



Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



We Welcome you to Worship!

November 23, 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, November 23, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.

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

ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship 'red' Hymn Book,

NTF=Now the Feast by Marty Haugen

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

Around the world this day,
the universal church celebrates the *“The Reign of Christ.”*
Christ Jesus, friend of the poor, the meek and the merciful,
has been enthroned above all authority and power
in this world and in the world that is to come.

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth,
serve the Lord with gladness
come into his presence with singing.**

God has placed everything under Christ's wounded feet,
appointed the one who wore a crown of thorns
as the supreme head of the church, his body.

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
come into his courts with praise.**

Give thanks and praise his loving name!

Children's Time

Gathering Hymn

Jesus Shall Reign

ELW 434

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise

Now the Feast

NFC pg. 4-5

Prayer of the Day

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is
unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you
for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world
into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, 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.

First Reading

Jeremiah 23:1-6

A reading from Jeremiah, the twenty third chapter.

¹ Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my
pasture! says the Lord. ² Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of
Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you
who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you

have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. ⁵ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Colossians 1:11-20

A reading from Colossians, the first chapter.

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel**Luke 23:33-43***The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twenty third chapter.***Glory to you, O Lord.**

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ [[Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” ⁴³ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

The Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor George Carlson

Hymn of the Day*O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us*

ELW 431

Declaration of Faith: based on Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵ Our Lord Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation,

¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—

all things have been created through him and for him.

¹⁷ Jesus himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

¹⁸ Jesus is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

¹⁹ For in Jesus all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Prayers of Intercession

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church in the world, its leaders, and its mission to share the good news of healing and restoration. Inspire us to embody the beloved community in ways that faithfully witness to the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the trembling mountains and glad streams of creation. Preserve and renew your coastlines, deep seas, forests, and grasslands. Guide all who tend flocks or care for creatures of all kinds. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for leaders and advocates in government, civic life, and public safety. Support equity across the globe, and heal division with accountability and truth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick *especially <read list of names attached to inside front cover then pause 5 seconds to give people a chance to pray aloud or silently>*. Comfort all in need of your tender care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this part of the body of Christ gathered around word and sacrament. Bring us into authentic community where all ages are valued and experience God's faithfulness together. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for all who have died in faith. May we remember them faithfully until we are gathered with you in the paradise you promise.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.

Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Liturgy of Holy Communion

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy Holy Holy

NFC pg. 11-12

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath. **We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future. **We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now. **We thank you, O God.**

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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

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

There is a place for you at the table of God.
Come, receive the food that does not perish,
a taste of life eternal.

Communion Hymns

Lamb of God

NFC pg. 14

Jesus, Remember Me

ELW 616

Beautiful Savior

ELW 838

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

God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who

gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, † bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

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Announcements:

- † **Special offering** to help Jamaica recover from Hurricane Melissa.
- † **Bible Study** meets every Wednesday at **5:30pm** in the Gateway room Hope to see you!
- † **2026 Stewardship Drive:** Thank you for returning your 2026 pledge cards ASAP!
- † *Invite a friend!* **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship** at Stoughton UMC **Nov 26 at 7pm**
- † Order your **Christmas Flowers by Monday, November 24!**
- † **Education Team** meets Tuesday, **Nov. 25 at 6:00pm** in the Gateway Room
- † **Social Action Team** meets Tuesday, **Nov. 25 at 7:00pm** in the Gateway Room
- † **Lunch Bunch** – Wednesday, December 3 at 11:30 at Headquarters in Oregon. **RSVP to Jean Sime at (608) 873-3505.**

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: *George Carlson* **Acolyte:** *Brayden Edwards*

Greeters: *Bill Cook, Karen Hanson Cook*

Assistant Minister: *Ingrid Thompson* **Lector:** *Gary Tarpinian*

Communion Assistant: *Bill Cook, Karen Hanson Cook, Donna Tarpinian*

Ushers: *Tamarine Westrand, Gary Tarpinian, Judy Heil, Matthew Heil, Russ Horton*

Altar Guild: *Eileen and Jack Nelson* **Communion Prep:** *Jeff and Kristin Peterson*

Organist/Pianist: *Meghann Proper*

Sound/projection: *Lars Forde, Jude Surrell*

Hospitality Hosts: *Kirsten Almo and Larry Beck*

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