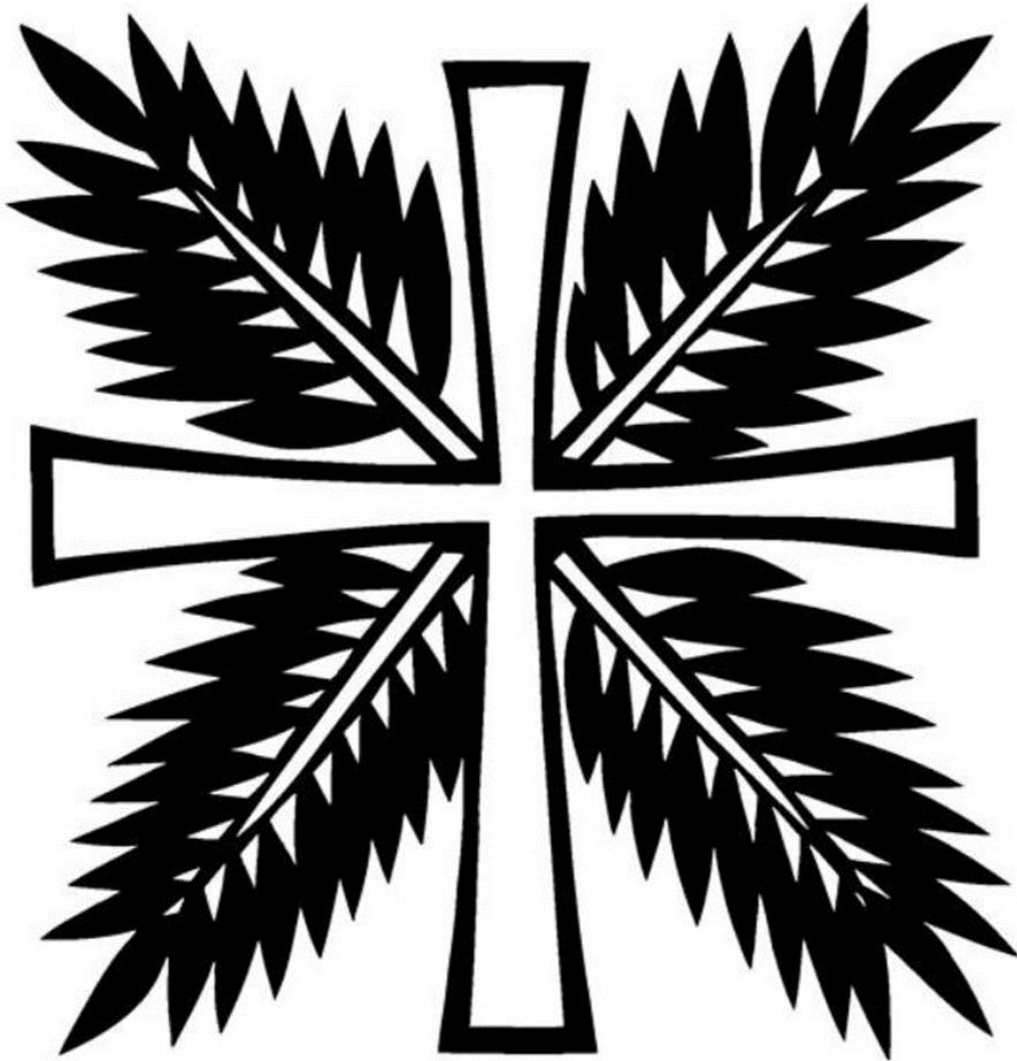




# Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



*We welcome you to Worship this Palm Sunday!*

**April 13, 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, April 13, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.**

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

*ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymn Book*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

*Please gather in the Narthex to begin worship this Palm Sunday.*

*Palm leaves and bulletins are available from the ushers as you gather.*

*We will Follow the Cross through the Sanctuary as it is carried.*

### **Prelude**

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

*Lead on, O King Eternal*

### **Land Acknowledgment Statement**

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**

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week with the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

In this busy week, Jesus gathered with his friends to celebrate a final meal on Thursday, endured an hours-long trial before his death on Friday, and rested in the tomb before Sunday's resurrection.

Later this week, we invite you to return to church to follow Jesus each step along the way. Maundy Thursday worship is at 6:30pm with First Communion and Stripping of the Altar. Good Friday Worship is 6:30pm.

We begin shouting Hosanna! and Blessing our Palms.

## **Acclamation**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## **Blessing of the palms**

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

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **Gospel**

**Luke 19: 28-40**

*The holy gospel according to Luke the nineteenth chapter.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>28</sup>After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

<sup>29</sup>When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, <sup>30</sup>saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>31</sup>If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" <sup>32</sup>So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. <sup>33</sup>As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" <sup>34</sup>They said, "The Lord needs it." <sup>35</sup>Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. <sup>36</sup>As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. <sup>37</sup>As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had

seen, <sup>38</sup>saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" <sup>39</sup>Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." <sup>40</sup>He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Let us go forth in peace, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

## PROCESSION

*The assembly follows the cross through church joining in the singing of the Hymn.*

**Processional Hymn**

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

ELW 344

## Children's Time

### Prayer of the Day

*Let us pray.*

Jesus, we have celebrated the day people acclaimed your triumph. Now prepare us to hear the story of your final days. Use this story to show us what we expect from you; what we offer you; what we take from you. Use these words to show us how much you give us in return. **Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

### First Reading

**Isaiah 50:4-9a**

*A reading from Isaiah, the fiftieth chapter.*

<sup>4</sup> The Lord God has given me a trained tongue, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens, wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup> The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup> I gave my back to those who struck me and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. <sup>7</sup> The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; <sup>8</sup> he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand in court together. Who are my adversaries? Let them

confront me. <sup>9a</sup> It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading**

**Philippians 2: 5-11**

*A reading from second Philippians, the second chapter.*

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel**

**Luke 23:1-29**

*The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twenty second chapter.*

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

<sup>1</sup>Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. <sup>2</sup>They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." <sup>3</sup>Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." <sup>4</sup>Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." <sup>5</sup>But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place." <sup>6</sup>When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. <sup>7</sup>And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. <sup>9</sup>He questioned him at some

length, but Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. <sup>11</sup>Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup>That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies. <sup>13</sup>Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, <sup>14</sup>and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. <sup>15</sup>Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. <sup>16</sup>I will therefore have him flogged and release him." <sup>18</sup>Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" <sup>19</sup>(This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) <sup>20</sup>Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; <sup>21</sup>but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" <sup>22</sup>A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." <sup>23</sup>But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. <sup>24</sup>So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. <sup>25</sup>He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished. <sup>26</sup>As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup>A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. <sup>28</sup>But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup>For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.

*Then the soldiers took Jesus, put a crown of thorns upon his head and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews"*

*Then they spat on Him*

*and struck Him on the head. Then, after*

*They had mocked him, they led him away to be crucified.*

*Those who passed by blasphemed him, saying*

*"You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself!"*

*Likewise the chief priest, the scribes and elders said*

*"If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross that we might believe in you."*

*About the ninth hour Jesus cried out,*

*"My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?"*

*And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit.*

*The veil of the temple was torn in two, the earth quaked, and the rocks split. When the centurion saw all the things*

*that had happened, he said, "Truly this was the Son of God. "*

The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Pastor Wendy Moen

**Hymn of the Day**

*When I survey the Wonderous Cross*

ELW 803

**Prayers of Intercession**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

Guide your church this Holy Week as we follow in the servant way of Jesus. Protect those who face hostility or oppression for their faith. Humble those who would use faith to dominate others and reinforce their own power. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Make your creation a living witness to Christ's passion and resurrection: in waving palms, shouting stones, fragrant vineyards, murmuring wheat, and revealing fire. Make us attentive to your holy presence in the world, that we may care for the earth you love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Let your face shine upon the leaders of nations and let the same mind be in them as was in Christ Jesus, so that those with the most power may humble themselves to serve the most vulnerable. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain the weary with a word. Grant perseverance to political prisoners and to any who are exploited, unjustly accused, or wrongly convicted. Abide with all who are in jails, detention centers, or prisons. Console all who experience times of trial or suffering (*especially*). God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Give strength to those who will lead worship during Holy Week: pastors and deacons, altar guilds and sacristans, musicians and assisting ministers, ushers, and office staff. Instill in them awe and joy, that their service may reflect the love of Jesus. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks to you for our beloved dead, trusting that as the cross of Jesus led to the empty tomb, so you welcome those who have died into the paradise of your presence. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

## **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.

## 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

*Break Now the Bread of Life* ELW 515

*All Creatures, Worship God Most High* ELW 835

## **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

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, Bless you and now and forever. **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

*Go to Dark Gethsemane*

ELW 347

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **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:

- ✝ **Easter Flower Order *Thank you!*** Flowers available for pick up April 20 after Easter Worship
- ✝ **Special Congregational Meeting TODAY** after Worship, please join for a discussion and vote
- ✝ **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 small breakfast 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
- ✝ **Covenant Book Group** 2nd Thur at 1pm **May 8** Gateway Room, everyone is invited to join
- ✝ **Feed our Souls-** the 2nd Fri of the month- **May 12** 10:30a-1:30p at St. Marks in Madison
- ✝ **Covenant Women's Coffee May 17 9-10:30am** *Join for a heart full of love & laughter*
- ✝ **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

## WORSHIP NOTES

**Pastor:** *Pastor Wendy Moen*; **Acolyte:** *Gavin Schumacher*;  
**Greeters:** *George Craig, Carol Pritchard*; **Assistant Minister:** *Philayne Chose*;  
**Lector:** *Sunday School*;  
**Communion Assistants:** *Jamie Anderson, Kathy Andrusz, Philayne Chose*;  
**Organist/Pianist:** *Meghann Proper*;  
**Ushers:** *Norm and Jean Sime, Tom Christian, Carol Pritchard*;  
**Sound/projection:** *Jude Surrell*;  
**Altar Guild:** *Jean Sime*; **Communion Prep:** *Ann and Dave Nelson*;  
**Altar Flowers:** *Returning April 27, order on the easel in the Narthex!*

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