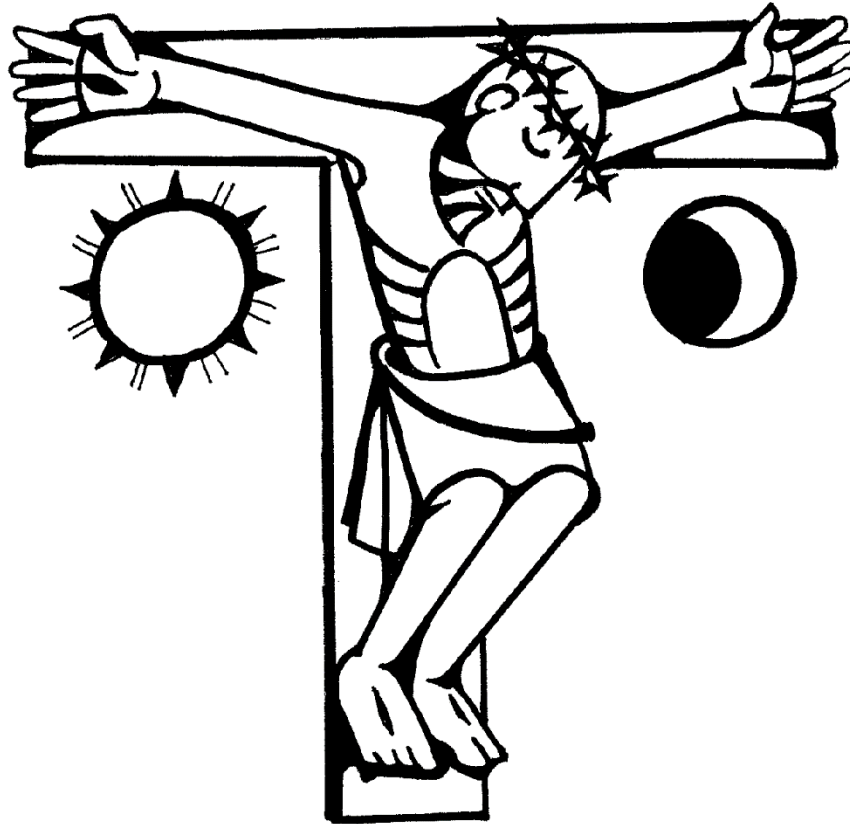




# Covenant Lutheran Church, ELCA



*We welcome you to Good Friday:  
A Service of Stones and Shadows  
April 3, 2026 at 6:30 PM*

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 – Friday, April 3, 2026 – 6:30 PM**

*Congregation participation is given in **bold**.*

*ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Red Hymnal)*

## **GATHERING**

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

*We gather in silence on this night. Please take a stone to hold during our worship. Feel its weight. Place your worries and burdens on it as we listen to Jesus' last words from the cross as recorded in the gospels. We will spend time in prayer, silence, and song as we contemplate Jesus' sacrifice and death which reveal the depth of God's love for us. Some of the songs are meant to be sung several times in repetition, as the words and music become our sung prayer, so allow yourself to sink into the music as we sing. One candle is extinguished during each song.*

### **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**

Based on Lamentations 1:12

All you who pass this way,  
**look and see, the shadow of sin.**

All you who pass this way,  
**look and see the weight of the world.**

All you who pass this way,  
**look and see, the suffering of our Savior.**

All you who pass this way,  
**look and see, the sorrow of Jesus Christ.**

Behold, the Lamb of God,  
**who takes away the sin of the world.**

**Gathering Hymn**      *Go to Dark Gethsemane, v. 1-3*

ELW 347

## **WORD**

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

### **Shadow of Condemnation**

Matthew 27:27-38

<sup>27</sup> Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>30</sup> They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

<sup>32</sup> As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; <sup>36</sup> then they sat down there and kept watch over him. <sup>37</sup> Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

<sup>38</sup> Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer

Forgiving Christ, when the world condemns us, when wrong is done to us, when we carry the weight of things that are too much to forgive, come along side us in the darkness, and give us the grace to be forgiven and forgiving. **Amen.**

*Silence.*

## Hymn

*Our Father, We Have Wandered*

ELW 606

## Shadow of Separation

Matthew 27:39-44

<sup>39</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, <sup>42</sup> “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’ ” <sup>44</sup> The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer

Reconciling Christ, we are weighed down by sin and separation, a world that is not at peace, people who are not whole. You reached out to the thief; you welcomed him to God’s side. Come alongside us in the darkness, and bring grace and peace to everything that is broken. **Amen.**

*Silence.*

## Hymn

*Jesus, Remember Me*

ELW 616

## Shadow of Sorrow

John 19:25b-27

<sup>25b</sup> Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to

the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Prayer**

Loving Jesus, we carry the weight of the people we love, concern for their sorrows and suffering. Our care for them is deep, and sometimes there is not much we can do. Come alongside us in the darkness, and cradle the ones we love in your strong hands. **Amen.**

*Silence.*

### **Hymn**

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

ELW 338

### **Shadow of Despair**

Matthew 27:45-46

<sup>45</sup> From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>46</sup> And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, you know what it is to feel that God is far away. You know what it is to call out for God's presence. Come alongside us in the darkness, and help us call out for God. **Amen.**

*Silence.*

### **Hymn**

*Were You There, vs. 4*

ELW 353

### **Shadow of Suffering**

John 19:28-30

<sup>28</sup> After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." <sup>29</sup> A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. <sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer

Suffering Savior, in all our thirst, in all our sickness, in all our longing, in all our pain, you are there. Come alongside us in the darkness, and walk with us through all our suffering. **Amen.**

*Silence.*

## Hymn

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

ELW 325

## Shadow of Death

Matthew 27:54-61

<sup>54</sup> Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

## Homily

Pastor Wendy Moen

### *Reading Continued*

<sup>55</sup> Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. <sup>56</sup> Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

<sup>57</sup> When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who also was himself a disciple of Jesus. <sup>58</sup> He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. <sup>59</sup> So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth <sup>60</sup> and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. <sup>61</sup> Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer

Dearest Jesus, even in death, you are there. When we mourn, when we are afraid, when we come to our own end, you have been there, too. Come alongside us in the darkness, and carry us through death to life.

**Amen.**

*Silence.*

## Hymn

*Stay with Me*

ELW 348

## SENDING

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

*As you leave worship this night, please place your stone near the foot of the cross at the altar, a symbol of leaving behind your worries and letting go of the weights of the world.*

*Our stones are a marker of our encounter with God on this night and a sign of honor for Jesus as he lays in the tomb until Sunday morning. We return for worship Easter morning at 9:30 AM, in anticipation and hope of the resurrection.*

### Special Music

*When You Prayed Beneath the Trees*  
*Meghann Proper, Donna Tarpinian, and Angie Kettner*



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## Announcements:

- ✝ **'Hospitality Bags'** and **'Sew at Home Bags'** by main doors- Take what you can help with
- ✝ **Easter Breakfast** will be this Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 AM
- ✝ An **Easter Egg Hunt** will follow breakfast at 9:00 AM
- ✝ **Easter Sunday Worship** will follow at the same worship time as usual, 9:30 AM
- ✝ **Easter Monday**, April 6<sup>th</sup>, the office will be closed
- ✝ **Worship and Music Team** will meet on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM in Gateway
- ✝ **No Bible Study or Confirmation** instruction next week
- ✝ **Outdoor, Spring Cleanup** Day is Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 AM

## WORSHIP NOTES

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

**Assistant Minister:** *Deb Oakland* **Lector:** *Marijo Vols*

**Greeter:** *Dan and Deb Oakland*

**Organist/Pianist:** *Meghann Proper*

**Ushers:** *Judy Heil, Matthew Heil, Tamarine Westrand, and Russ Horton*

**Sound/projection:** *Jude Surrell*

**Altar Guild:** *Kirsten Almo & Larry Beck*

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