



Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



the good news is..

**rooted in justice, mercy,
& faithfulness**

*We welcome you to Worship
March 22, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.*

The People of Covenant are called to:

Gather, Grow, and Go Serve

...with God's Love!

Children's Time

Gathering Hymn

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

ELW 618

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.**

Kyrie

p. 184

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

A reading from the thirty-seventh chapter of the Prophet Ezekiel, beginning with the first verse.

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh

had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹² Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Romans 8:6-11

A reading from the eighth chapter of Paul’s letter to the church in Rome, beginning with the sixth verse.

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

John 8:2-11

The Holy Gospel according to John, the eighth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

² Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. ³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, ⁴ they said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. ⁵ Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” ⁶ They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸ And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ She said, “No one, sir.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”

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

Sermon

Pastor Wendy Moen

Hymn of the Day *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness*

ELW 488

Prayers of Intercession

Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love.

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

We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives.

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

We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety.

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

We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick.

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

We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life.

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

We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you.

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

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **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

Bell Tower Brass

“Second Suite in F, Song Without Words”

by Gustav Holst arr. Gene Vandenbosch

Offering Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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

p. 190

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Communion Hymns

<i>Lamb of God</i>	p. 191
<i>O Living Bread from Heaven</i>	ELW 542
<i>The Glory of These Forty Days</i>	ELW 320
<i>In the Cross of Christ I Glory</i>	ELW 324

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 our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

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

Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

ELW 326

Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Nimrod" by Edward Elgar, arr. Gene Vandebosch



Care to contribute to our Church and ministries?
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Announcements:

- ✝ **Thank you** to the Bell Tower Brass for their wonderful gifts of worship music today!
- ✝ **Gary Tarpinian will lead a working session on the Adult Day Program** in the Gateway Room **today**, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM
- ✝ **Holding Space** will be meeting at 2:30 PM on Tuesdays in the Gateway Room in March
- ✝ **'Hospitality Bags' and 'Sew at Home Bags'** by main doors- Take what you can help with
- ✝ **Wednesday Lenten Worship** is at 6:30 PM; please use the **Fellowship Hall** entrance
- ✝ **Endowment Foundation Scholarship applications** for the 2026-2027 school year are due April 1. Apply online at: <http://tinyurl.com/Foundation-Scholarship>. Contact Beth Kennedy, 608-279-1656, or secretary.covenantfoundation@gmail.com with questions
- ✝ **Palm Sunday Worship** will be March 29th at the same time as usual, 9:30 AM
- ✝ **Maundy Thursday Worship** with 1st Communion will be April 2nd at 6:30 PM
- ✝ **Good Friday Worship** will be on April 3rd at 6:30 PM
- ✝ **Easter Breakfast** will be on April 5th at 8:30 AM, followed by **Easter Egg Hunt** at 9:00 AM
- ✝ **Easter Sunday Worship** will be on April 5th at the same time as usual, 9:30 AM

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor: *Pastor Wendy Moen* **Acolyte:** *Ronnie*

Assistant Minister: *Kathy Andrusz* **Lector:**

Greeters: *Bill Cook, Karen Hanson-Cook*

Communion Worship Assistants: *Donna & Gary Tarpinian, Kathy Andrusz*

Organist/Pianist: *Meghann Proper*

Ushers: *Thomas Chose, Stephen V. Peterson, Peder Melhuse*

Sound/projection: *Jude Surrell*

Altar Guild: *Cynthia Liddle*

Communion Prep: *Cindy Pietruszynski*

Fellowship Hosts: *Norm & Jean Sime*

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