The Thanksgiving: Psalm 103:1-4 p.939

Praise the Lord, O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
Praise the Lord, O 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 Are Sent with God's Blessing

*Benediction

*Closing Song: "May the Mind of Christ Our Savior" LUYH 334

Vs.3&4 alternate text:

3. ***God has blessed our congregation, called us to new life in Him:***
may we live in rich communion, foll'wing only Him.

4. ***As we fellowship together, see in each God's face today,***
may we seek to love each other, graced along the way.

Vs.3,4 text: Bob DeSmith

Worship Participants

Pastor: Dr. Joel Kok ✦ Piano: Ryan Smit ✦ Piano: Ryan Smit ✦ Violin: Amie Smit ✦ Worship Leader: Tammy Lief
Sound: Doug DeBoer ✦ Video: John Stevenson ✦ CCLI #493458 ✦ OneLicense #A-721171

Hearing Assistance

A telecoil hearing-loop system sends a signal into the sanctuary. If your hearing aid is t-coil equipped, try switching to the t-coil receiver. An FM hearing assistance system is also available for ears without hearing aids. Consult the sound operator for assistance.

Ordinary Time

August 17, 2025



Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

†Ordinary time refers to the Sundays between Pentecost and Advent, a season in the liturgical year of growth in the life of the church.

God Gathers Us for Worship

Welcome & Opening Prayer

*Call to Worship: Hebrews 1:1-3 p.1862

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets
at many times and in various ways,
but in these last days he has spoken by his Son,
whom he appointed heir of all things,
and through whom also he made the universe.
The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being,
sustaining all things by his powerful word.
After he had provided purification for sins,
he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

*Song: "Salvation Belongs to Our God" LUYH 608

*God Greets Us, We Greet One Another

*Song: "By Faith"

*1. **By faith we see the hand of God in the light of creation's grand design,***
in the lives of those who prove His faithfulness,
who walk by faith and not by sight.

*2. **By faith our fathers roamed the earth***
with the power of His promise in their hearts,
of a holy city built by God's own hand,
a place where peace and justice reign.

*Chorus: **We will stand as children of the promise.***
We will fix our eyes on Him, our soul's reward.
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

*3. **By faith the prophets saw a day***
when the longed-for Messiah would appear
with the power to break the chains of sin and death
and rise triumphant from the grave.

*4. **By faith the church was called to go in the power of the Spirit to the lost***
to deliver captives and to preach good news
***in every corner of the earth.** (to chorus)*

Memorial Acclamation

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
Dying he destroyed our death. Rising he restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Prayer of Consecration, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.

The Invitation

We invite you to come down the center aisle to the communion table at the front of the sanctuary. You may partake at the table or take it back to your seats to partake there. Gluten-free bread is available on the table.

Communion Songs: "One Bread, One Body" LUYH 835
"We Will Feast"

*Chorus: **We will feast in the house of Zion.***
We will sing with our hearts restored.
He has done great things, we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.

*1. **We will not be burned by the fire, he is the Lord our God.***
We are not consumed by the flood,
***upheld, protected, gathered up.** (to chorus)*

*2. **In the dark of night, before the dawn, my soul, be not afraid.***
For the promised morning, oh how long?
***Oh God of Jacob, be my strength.** (to chorus)*

*3. **Every vow we've broken and betrayed, you are the faithful one.***
And from the garden to the grave,
***bind us together, bring shalom.** (to chorus)*

Text & Music: Sandra McCracken, Joshua Moore
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5. ***By faith this mountain shall be moved***
and the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail,
for we know in Christ all things are possible
for all who call upon his name. *(to chorus)*

Words & Music: Keith & Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend,
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We Are Reconciled & Renewed

Call to Confession: Hebrews 4:14-16 p.1866

Therefore, since we have a great high priest
who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God,
let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.
For we do not have a high priest
who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses,
but we have one who has been tempted in every way,
just as we are, yet he did not sin.
Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence,
so that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance: Psalm 103:8-12 p.939

The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;
he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth
so great is his love for those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
Thanks be to God. Todah Adonai.

Song of Thanksgiving: "Love the Lord"

Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul, with all your strength.
These commandments that I give today
should be upon your heart, upon your heart.

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. *(repeat)*

Words and Music: Jay Stocker © 2005 Group Publishing

Invitation to Giving

Offering our gifts is an important part of our response to God—connecting our worship with a life of discipleship—and is a way to participate in the ministry of Covenant CRC here in this building and around the world. Offering boxes are available, or check your bulletin announcements for more ways to give.

Prayers for the Church and World

God Speaks to Us through His Word

Children In Worship Dismissal: "We Long to See You (Psalm 24)"

Almighty God, we long to see You.
Open our hearts and make them pure.
Spirit, we wash our hands in mercy;
come teach our souls to love Your truth.

Words & Music: Wendell Kimbrough © 2015 Wendell Kimbrough. wendellk.com

Children ages 3 years old through kindergarten are invited to a time of worship designed especially for young children and can gather in the fellowship hall with the helpers. Our young guests are welcome to participate in this service.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:3 p.1876

Message: "All Together in Christ Alone" Pastor Joel Kok

*Song of Response: "In Christ Alone" LUYH 770

God Meets Us at the Table

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.
(Prayer continues...)

Song: "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" LUYH 813:1

The Institution: 1 Corinthians 11