



# Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



*We welcome you to Worship this Sunday!*

**March 30, 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 30, 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.*

**Prelude**

*Ave Verum*

W. A. Mozart

## 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

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your

grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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

**Joshua 5:9-12**

*A reading from Joshua, the fifth chapter.*

<sup>9</sup>The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. <sup>10</sup>While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. <sup>12</sup>The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year. The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

### Vocal Choir

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* arr. David M. Cherwien

### Psalm Reading

**Psalm 32**

*A responsive reading from Psalm thirty two.*

<sup>1</sup>Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

**<sup>2</sup>Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

<sup>3</sup>While I kept silence, my body wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

**<sup>4</sup>For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave  
the guilt of my sin.

**<sup>6</sup>Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;  
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup>You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

**<sup>8</sup>I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

<sup>9</sup>Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose  
temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
else it will not stay near you.

**<sup>10</sup>Many are the torments of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup>Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

## **Second Reading**

**2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

*A reading from second Corinthians, the fifth chapter.*

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel**

**Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” <sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup> “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup> “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for

you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.  
<sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.  
<sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' " The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

Pastor Wendy Moen

## **Hymn of the Day**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

ELW 807

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,  
our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Litany and Prayers**

Holden p. 8

## **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

*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

ELW 623

*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

ELW 618

## 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

*Sent Forth By God's Blessing*

ELW 547

## Dismissal

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

## Postlude

*O Mighty God*

arr. W. Hanson



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## Announcements:

- ✝ **Easter Flower Order *Thank you!*** Flowers available for pick up April 20 after Easter Worship
- ✝ Wednesday Worship April 2,9 at **6:30pm followed by Lenten Study: *Where is Christ Today?***
- ✝ **Lunch Bunch meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wed of each month** April 2 11:30 at *The Night Owl* in Evansville
- ✝ **Book Group** 2nd Thur at 1pm **April 10 discussing *Alice's Tulips*** by Sandra Dallas in Gateway
- ✝ **Feed our Souls-** the 2nd Fri of the month- **April 11 10:30a-1:30p** at St. Marks in Madison
- ✝ **Covenant Women's Coffee April 12 9-10:30am** *Join for a heart full of love & laughter*
- ✝ **Special Congregational Meeting April 13** after Worship, see office or email for info, please join
- ✝ **Social Action Team** meeting the 2nd Monday in **April 14** at 630pm in the Gateway Room
- ✝ **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**
- ✝ **New Member reception April 27 in Worship, please join to welcome our newest members**
- ✝ Join to watch a movie about **Bonhoeffer Sunday April 27** in the Cinema, after Worship
- ✝ **Thank you to our Vocal Choir:** Kristin Johnson, Larry Judd, Laurie Judd, Angie 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!
- ✝ **Thank you to our Bass Sextet:** Gene Vanden Bosch, Peter Herman, Doug Johnson, Dianne Johnson, Russ Melland, Robin Robertson for offering their gifts and sharing their lovely talents with us today and throughout the year!

## WORSHIP NOTES

**Pastor:** *Pastor Wendy Moen*; **Greeters:** *Carol Pritchard, George Craig*; **Assistant Minister:** *Jean Sime*; **Lector:** *George Craig*; **Communion Assistants:** *George Craig, Judy and Matthew Heil, Jean Sime*; **Organist/Pianist:** *Meghann Proper*; **Ushers:** *Karl Nissler, Larry Olson, Thor Anderson, Sue Richards*; **Sound/projection:** *Lars Forde*; **Altar Guild:** *Cynthia Liddle*; **Communion Prep:** *Philayne and Tom Chose*;

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