



Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



We welcome you to Worship this Wednesday!

March 19, 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 19, 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

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.

Psalmody

Prayer Book of the Bible (42)

We pray these Psalms when we regard all that God does once for God's people as done for us, when we confess our guilt and God's grace, when we hold God true to God's promises on the basis of God's former benefits and request their fulfillment, and when we finally see the entire history of God with God's people fulfilled in Jesus Christ, through whom we have been helped and will be helped. For the sake of Jesus Christ, we bring God thanksgiving, petition, and confession.

Psalm

Psalm 106:1-5

A responsive reading of Psalm one hundred and six.

Praise the Lord!

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord or declare all his praise?

Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.

**Remember us, O Lord, when you show favor to your people;
help us when you deliver them,**

that we may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,
that we may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,
that we may glory in your heritage.

Hymns

In Christ There Is No East Or West

ELW 650

Gospel

Matthew 7:7-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the seventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door

will be opened. ⁹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? ¹⁰Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? ¹¹If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him! ¹²"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Discipleship (5-6)

Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which has to be asked for, the door at which one has to knock.

It is costly, because it calls to discipleship; it is grace, because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly, because it costs people their lives; it is grace, because it thereby makes them live. It is costly, because it condemns sin; it is grace, because it justifies the sinner...

...Thus, it is grace as a living word, word of God, which speaks as God pleases. It comes to us as a gracious call to follow Jesus, it comes as a forgiving word to the fearful spirit and the broken heart. Grace is costly, because it forces people under the yoke of following Jesus Christ; it is grace when Jesus says, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Homily

Pastor Wendy Moen

A brief silence is kept for reflection.

Who Am I?

from Letters and Papers from Prison (448-449)

Who Am I? - from 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 at 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 and click 'On-line Giving'!
(*Electronic donations from a debit/credit card now accepted.*)



Announcements:

- ✝ Lenten Wednesday Worship Mar 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.)
- ✝ Learn about Covenant - New Members Classes offered March 23 and 30 after Worship
- ✝ **Join for 1st 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?
 - **Blanket Makers** Each Tues 8am-Noon, they'll teach you everything you want to know!
 - **Book Group** the second Thursday of each Month, reading optional- fellowship prioritized!
 - **Lunch Bunch** meets the first Monday of each Month for a Dutch Treat style Lunch, join!
 - **St. Marks- Meal Serving** the second Friday of each month serve a meal with our team!
 - **Social Action Team** meets the third Monday of each month discussing making good change!
 - Check-in monthly for: Movie Nights in the Cinema, Musical Opportunities, Meals and More!

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: *Pastor Wendy Moen;*

Acolyte: *Gavin Schumacher;*

Assistant Minister: *Kathy Andrusz, Philayne Chose, Jessica Diebold;*

Lector: *Jessica Diebold;*

Communion Assistant: *Jessica Diebold;*

Ushers: *Tom Chose, Jack Cope, Stephen Peterson, Peder Melhuse;*

Organist/Pianist: *Michelle Bolstad;*

Sound/projection: *Jude Surrell*

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