Kathleen Thomerson, arr. Benjamin Harlan!

## WORSHIP NOTES

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

**Acolyte:** *Carson Brekken;*

**Assistant Minister:** *Ann Nelson;*

**Lector:** *Tom Nelson;*

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

**Communion Worship Assistants:** *Kathy Andrusz, Tom Nelson;*

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

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

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

**Altar Guild:** *Eileen and Jack Nelson;*

**Communion Prep:** *Christy Unzicker;*

**Altar Flowers:** *A great way to celebrate any occasion with your church family!*

**Covenant Lutheran Church**  
**1525 N. Van Buren St.**  
**Stoughton, WI 53589**  
**(608) 873-7494**

**Email:**  
**covlutheran@covluth.org**  
**Website: www.covluth.org**

**Pastor Wendy Moen**  
**240-506-1388 cell**

**Email:**  
**PastorWendyMoen**  
**@covluth.org**