



Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



We welcome you to Worship this Sunday!

February 23, 2025 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, February 23, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

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

ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymn Book,

ACS= All Creation Sings Hymnal, Setting 11

GATHERING

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

Land Acknowledgment

Covenant Lutheran Church acknowledges and honors the Indigenous Peoples and their ancestral homelands on which we gather. We stand on stolen ancestral homelands of the Ho-Chunk and the many other Indigenous Nations that have been historical occupants here. We respect Native Americans as caretakers of this land and Mother Earth. We strive to emulate the stewardship they first demonstrated. We embrace Indigenous People in love and gratitude. May we always seek a greater understanding of the Native community and their history as a whole as we aspire to work in meaningful partnership.

Welcome

Call to Worship

Come and learn the ways of life.

We have come to follow Jesus.

Love your enemies, and do good to those who hate you.

We have come to follow Jesus.

Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who persecute you.

We have come to follow Jesus.

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

We have come to follow Jesus.

Come and learn the ways of life.

Children's Time

Gathering Hymn *All Creatures Worship God Most High!* ELW 835

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

ACS p. 12

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

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

First Reading

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

A reading from Genesis, the forty fifth chapter.

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle

in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' ” ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him. The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Vocal Choir

Peace Like a River

arr. Donald Moore

Psalm Reading

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

A responsive reading from Psalm.

¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

² **For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**

³ Put your trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

⁴ **Take delight in the Lord,
who shall give you your heart's desire.**

⁵ Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord,
and see what God will do.

⁶ **The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds
in evil schemes.

⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.

¹⁰ **In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**

¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.

³⁹ **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**

⁴⁰ You, O Lord, will help them and rescue them; you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

A reading from first Corinthians, the fifteenth chapter.

³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.

³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen and to each kind of seed its own body. ⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first but the physical and then the spiritual.

⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, made of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As one of dust, so are those who are of the dust, and as one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one of heaven. ⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

ACS p. 14

Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ²⁷ “But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; ²⁸ bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the

other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³² “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”. The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Wendy Moen

Hymn of the Day

O Praise the Gracious Power vs.1-4

ELW 651

Prayers of Intercession

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care especially (See Prayer Insert). < full 5 second pause >. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **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 grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Liturgy of Holy Communion and 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

ACS pp. 20-21

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness

Communion Hymns

Lamb of God

ACS p. 25

I Come With Joy

ELW 482

What Feast of Love

ELW 487

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

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.

In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

Blessing Holy Communion to be taken to homebound members

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist us in this ministry on which we are sent forth. In your love and care, nourish and

strengthen those to whom we bring this sacrament, that through the body and blood of your Son we all may know the comfort of your abiding presence. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

Blessing

The Spirit of the triune God ✚ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW 726

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope.

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'!
(*Electronic donations from a debit/credit card now accepted.*)



Announcements:

- ✝ **Bible Study** gathers weekly on **Wednesdays at 5:30pm** in the Gateway Room or by Zoom
- ✝ **Join a Social Action Movie and Meal TODAY 10:30am-12:30pm** Kids may watch **Cinderella**
- ✝ **Now taking Easter Flower Orders!** Please return completed form to the office by March 3
- ✝ **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feast will be March 4** serving 5:30-6:30pm Care to help? Just Ask
- ✝ **Lunch Bunch meets the 1st Wed of each month! March 5 11:30** Location to be announced
- ✝ **Ash Wednesday Worship is March 5 at 6:30pm** You are invited for morning 'Ashes to Go' offered at **Covenant from 7:30-8am** and at **Starbucks in Stoughton from 11-11:30am**
- ✝ **Lenten Wednesday Worship Mar 5,12,19,26 April 2,9 at 6:30pm followed by Lenten Study: *Where is Christ Today? At 7pm*** (Regular 5:30pm Wed Bible Study is not meeting during Lent.)
- ✝ **Book Group 2nd Thur at 1pm March 13** book and gathering location information to come
- ✝ **Feed our Souls-** the 2nd Fri of the month- **March 14 10:30a-1:30p** at St. Marks in Madison
- ✝ **Social Action Team** meets each 3rd Monday, **Join March 17 at 6:30pm in the Gateway Room**
- ✝ **'Hospitality Bags'** and **'Sew at Home Bags'** by main doors- Take what you can help with
- ✝ Questions? Or looking for other opportunities to serve or gather? Ask the Pastor or office!
- ✝ **Thank you** to our **Vocal Choir:** Larry Beck, Kristin Johnson, Larry Judd, Laurie Judd, Angie Kettner, Jacob Kettner, Eileen Nelson, Jack Nelson, Millie Proper, Jim Seamonson, Gwen Speth, Donna Tarpinian, Glenn Van Rossum, accompanist Meghann Proper and director Beth Gardner for offering their gifts and sharing their lovely talents with us today and throughout the year!

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: *Pastor Wendy Moen*; **Acolyte:** *Sam Pietruszynski*;
Greeters: *George Craig, Carol Pritchard*; **Assistant Minister:** *Laurie Judd*;
Lector: *Deb Oakland*; **Communion Assistants:** *Laurie and Larry Judd, Deb Oakland*;
Organist/Pianist: *Meghann Proper*; **Ushers:** *Karl Nissler, Larry Olson, Thor Anderson, Sue Richards*; **Sound/projection:** *Jude Surrell*;
Altar Guild: *Christy Unzicker*; **Communion Prep:** *Deb and Dan Oakland*;
Altar Flowers: *Given by Laurie Judd commemorating Bruce's birthday!*

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