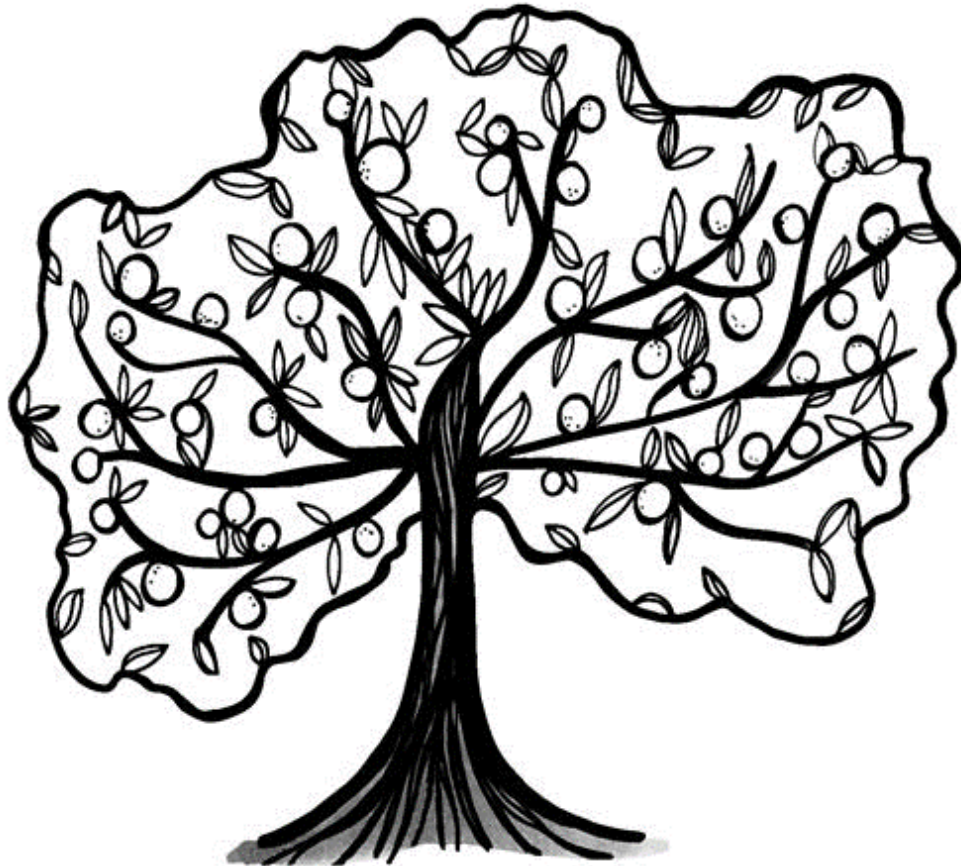




# Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



*We welcome you to Worship this Sunday!*

**March 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, March 23, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.**

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

*ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymn Book,*

*ACS= All Creation Sings Hymnal,*

*Holden= Prayer insert by Marty Haugen.*

## **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**

### **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**

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our 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 55:1-9**

*A reading from Isaiah, the fifty fifth chapter.*

<sup>1</sup> Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup> Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. <sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. The word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Bell Choir**

*There is a Fountain*

by Lloyd Larson

### **Psalm Reading**

**Psalm 63:1-8**

*A responsive reading from Psalm sixty three.*

<sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**<sup>2</sup>So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.**

<sup>3</sup>Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

**<sup>4</sup>So I will bless you as long as I live;  
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

<sup>5</sup>My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

**<sup>6</sup>when I think of you on my bed,  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;**

<sup>7</sup>for you have been my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

**<sup>8</sup>My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.**

## **Second Reading**

## **1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

*A reading from first Corinthians, the tenth chapter.*

<sup>1</sup> I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. <sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not become idolaters as some of them did, as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." <sup>8</sup> We must not engage in sexual immorality, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup> And do not complain, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is not common to

everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it. The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel**

**Luke 13:1-9**

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

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

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

<sup>2</sup> Jesus asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”

<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.” <sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’ ” The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

Pastor Wendy Moen

## **Hymn of the Day**

*Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*

ELW 445

## **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.*

Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,**

**but our lives do not always reflect you**

**and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives**

**and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house 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*

ACS p. 25

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

ELW 779

*I Am the Bread of Life*

ELW 485

## **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**

*O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts*

ELW 658

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God.**



*Care to contribute to our Church and ministries?*

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

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



## Announcements:

- ✝ **Learn about Covenant** - New Members Classes offered today and next Sunday after 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 Wed Bible Study is not meeting during Lent.)
- ✝ **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
- ✝ **Feed the Hungry** 2nd Fri of the month- **April 11 10:30a-1:30p** at St. Marks in Madison
- ✝ **Covenant Women's Breakfast April 12 9-10:30am** *Join for a heart full of love & laughter*
- ✝ **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!
- ✝ **Thank you to our Bell Choir:** Susan Diebold, Lars Forde, Dianne Johnson, Doug Johnson, Angie Kettner, Jacob Kettner, Judy Luschen, Marcie Mahuta, Margaret Raisbeck, Sue Richards, Lisa Stout, Donna Tarpinian, Kelsey Tarpinian, Alex Thiessen, Robin Wendt, Scott Wendt and director Meghan Proper for offering their gifts and sharing their lovely talents with us today and throughout the year!

## WORSHIP NOTES

**Pastor:** *Pastor Wendy Moen*; **Acolyte:** *Addeline Anderson*;  
**Greeters:** *Gloria Carpenter, Cynthia Liddle*; **Assistant Minister:** *Deb Oakland*;  
**Lector:** *Kimberly Currie*; **Communion Assistants:** *Philayne Chose, Kimberly Currie, Deb Oakland*; **Organist/Pianist:** *Meghann Proper*; **Ushers:** *Mark, Evan, Caleb and Garrett Herbst, Rhetta Smith, Bill Cook*; **Sound/projection:** *Lars Forde*;  
**Altar Guild:** *Cynthia Liddle*; **Communion Prep:** *Philayne and Tom Chose*;  
**Altar Flowers:** *On break for the Lenten Season.*

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