



# Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



*We welcome you to Worship this Wednesday!*

**March 12, 2025 at 6:30 p.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 – Wednesday, March 12, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.**

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

*ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymn Book,  
Letters and Papers from Prison*

## **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**

*Letters and Papers from Prison (528)*

By powers of good so wondrously protected,

**we wait with confidence, befall what may.**

God is with us at night and in the morning

**and oh, most certainly on each new day.**

#### **Greeting**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

#### **Prayer of the Day**

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of 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.*

### Psalmody

*Prayer Book of the Bible (21)*

Who prays the psalms? David (Solomon, Asaph, etc.) prays, Christ prays, we pray. We—that is first of all the entire community in which alone the vast richness of the Psalter can be prayed, but also finally every individual insofar as that person participates in Christ and [their] community and prays their prayer. David, Christ, the church, I myself and wherever we consider all of this together we recognize the wonderful way in which God teaches us to pray.

### Psalm

### Psalm 8

*A responsive reading of Psalm eight.*

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory above the heavens.

**<sup>2</sup>Out of the mouths of babes and infants  
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,  
to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

<sup>3</sup>When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;

**<sup>4</sup>what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?**

<sup>5</sup>Yet you have made them a little lower than God,  
and crowned them with glory and honor.

**<sup>6</sup>You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet,**

<sup>7</sup>all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

**<sup>8</sup>the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

<sup>9</sup>O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**Gospel****John 1:1-5,14-19***The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.***Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. <sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Life Together (75)*

The first service one owes to others in the community involves listening to them. Just as our love for God begins with listening to God's Word, the beginning of our love for other Christians is learning to listen to them. God's love for us is shown by the fact that God not only gives God's Word, but also lends us God's ear. We do God's work for our brothers and sisters when we learn to listen to them.

**Homily**

Pastor Wendy Moen

*A brief silence is kept for reflection.***Who Am I?***Letters and Papers from Prison (448-449)*

Who am I? They often tell me, I come out of my cell  
Calm and cheerful and poised Like a squire from his manor.

Who am I? They often tell me, I speak with my guards  
Freely and friendly and clear, As though I were the one in charge.

Who am I? They also tell me, I bear days of calamity  
Serenely, smiling and proud, like one accustomed to victory.

Am I really what others say of me? Or am I only what I know of myself?

Restless, yearning, sick, like a caged bird,  
struggling for life breath, as if I were being strangled,  
starving for colors, for flowers, for birdsong,  
thirsting for kind words, human closeness,  
shaking with rage power lust and pettiest insult,  
helplessly fearing for friends so far away,  
too tired and empty to pray, to think, to work,  
weary and ready to take my leave of it all?

Who am I? This one or the other?

Am I this one today and tomorrow another?

Am I both at once? Before others, a hypocrite  
and in my own eyes a pitiful, whimpering weakling?

Or is what remains in me like a defeated army,  
Fleeing in disarray from victory already won?

Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine.

Whoever I am, thou knowest me; O God, I am thine!

**Prayers** *adapted from Letters and Papers from Prison (174-175)*

God, be gracious and help us.

Give us strength to bear the pains of the world.

Do not let fear rule over us.

Give tender care to those we love and are hurting, (See Prayer Insert).

< full 5 second pause >.

Protect them from all evil and all danger.

Merciful God,

Forgive us everything in which we have sinned

Against you and others.

We trust in your grace

And commit our lives entirely into your hand.  
We are with you, and you are with us, O God  
We await your salvation and your kingdom. **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**

*adapted from Life Together (97)*

As the grains of wheat have been gathered together in this bread, so the members of the community of faith are united in body and blood at the table of the Lord, so we will be together in eternity. Here joy in Christ and Christ's community is complete. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## 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

*Letters and Papers from Prison (495)*

Not always doing and daring what's random, but seeking the right thing, Hover not over the possible, but boldly reach for the real.

Not escaping to thought, in action alone is found freedom.

Dare to quit anxious faltering and enter the storm of events, carried alone by your faith and by God's good commandments, then true freedom will come and embrace your spirit, rejoicing. **Amen.**

## Dismissal

Who is Christ for us, today?

**The outcasts, the maltreated, the powerless, the oppressed and reviled, the suffering.**

Go in peace to be with them. **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:

- ✝ Lenten Wednesday Worship Mar 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.)
- ✝ **Book Group 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays at 1pm -March 13** discussing Settlin' by Muriel Simms- Join
- ✝ **Feeding the Hungry** 2nd Fri of the month- **March 14** 10:30a-1:30p at St. Marks in Madison
- ✝ **Covenant Women's Breakfast March 15 9-10:30am** *Join for a heart full of love & laughter*
- ✝ **Social Action Team** meets each 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, **Join March 17** 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 **April 20**, Join for a snacks and a Children's Egg Hunt before **9:30am Worship**
- ✝ Looking for other opportunities to gather? Don't be afraid to ask the Pastor or the office staff!
  - **Blanket Makers** Each Tues 8am-Noon, they'll teach you everything you want to know!
  - **Book Group** the 2nd Thursday of each Month, reading optional- fellowship prioritized!
  - **Lunch Bunch** meets the 1st Monday of each Month for a Dutch Treat style Lunch, join!
  - **St. Marks- Meal Serving** the 2nd Friday of each month serve a meal with our team!
  - **Social Action Team** meets the 3rd Monday of each month discussing good change!
  - Check-in monthly for: Movie Nights, Musical Opportunities, Meals and More!

## WORSHIP NOTES

**Pastor:** *Pastor Wendy Moen;*  
**Assistant Minister:** *Kathy Andrusz, Ronnie Stensrud;*  
**Lector:** *Laurie Judd;*  
**Communion Assistant:** *Laurie Judd;*  
**Greeter/s:** *Laura Just*  
**Ushers:** *Norm and Jean Sime, Carol Prtichard*  
**Organist/Pianist:** *Michelle Bolstad;*  
**Sound/projection:** *Jude Surrell*

**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**