



Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



We welcome you to Worship this Wednesday!

April 2, 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, April 2, 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

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new

thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through 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 (57)

But even in the deepest hopelessness God alone remains the one addressed. Neither is help expected from people, nor does the distressed in self-pity lose sight of the origin and the goal of all distress, namely God. The wrathful God is confronted countless times with God's promise, God's previous blessings, the honor of God's name among humanity.

Psalm

Psalm 44:1-8

A responsive reading of Psalm forty-four.

We have heard with our ears, O God; our ancestors have told us what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old:

you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you planted; you afflicted the peoples, but them you set free;

for not by their own sword did they win the land, nor did their own arm give them victory, but your right hand, and your arm, and the light of your countenance, for you delighted in them.

You are my King and my God; you command victories for Jacob.

Through you we push down our foes; through your name we tread down our assailants. For not in my bow do I trust, nor can my sword save me. But you have saved us from our foes and have put to confusion those who hate us.

**In God we have boasted continually,
and we will give thanks to your name forever.**

Hymn

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

ELW 712

Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from Philippians, the second chapter.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. The word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Ethics (32-33)

God becomes human out of love for humanity. God does not seek out the most perfect human being with whom to be united, but takes on human nature as it is. Jesus Christ is not the transfiguration of noble humanity but the Yes of God to real human beings, not the dispassionate Yes of a judge but the merciful Yes of a compassionate sufferer. In this Yes all the life and all the hope of the world are comprised.

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 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.

Communion Hymn

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

ELW 461

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.

Announcements:

- ✝ Lenten Wednesday Worship April 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 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**
- ✝ 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!



Care to contribute to our Church and ministries?
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(Electronic donations from a debit/credit card now accepted.)



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WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: *Pastor Wendy Moen*; **Assistant Minister:** *Ronnie Stensrud, Kathy Andrusz*;
Lector: *Ann Nelson*; **Communion Assistant:** *Ann Nelson, Jean Sime*;
Organist/Pianist: *Michelle Osterhaus*;
Sound/projection: *Jude Surrell*

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