Ordinary Time

August 24, 2025



Hebrews 12:22-24

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

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

Worship Participants

Pastor: Dr. Joel Kok ✦ Organ/Piano: Donna Brue ✦ Guitar: Laremy DeVries ✦ Cello: Tony Garcia
Worship Leaders: Sara Ploegstra, Rin Goedhart, Duane Bajema, Rebecca DeSmith, Marcy Holwerda
Sound: Dennis DeJong ✦ Video: Tom Clark ✦ 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.

God Gathers Us for Worship

Welcome & Opening Prayer

*Call to Worship: Psalm 103:1-5 p.939

Come!
Come praise the eternal God!
Let all that is within us—body, emotions, mind, and will—
praise God's holy name!
Despite our failures, God forgives and releases us.
More than any doctor, God heals our diseases.
When we are famished and weak, God fills us with good and beautiful things,
satisfying our needs, and restoring our strength.
So come! Sing songs from a grateful heart,
and remember all that He has done for us.
Come, praise the eternal God!

*Song: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" LUYH 575

*God Greets Us, We Greet One Another

*Song: "Across the Lands" LUYH 775

We Are Reconciled & Renewed

Call to Confession: Hebrews 12;1-2 p.1877

Prayer of Confession

Words of Assurance (based on Hebrews 12:24,28) p.1878

There is good news! Our God sends a son: Jesus Christ.
He is the mediator of a new covenant, a lasting covenant.
He forgives our sins and redeems us from the grave.
Through our baptism we have been brought into a kingdom
which cannot be shaken.
The Holy Spirit gives us the opportunity to live in that kingdom,
to offer to God our lives as an acceptable worship.
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.

Communion Songs: "Beautiful Savior" LUYH 17:1,3,4
"We Receive"

1. ***Beautiful Savior, fullness of heaven,***
though we have nothing, here we receive.
Jesus, you call us now to remember,
you were the offering for all who believe.

Chorus: ***You laid your life on the table,***
broken like bread, poured out like wine;
we sing, what a wonderful Savior,
Jesus our King, all that You give we receive.

2. ***Pardon and blessing, life everlasting,***
mercy unmeasured, how can it be?
You are the Giver, faithful forever,
help us to treasure all we've received. *(to chorus)*

Bridge: ***For the price You paid, we pour out our praises;***
for this feast of grace, we thank you, Jesus.

Text & Music: Jon Althoff, Marc Willerton, Nathan Stiff © 2024 Sovereign Grace Worship/ASCAP, Sovereign Grace Music, a division of Sovereign Grace Churches

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: "Come, We That Love the Lord" LUYH 483:1,4

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

Kindergarten Quilt & Back to School Blessing

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 12:18-29 p.1878

Message: "Consuming and Creative Fire" Pastor Joel Kok

*Song of Response: "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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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

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.