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*Gospel Centered*  
CHRIST EXALTING

*The Lord's Day*  
February 23, 2025

**Covenant's Mission Statement**

*"To build a faithful community of joyful disciples."*

**Covenant's Values**

Covenant is **biblical** by affirming the Bible as the authoritative Word of God,  
**connectional** by affiliating with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA),  
**confessional** by adhering to the Westminster Standards,  
**missional** by seeking to spread the Gospel worldwide, and  
**relational** by encouraging the church family to build community.

*I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace.  
In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart;  
I have overcome the world.”*  
John 16:33

Prelude

**During the prelude selection, prepare for worship  
by reflecting on John 16:33 printed above.**

Life of the Church

Call to Worship

Psalm 96:1-6

*[1] Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!  
[2] Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.  
[3] Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!  
[4] For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.  
[5] For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.  
[6] Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.*

Invocation

Hymn

*“All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”*

All praise to God, Who reigns above, the God of all creation,  
the God of wonders, pow'r, and love, the God of our salvation!  
With healing balm my soul He fills, the God who every sorrow stills.  
To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty pow'r hath made His gracious mercy keepeth;  
by morning dawn or evening shade His watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;  
within the kingdom of His might, Lo, all is just and all is right.  
To God all praise and glory!

I cried to Him in time of need: Lord God, O, hear my calling!  
For death He gave me life indeed and kept my feet from falling.  
For this my thanks shall endless be; O thank Him, thank our God, with me,  
to God all praise and glory!

The Lord forsaketh not His flock, His chosen generation;  
He is their refuge and their rock, their peace and their salvation.  
As with a mother's tender hand He leads His own, His chosen band,  
to God all praise and glory!

Ye who confess Christ's holy name, to God give praise and glory!  
Ye who the Father's pow'r proclaim, to God give praise and glory!  
All idols under foot be trod, the Lord is God! The Lord is God!  
To God all praise and glory!

Then come before His presence now and banish fear and sadness;  
to your Redeemer pay your vow and sing with joy and gladness:  
though great distress my soul befell, the Lord, my God, did all things well,  
to God all praise and glory!

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Scripture Reading

Isaiah 42:1-7

Jeff Nissen, Ruling Elder

Congregational Prayer

Jeff Nissen, Ruling Elder

Offertory and Collection of Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Presentation of the Offering

Jonathan Goodwin, Deacon

[1] Long ago, at many times and in many ways,  
God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,

[2] but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,  
whom he appointed the heir of all things,  
through whom also he created the world.

[3] He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint  
of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his  
power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the  
right hand of the Majesty on high.

## Hymn

*“Before the Throne of God Above”*

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea;  
a great high Priest whose Name is Love, Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in Heaven He stands, no tongue can bid me thence depart,  
no tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within;  
upward I look and see Him there, Who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free;  
for God the just is satisfied, to look on Him and pardon me,  
to look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there the risen Lamb, my perfect spotless righteousness;  
the great unchangeable I AM, the King of glory and of grace,  
One with Himself I cannot die. My soul is purchased by His blood;  
my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,  
with Christ my Savior and my God!

written by Charitie L. Bancroft, 1863/tune by Vikki Cook, 1997/CCLI 209271

## Corporate Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep.  
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.  
We have offended against Your holy laws.  
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;  
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done;  
and there is no health in us.

O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.  
Spare those, O God, who confess their faults.  
Restore those who are penitent; according to Your promises declared  
unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Grant that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life;  
to the glory of His holy name. Amen.

Individual Prayer of Confession (Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 32:1-2

*[1] Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered, [2] Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

Hymn

*“The Church’s One Foundation”*

The Church’s one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
she is His new creation by water and the Word:  
from Heav’n He came and sought her to be His holy bride;  
with His own blood He bought her and for her life He died.

Elect from ev’ry nation, yet one o’er all the earth,  
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
and to one hope she presses, with ev’ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, “How long?”  
and soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

The Church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend,  
to guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end;  
though there be those who hate her, and false sons in her pale,  
against or foe or traitor she ever shall prevail.

’Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly, on high might dwell with Thee.

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Scripture Reading

Mark 13:5-23

Sermon

*“For the Sake of the Elect”*

Pastor Reed

Hymn

*“Man of Sorrows! What a Name”*

Man of Sorrows! what a name for the Son of God, who came  
ruined sinners to reclaim: Hallelujah! What a Savior!  
Bearing shame and scoffing rude, in my place condemned He stood,  
sealed my pardon with His blood: Hallelujah! What a Savior!  
Guilty, vile, and helpless we; spotless Lamb of God was He;  
full atonement! can it be? Hallelujah! What a Savior!  
Lifted up was He to die, “It is finished!” was His cry;  
now in Heav’n exalted high: Hallelujah! What a Savior!  
When He comes, our glorious King, all His ransomed home to bring,  
then anew His song we’ll sing: Hallelujah! What a Savior!

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Scriptural Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline  
*"For the Sake of the Elect"*  
Mark 13:5-23

I. Marking the Beginning, Not the End.

II. Enduring to the End.

III. Shortening Those Days.

## **MEMBERS OF SESSION**

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#### **Class of 2025**

Mr. J. C. Baker (sabbatical)  
Mr. Dan Butkowski  
Dr. Bob Tramel

#### **Class of 2026**

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Mr. Jeff Nissen  
Mr. Bill Scholl

#### **Class of 2027**

Dr. Ken Knecht  
Mr. Richard Long  
Mr. Carl Monroe

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Rev. Derek W. Coyle, Associate Pastor

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Dr. Jonathan Goodwin  
Mr. Jason Guenther

#### **Class of 2026**

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Mr. Mike Lieblich  
Dr. David Matlock

#### **Class of 2027**

Mr. Bob Davis  
Mr. Scott Freydl  
Mr. Jeff Rooker

### **STAFF**

Rev. Justin Hilliard, Assistant Pastor (Pinnacle Classical Academy)  
Mr. Ben Russ, Bookkeeper  
Mrs. Peggy Washburn, Administrative Assistant

### **MUSICIANS/VOCALISTS**

Mrs. Roanna Wilson, Choir Director  
Mr. David Beuerman, Violinist  
Mr. Jake Hilburn, Guitarist

Mrs. Valerie Hilliard, Vocalist  
Mrs. Katie Hughes, Pianist

### **COVENANT'S MISSIONARY FAMILIES**

Paul & Connie Backstrom, Bentonville  
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Darlene Johnson, Japan  
Tom & Karen Mirabella, Japan  
Pete Mitchell, France  
Jim Wroughton, Peru (retired)  
Will & Martha, International  
Wes & Kim, Undisclosed

### **COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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