



# Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



*We welcome you to Worship this Wednesday!*

March 26, 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 26, 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**

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.*

### Psalmody

*Prayer Book of the Bible (53)*

Psalm 103 teaches us to understand the entire fullness of the gifts of God, from the preservation of life to the forgiveness of sins, as a great unity and to come before God thanking and praising God for them.

(cf. also Psalm 65).

### Psalm

**Psalm 103:1-5**

*A responsive reading of Psalm one hundred and three.*

Bless the Lord O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—**

who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

**who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

### Hymns

*Come Down, O Love Divine*

ELW 804

### Gospel

**Luke 4: 16-21**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>16</sup>When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: <sup>18</sup>"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." <sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in

the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Letters and Papers from Prison (380)*

"You are being baptized today as a Christian. All those great and ancient words of the Christian proclamation will be pronounced over you, and the command of Jesus Christ to baptize will be carried out, without your understanding any of it. But we too are being thrown back all the way to the beginnings of our understanding. What reconciliation and redemption mean, rebirth and the Holy Spirit, love for one's enemies, cross and resurrection, what it means to live in Christ and follow Christ, all that is so difficult and remote that we hardly dare speak of it anymore. In these words and actions handed down to us, we sense something new and revolutionary, but we cannot yet grasp it and express it. This is our own fault. Our church has been fighting during these years only for its self-preservation, as if that were an end in itself. It has become incapable of bringing the word of reconciliation and redemption to humankind and to the world. So the words we used before must lose their power, be silenced, and we can be Christians today in only two ways, through prayer and doing justice among human beings."

## **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.

### **Communion Hymn**

*Bread of Life from Heaven*

ELW 474

## 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.**



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



## Announcements:

- ✝ Lenten Wednesday Worship 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.)
- ✝ **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**
- ✝ Join to watch a movie about **Bonhoeffer Sunday April 27** in the Cinema, after 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;*

**Assistant Minister:** *Kathy Andrusz;*

**Lector:** *Gary Tarpinain;*

**Communion Assistant:** *Kathy Andrusz, Deb Oakland, Gary Tarpinain;*

**Greeter/s:** *Deb and Dan Oakland*

**Ushers:** *Mark, Evan, Caleb and Garrett Herbst, Rhetta Smith, Bill Cook;*

**Organist/Pianist:** *Michelle Bolstad;*

**Sound/projection:** *Jude Surrell*

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