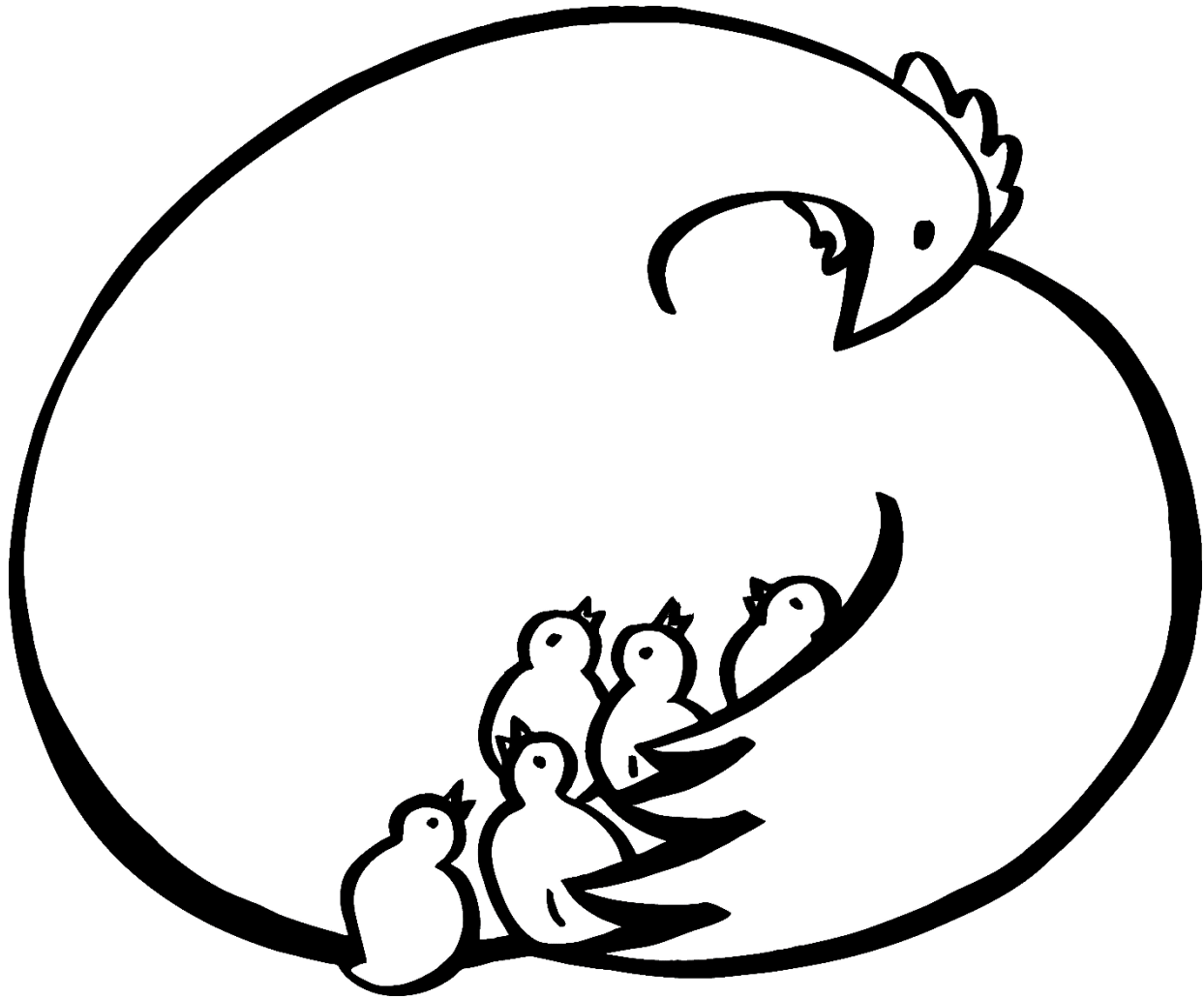




# Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



*We welcome you to Worship this Sunday!*

**March 16, 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, March 16, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.**

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

*ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymn Book, and Marty Haugen Holden Prayer.*

## **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 and Children's Time**

**Service of Light and Morning Hymn**

Holden p. 2

**Morning Thanksgiving and Psalm 141**

Holden p. 3

### **Psalm Prayer**

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**

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in 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

**Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

*A reading from Genesis, the fifteenth chapter.*

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. <sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup> But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup> He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. <sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. <sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates." The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm Reading

**Psalm 27**

*A responsive reading from Psalm twenty-seven.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**<sup>2</sup>When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh —  
my adversaries and foes — they shall stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;  
though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

**<sup>4</sup>One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:  
to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.**

<sup>5</sup>For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal  
me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

**<sup>6</sup>Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

**<sup>8</sup>"Come," my heart says,  
"seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.**

<sup>9</sup>Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in  
anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake  
me, O God of my salvation!

**<sup>10</sup>If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.**

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of  
my enemies.

**<sup>12</sup>Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,  
for false witnesses have risen against me,  
and they are breathing out violence.**

<sup>13</sup>I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the  
living.

**<sup>14</sup>Wait for the LORD; be strong,  
and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the LORD!**

**Second Reading**

**Philippians 3:17—4:1**

*A reading from Philippians, the third chapter.*

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

<sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel**

**Luke 13:31-35**

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the thirteenth chapter.*

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ” The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

Pastor Wendy Moen

## **Hymn of the Day**

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

ELW 597

## **Litany and Prayers**

Holden p. 8

## Confession and Forgiveness

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **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**

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **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.**

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.

*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

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

## Communion Hymns

*Lamb of God*

ELW 336

*By Your Hand You Feed Your People*

ELW 469

*Here Is Bread*

ELW 483

## 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 Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

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

## Blessing

Holden p. 9

## Sending Hymn

*Lead Me, Guide Me*

ELW 768

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for 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'!  
(Electronic donations from a debit/credit card now accepted.)



## Announcements:

- ✝ **Easter Flower Order *Thank you!*** Flowers available for pick up April 20 after Easter Worship
- ✝ **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 Bible Study is not meeting during Lent.)
- ✝ **Social Action Team** meets each 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, **Join March 17** at 630pm in the Gateway Room
- ✝ Learn about Covenant - New Members Classes offered March 23 and 30 after Worship
- ✝ **Lunch Bunch meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wed of each month** April 2 11:30 at *The Night Owl* in Evansville
- ✝ **Book Group 2<sup>nd</sup> Thur at 1pm April 10** book and gathering location information to come
- ✝ **Feeding the Hungry** 2nd Fri of the month- **April 11** 10:30a-1:30p at St. Marks in Madison
- ✝ **Join for 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Celebration and Maundy Thursday Worship April 17 at 6:30pm**
- ✝ Everyone is invited to Worship and Covenant! **April 18 is Good Friday Worship at 6:30pm**
- ✝ **Easter Sunday is April 20, Join for a snacks and a Children's Egg Hunt before Worship**
- ✝ **The office will be closed April 21 – May you enjoy this holiday in safety and peace!**
- ✝ **Social Action Team** meets each 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, **Join April 21** at 630pm 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!

## WORSHIP NOTES

**Pastor:** *Pastor Wendy Moen; Acolyte: Emma Rupp;*  
**Greeters:** *Deb and Dan Oakland;*  
**Assistant Minister:** *Judy and Matthew Heil; Lector: Gary Tarpinian;*  
**Communion Assistants:** *George Craig, Laurie and Larry Judd;*  
**Organist/Pianist:** *Meghann Proper;*  
**Ushers:** *Tom Chose, Jack Cope, Stephen Peterson, Peder Melhuse;*  
**Sound/projection:** *Jude Surrell;*  
**Altar Guild:** *Cynthia Liddle;*  
**Communion Prep:** *Philayne and Tom Chose;*  
**Altar Flowers:** *On break for the Lenten Season.*

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