



Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



We welcome you to Worship this Wednesday!

April 9, 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 9, 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 (58-59)

Now we know that there is no longer any suffering on earth in which Christ will not be with us, suffering with us and praying with us—Christ the only helper. On this basis the great Psalms of trust develop...whoever knows that God has entered into our suffering in Jesus Christ himself may say with great confidence, “Thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

Psalm

Psalm 23

A responsive reading of Psalm twenty three.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil, for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Hymns

Give Me Jesus

ELW 770

Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be

gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Letters and Papers from Prison (20)

It remains an experience of incomparable value that we have for once learned to see the great events of world history from the perspective of the outcasts, the maltreated, the powerless, the oppressed and reviled, in short from the perspective of the suffering.

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

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

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 **followed by Lenten Study: *Where is Christ Today?*** at 7pm
- ✝ **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 small breakfast and a Children's Egg Hunt before 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;*

Greeter: *Penny Vodak;*

Assistant Minister: *George Craig;*

Lector: *Deb Oakland;*

Communion Assistant: *Karen Hanson-Cook, Bill Cook, Deb Oakland;*

Organist/Pianist: *Michelle Bolstad;*

Sound/projection: *Jude Surrell*

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