Salinas L'Ascents



9th Sunday of Pentecost | July 23, 2023

When it's just too big....

All that's left is prayer and fasting. All that's left are tears and ash.

All that's left is to acknowledge your smallness.

All that's left is to sit in quiet with the world and beg for peace and wisdom and clear paths.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

It doesn't matter whether it's enough because it's all that's left to do.

So be faithful, and do it.

Be helpless for a while. Be at God's mercy and pray.

~ Rachel Held Evans

watercolor by Lenae van der Bijl

Children's programming is available during both services on the lower level, see page 14 for details.

Large Print orders of worship and **devices to improve hearing** are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Green for the Season of Pentecost Green represents growth, bountifulness, hope, and the victory of life over death in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Welcome

Silent moment to prepare for worship

Call to Worship



1. I sing the migh-ty power of God that made the moun-tains rise,



that spread the_ flo-wing seas a-broad and built the lof - ty skies.



I___ sing the wis-dom that or - dained the_ sun to rule the day;



the moon shines full at his com-mand and all_ the stars o - bey.

I Sing the Mighty Power of God, Words: Isaac Watts, 1715. Music: Gesangbuch der H. W. K. Hofkapelle, 1784

from Psalm 147

Leader: Praise the Lord!

For it is good to sing praises to our God;

All: for he is beautiful, and a song of praise is fitting.

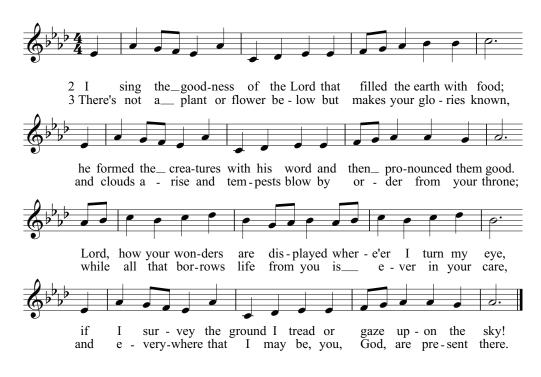
Leader: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

All: He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

Leader: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

his understanding is beyond measure.

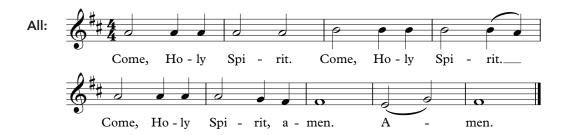
All: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God.



Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Leader: Holy Father, your power is manifest in the beauty of your creation and with that power you heal our broken hearts and bind our wounds through the work of your Holy Spirit. We thank you and adore you.

silent moment of meditation and adoration



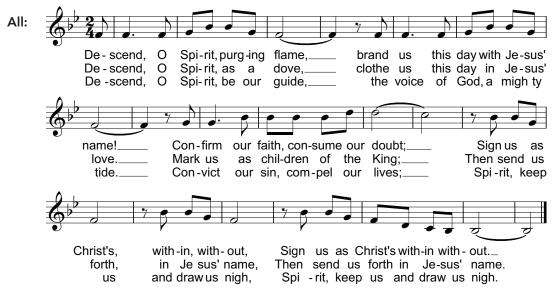
Leader: Come Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

All: open our eyes and hearts to your presence among us today. Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all in all. - Ephesians 4:4-6





1st service

All:

Matthew Zito

Prayer of Congregational Blessing:

Merciful God, you call us by name and promise to each of us your constant love. We thank you for receiving your servant **Matthew** by baptism. Deepen his understanding of the gospel, strengthen his commitment to follow the way of Christ, and keep him in the faith and communion of your church. Increase his compassion for others, send him into the world in witness to your love, and bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

All Sing: "Descend, O Spirit purging flame..."

2nd service

Lovisa Sue Bredenberg, daughter of Sherri and Phil, sister of Cormac and Joren **Prayer of Congregational Blessing:**

All: Ever-living God, in your mercy you promised to be not only our God but also the God of our children. We thank you for receiving **Lovisa** by baptism. Keep her always in your love. Guide her as she grows in faith. Protect her in all the dangers and temptations of life. May she be a faithful disciple of your son Jesus Christ to her life's end. In Christ's name, Amen.

All Sing: "Descend, O Spirit purging flame..."

Confession of Sin,

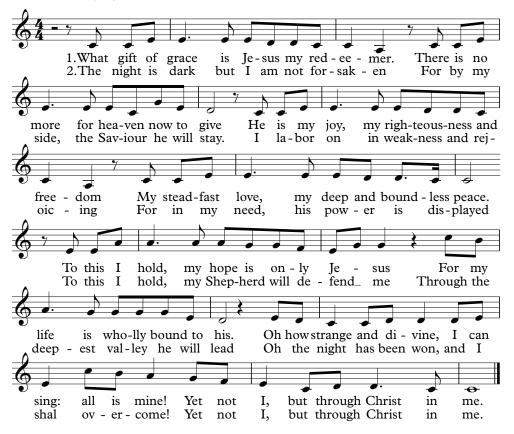
from Ephesians 4

Leader:

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

All: Loving God, by the Holy Spirit, your Incarnate Son died, rose, and sealed us for the day of redemption. Yet we confess our unbelief.
We confess our bitterness, our self-righteous wrath, and our clamoring for attention.
In your mercy, help us in our unbelief and forgive us our sins.

Silent time to pray and confess



Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me, Jonny Robinson, St. Pauls Anglican Church Castle Hill, New South Wales, Australia, 2018

Assurance of Pardon

from Ephesians 4

Leader:

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

Sing to Assure



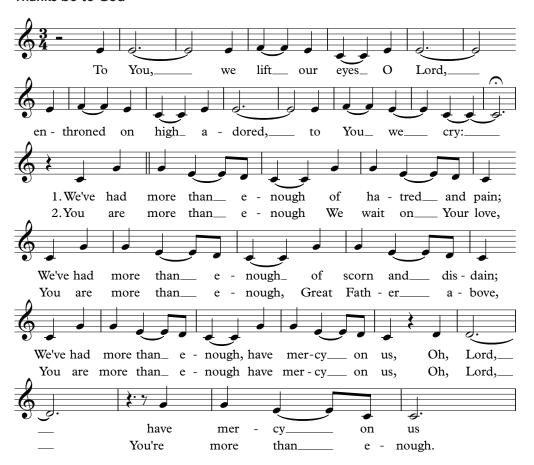
Lessons from the Word

read by Jeanie Hoover ①, Ranya and Mark Faasse ②

New Testament Lesson - Hebrews 12.1-3, p.1008 Gospel Lesson - Luke 6.20-23, p.862

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God



Psalm 123, from Psalm 123 by Paul van der Bijl, 2023

The Word

Pastor Aaron Baker Mercy, Psalm 123 p.517

A Song of Ascents.

¹ To you I lift up my eyes,

O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

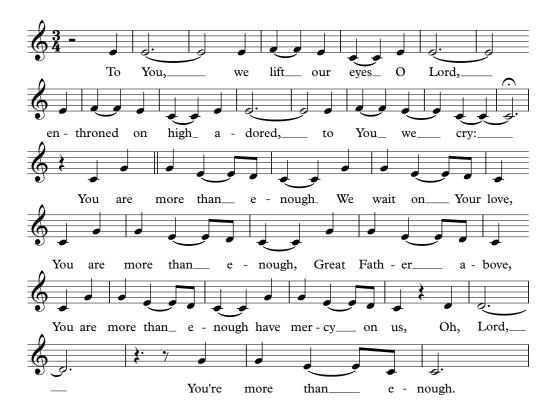
² Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,

as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress,

so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us.

³ Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.

⁴ Our soul has had more than enough of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.



Sacrament of Communion

2 Corinthians 13:11-14: Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

Leader: The Lord be with you And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts

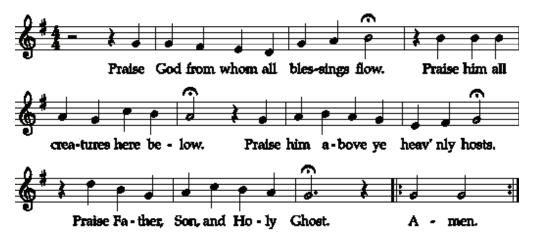
All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Greet each other in the name of Christ

Giving back to God a portion of what he's already given us is an important part of the Christian life. The bread and wine we use in communion are a picture of the gifts that God has given us, offered back to him as an act of worship. You can offer your resources back to God in support of the work of the church by placing your offering in the boxes in the back on the way out. You can also give online at covenantchicago.org/give, use the QR code on page 15, or text a donation amount to 84321.



Words: Thomas Ken, 1709, Music, German Psalter, 1561

The Great Thanksgiving, by Samuel Wells, vicar, St. Martin-in-the-fields, Church of England, 2016

Leader: As we approach your table, grant us the peace with each other that we find in you so

that we can come to this feast united in love. Accept now our offerings of bread, wine and gifts to you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to the work of your kingdom.

All: Your Spirit brooded over the waters before the foundation of the world.

Leader: Your pillar of fire led your people to freedom

through the waters of the Red Sea.

All: Your son Jesus came to his disciples across the stormy waves of Galilee.

Leader: In his agonizing death we see how far we stray from you,

and in his resurrection we see how you draw us close

despite our betrayals and failures.

All: We long for the day when all the saints adore you, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea,

Leader: with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.



Distribute the Bread & Cup

Please note that we serve both red wine and white grape juice. Gluten free bread is available in a separate dish.

Receiving Communion

Communion (also called The Lord's Supper or the Eucharist) is the family meal of baptized Christians. We invite all to partake of this sacrament who trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation, and seek strength to live more faithfully for him.

Silent prayers for reflection

Prayer for those taking communion

Lord Jesus, your perfect life, your death and resurrection are the source of all blessing in this life and the life to come. As I eat this bread and drink this cup, renew me in the joy and glory of knowing and serving you. I come to this table on the basis of your merit only and not my own. As you have completely and fully offered yourself for me, I now completely and fully offer myself to you as a living sacrifice. Amen.

Prayer for those searching for truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for those struggling with sin

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Grant also that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

Music for Communion

You are welcome to join in song:

Chorus:

All: O Lord, have mercy, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, have mercy, have mercy upon us.

Leader: O God the Father,

All: Have mercy upon us

Leader: Creator of heaven and earth,

All: Have mercy upon us

to Chorus

Leader: O God the Son,

All: Have mercy upon us
Leader: Redeemer of the world,
All: Have mercy upon us

to Chorus

Leader: O God the Holy Spirit,

All: Have mercy upon us.
Leader: Sanctifier of the faithful
All: Have mercy upon us

to Chorus

Leader: Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, one God

All: Have mercy upon us

to Chorus

O Lord, Have Mercy, Words and Music, Steve Williamson, Church of Resurrection, Wheaton, IL, 2007

Respond to the Table

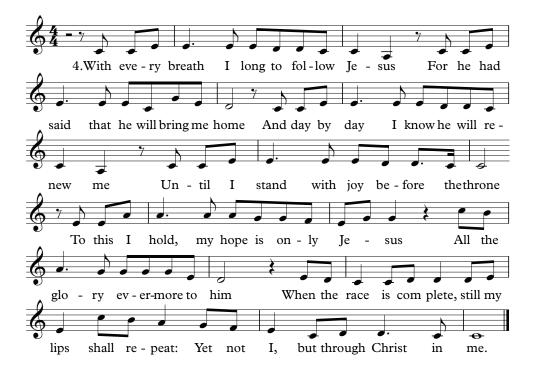
Leader:

Remembering your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice dedicated to your service.

All: Great is this mystery of faith:

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



The Work of the People

Romans 12:4–6, For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.

in community

Events and opportunities at Covenant during the coming weeks.



We Labor Unto Glory, Words and Music, Craig Harris, Plum Creek Church, Castle Rock, CO., 2017

Benediction

Leader: Romans 15:5–7 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome to Covenant Presbyterian Church

TODAY AT COVENANT

1st Service, 9am

2nd service, 11:15am

- Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level
- Children's Worship: preK-5th Grade, lower level
- Nurseries, ages 0-4, lower level

Common Ground, 10:15am

• Coffee and snacks available in the courtyard

Volunteers in Service Today:

Communion Servers: Karyn Herndon, Jay and Sandra Zimmerman (9:00); Christie Kay, Shawn Bandel (11:15) Ushers: Caroline Hoit, Margret-Ann Natsis (9:00); Christie Kay (11:15)

Musicians: Brian Riggs, bass, classical guitar; Paul David Young, guitar, vocals; Adriane Finke, piano; Rachael Holzhausen, vocals; Cassidy Miller, vocals; Jim Wilkes, guitar, mandolin, Liam van der Bijl, sound technician

ANNOUNCEMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Large Print orders of worship and electronic hearing assistance devices are available in the back of the sanctuary. An usher can assist you with finding and using these items.

One Service Sundays: We'll have one service at 10:15 am on August 27 and September 3. There will be no Common Ground on these days. Childcare will be available during service for children birth through 5th grade. Plan to join us for an all-church cookout after service August 27.



Serve Breakfast at Breakthrough: On the fourth Saturday of every month, Covenant provides breakfast for the Breakthrough women's shelter. If you are interested in volunteering to help purchase, prepare and serve food to shelter guests, you can reach out to breakthrough@covenantchicago.org for more information or sign up for upcoming dates on our website: https://covenantchicago.org/events/breakfast-at-breakthrough/.

Trunk Party: Breakthrough is hosting a Trunk Party on August 5th for 80 high school graduates in Garfield Park headed off to college. A trunk party is a celebration for someone who is getting ready to head off to college to fill up a "trunk" with essentials for college. You can find a list of supplies to purchase on our welcome table. Items should be returned to our Mercy Bin today. Covenant will also help cook and serve food for the party from 9 am to noon on August 5. To learn more or sign up, please contact Margret Ann Natsis margretann.natsis@gmail.com.

Summer Common Ground: Join us for coffee and snacks between the services in the courtyard. Classes and Sunday Schools for kids and adults will return on September 10.

Delighting in the Mystery of the Trinity. Join us for this one-week class that will explore the beauty and practicality of the doctrine of the Trinity. What does it mean that there is one God in three persons? And how does this belief impact our faith and practice? Isak Siemens, a summer intern and member at Covenant, will teach this class during Common Ground at 10:15 on July 30 in the All Saints Room.

August 27 Cookout: Covenant will host an all-church cookout on August 27 at 11:30, following one service at 10:15. In order to make our cookout a success, we need many volunteers to help with setting up the grassy lot, assisting with food prep, and cleaning up afterwards. If you'd be willing to help either before, after or during the cookout, please contact Larissa Bossemeyer (lbossemeyer@covenantchicago.org).

Pickleball at Covenant: Join others from Covenant for pickleball in the gym on some Saturdays from 9 to 11 am. All are welcome to join; instructors will be available if you're new to the sport. Sign up on our website (covenantchicago.org/pickleball/) for upcoming dates: July 29, August 5, 19 and 26. Questions? Contact Jenna Hammond (jenaomia@gmail.com).

Ushers Needed: Ushers are the first people to greet people as they come to Covenant. They pass out the orders of worship, help people find the bathrooms and classrooms, and help at the end of service to clean up the sanctuary. Most ushers serve once a month. If you'd like to join our usher team, please contact Margret-Ann Natsis (margretann.natsis@gmail.com).



Gospel Justice Center: Please pray for Covenant's Gospel Justice Center, a legal-aid clinic created in partnership with Together Chicago and Administer Justice, and run entirely by Covenant volunteers. On the second Saturday of every month, we welcome our neighbors with legal questions from the Logan Square, Bucktown, Garfield Park and Humboldt Park neighborhoods. Please pray for us to care well for our guests, and pray for us to grow in our ability to become a more known presence in our neighborhood.

Volunteer with Children's Ministry: Covenant needs additional volunteers to help in our nurseries, children's worship classroom and Sunday school classrooms. We need volunteers during both services (9:00 and 11:15 am) and during Common Ground (10:15). To volunteer, contact Ian Troll (ian@covenantchicago.org).

Sermon Devotional Emails: Twice a week, a team from Covenant sends sermon devotional emails that will help you reflect on and pray through the prior week's sermon text and Scripture lessons. Email devotional@covenantchicago.org to sign up.

Meals Ministry: The Meals Ministry cares for our community by providing occasional meals to individuals and families. If you have recently experienced health problems, have welcomed a new child into your family, or have suffered a loss, please visit covenantchicago.org/meals-ministry/ to request a meal. The Meals Ministry also seeks volunteers to cook and deliver meals, and you can sign up to volunteer through the website link. Questions? Contact meals@covenantchicago.org.

Pastor Dan is on sabbatical until August 16.

Let Us Pray for You. Covenant's staff meets to pray for the congregation throughout the week. We would be honored to pray for you. You can share prayer requests by writing them on the tear out portion at the back of the order of worship or by emailing Pastor David (dsalsedo@covenantchicago.org).

Next Week Sermon Text: Psalm 130



Welcome to Covenant. Pastoral Staff Please fill out this form, tear it out, and put it in one of Aaron Baker the offering boxes at the back of the church. Pastor, abaker@covenantchicago.org David Salsedo circle one: Associate Pastor, dsalsedo@covenantchicago.org Dan Adamson New to Covenant | Regular Attender | Member Associate Pastor, dadamson@covenantchicago.org Name: Support Staff Email: Larissa Bossemeyer Director of Ministries: Ibossemeyer@ covenantchicago.org Address: Gene Pierson Director of Finance & Property: gpierson@ covenantchicago.org Phone: Ian Troll Director of Children and Youth Ministries: ian@ covenantchicago.org \uparrow This is new or updated information \uparrow Paul van der Bijl Director of Worship and Music: pvanderbijl@ I am interested in: covenantchicago.org More information Session ■ Small Groups Aaron Baker (Moderator), Dan Adamson, David Dillon, Dave Hoover, Kevin Jones, Brad Lewis, ■ Service Opportunities Steve Lehmann, David Salsedo. Membership Please direct correspondence for the Session to session@covenantchicago.org. Receiving the Email Letter Diaconate Children and Youth Ministry Other: Andrew Dykstra, Jonathan Ellison, Phil Koerner, Joel Miller, Margret-Ann Natsis, Shane Rector, Deb Van Der Molen, Matt Ver Steeg Treasurer: Ben Harvey Prayer Requests: If you're in need or wish to speak with a deacon, you can

email us at diaconate@covenantchicago.org.

Covenant Life

Worship Together:

We are made to worship the Triune God, and our worship is always ordered around Jesus Christ and the forgiveness and grace he secured for us by his cross, resurrection and ascension. Gathering around this good news together on Sundays strengthens our appetites, imaginations and abilities to live as followers of Jesus.

Grow and Learn Together:

Learning about our faith and growing together in it forms us into human beings who are fully swept up into the work God is doing to reconcile all things to himself in Jesus. Learning is more than simply knowing; it is the internalization of truth that leads to mature thinking and acting.

Serve Together:

The natural outcome of receiving and experiencing grace is to be propelled outward into mission and service. All of us have been given gifts to use for the good of our common life and for the good of the broken world around us, and we encourage everyone to regularly use their gifts in service.



a church, a city, and a world continually made new by the grace of Christ

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covenantchicago.org