

**Prayer of Consecration**

Lord, our God send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and cup may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we and all your saints be united with Christ and remain faithful in hope and love. Gather your whole church, O Lord, into the glory of your kingdom.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Distribution of the Elements: "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

**Psalm 103**

**Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.**

**Praise the Lord, my soul; and forget not all his benefits--**

**who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,**

**who redeems your life from the pit**

**and crowns you with love and compassion.**

**We Offer our Gifts**

Our gifts to Covenant's Compassion Fund provide monetary support to our members who have financial needs.

Offertory Song: "I Will Sing of My Redeemer"

LUYH 568:1,3

**We are Sent with God's Blessing**

\*Benediction

\*Closing Song: "I Will Sing of My Redeemer"

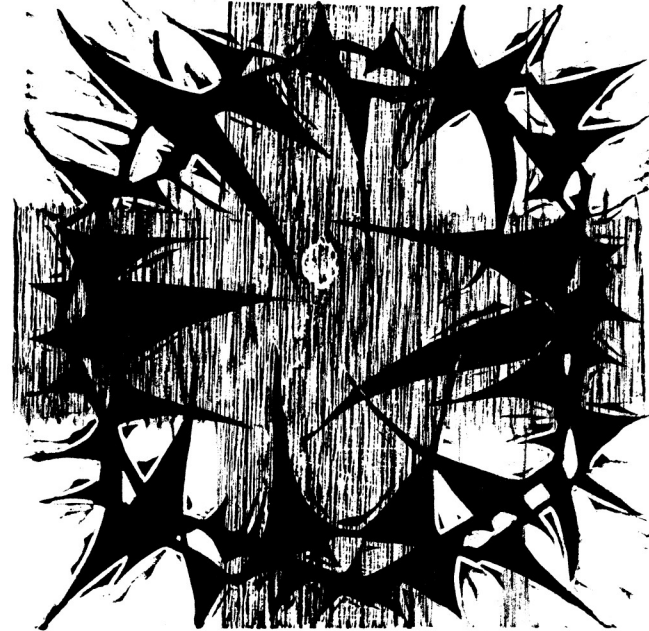
LUYH 568:2

**Worship Participants**

Pastor: Rev. Jerry Buwalda ♦ Piano: Amie Smit ♦ Guitar: Laremy DeVries

Vocalists: Rebecca DeVries, Sara Ploegstra, Amie Smit

Sound: Andy Landman ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171



"Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:3-4)

In the early church, Easter, Lent, and baptism were all connected. Lent was considered and created to be a time of personal examination and learning for adult converts, culminating in an Easter morning baptismal celebration. Though traditions have changed, the connection between Christ's death and resurrection and our own baptisms remains a vital component to our faith. During our Lenten observance, we invite you to consider baptism, putting to death the old self, and rising anew with Christ. As you enter or exit the sanctuary, you are invited to pause at the baptismal font placed in the fellowship hall. Feel free to dip your fingers in the water or reverently observe and reflect on God's gift of baptism and your new identity in him—to remember and believe.

For more, visit: <https://www.reformedworship.org/article/march-1987/easter-baptism-ancient-tradition>

† *Crown of Thorns*, Linoleum block print by Elizabeth Steele Halstead. Reprinted by permission from *Visuals for Worship*, © 2006 Faith Alive Christian Resources

## God Gathers Us for Worship

Welcome

\*Gathering Song: "Gather Us In" LUYH 529:1-3

\*Call to Worship: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 p.947

\*God Greet Us, We Greet One Another

\*Song of Praise: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" LUYH 521

\*Prayer

## We Are Renewed in God's Grace

Call to Confession: Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 32

Can those who do not turn to God  
from their ungrateful and impenitent ways be saved?

**By no means.**

**Scripture tells us that no unchaste person,  
no idolater, adulterer, thief, no covetous person,  
no drunkard, slanderer, robber, or the like  
is going to inherit the kingdom of God.**

What is involved in genuine repentance or conversion?

**Two things:**

**the dying-away of the old self,  
and the coming-to-life of the new.**

What is the dying-away of the old self?

**It is to be genuinely sorry for sin,  
to hate it more and more, and to run from it.**

What is the coming-to-life of the new self?

**It is wholehearted joy in God through Christ  
and a delight to do every kind of good as God wants us to.**

Prayer of Confession

Preparing the Table

All things come from you, O Lord.

**And of our own, we have given you.**

We bring bread; **you give your body.**

We bring wine; **you give your blood.**

We bring our offerings; **yours is the sacrifice.**

Let us bring our gifts to be prepared for the communion feast of our Lord.

\*Hymn of Praise: "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" LUYH 965

Trinitarian Invocation

Is the Father with us? **The Father is with us!**

Is Christ among us? **Christ is among us!**

Is the Spirit here? **The Spirit is here!**

This is our God: **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

We are God's people. **We are redeemed.**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you have created heaven and earth,  
made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—even when we fell into sin.  
We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by his life, death,  
and resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore we join our voices with all the saints and angels  
and the whole creation to proclaim the glory of your name:

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

The Institution

We give thanks to God the Father that our Savior, Jesus Christ, before he  
suffered, gave us this memorial of this sacrifice, until he comes again. At his last  
supper, the Lord took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and  
said, "This is my body, which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of me."  
In the same way, he took the cup after supper and said, "This cup is the new  
covenant of my blood; do this in remembrance of me." For whenever we eat  
this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament:

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

Song of Assurance: "My Worth Is Not in What I Own" verse 5  
(also available on separate songsheet)

**5. Two wonders here that I confess: my worth and my unworthiness.  
My value fixed, my ransom paid at the cross.**

*Chorus:*

***I rejoice in my Redeemer, greatest treasure, wellspring of my soul.  
I will trust in Him, no other; my soul is satisfied in Him alone.***

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## God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Children's Blessing: "Jesus Loves Me" LUYH 709:1

Children ages 3 years old through Kindergarten are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary to receive a prayer of blessing before going downstairs to the Multi-Purpose Room for a time of worship designed especially for young children. Our young guests are welcome to participate in this service.

Scripture: Luke 4:14-21 p.1596

Sermon: "Why Did Jesus Come?" Rev. Jerry Buwalda

## We Respond with Thanksgiving

\*Song of Response: "Christ, the Life of All the Living" LUYH 137

Offertory Prayer and Offering of our Gifts

Each week at Covenant we receive a monetary offering to support the mission and ministry of the church. This morning's offering will support the Christian Education Fund which provides funds for the education of our children at one of our local Christian schools to help keep tuition down to a level that is affordable for most of our families.

## We Celebrate Communion

Here at Covenant we believe that this is not the table of Covenant Christian Reformed Church; it is not the table of the Christian Reformed Church in North America, it is the table of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We therefore invite all who believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior to come to the table to be fed and nourished. We also believe that this is a family meal. If your children have shown an interest in taking communion, please contact your elder who would be happy to talk through that with them. This morning we will pass the elements. Please wait until all have received them; we will partake of them together.

Song...: "My Worth Is Not in What I Own" verses 1-4  
(also available on separate songsheet)

**1. My worth is not in what I own; not in the strength of flesh and bone,  
but in the costly wounds of love at the cross.**

**2. My worth is not in skill or name; in win or lose, in pride or shame,  
but in the blood of Christ that flowed at the cross.**

*Chorus:*

***I rejoice in my Redeemer, greatest treasure, wellspring of my soul.  
I will trust in Him, no other; my soul is satisfied in Him alone.***

**3. As summer flow'rs we fade and die; fame, youth, and beauty hurry by,  
but life eternal calls to us at the cross.**

**4. I will not boast in wealth or might, or human wisdom's fleeting light,  
but I will boast in knowing Christ at the cross. (to chorus)**

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Assurance of Pardon

What does it mean to be washed with Christ's blood and Spirit?

**To be washed with Christ's blood means  
that God, by grace, has forgiven my sins because of Christ's blood  
poured out for me in his sacrifice on the cross.**

**To be washed with Christ's Spirit means  
that the Holy Spirit has renewed me  
and set me apart to be a member of Christ  
so that more and more I become dead to sin  
and increasingly live a holy and blameless life.**

How does baptism remind you and assure you  
that Christ's one sacrifice on the cross is for you personally?

**In this way:**

**Christ instituted this outward washing  
and with it gave the promise that,  
as surely as water washed away the dirt from the body,  
so certainly his blood and his Spirit wash away my soul's impurity,  
in other words, all my sins.**