

# Vespers

a service of Evening Prayer at Covenant CRC



Vespers, also known as Evening Prayer or Evensong, is one of the fixed times of prayer in Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran traditions, as well as others around the world. The word *Vespers* comes from the Latin word for evening, and so these prayers are often prayed at sunset.

During Eastertide at Covenant, as dusk begins to fall, we will join in prayers of thanksgiving, praise, and intercession to the God who “from the darkness of the tomb drew forth the light of the world, who led us through the waters of death, and made us children of light singing Alleluias and dancing to the music of new life.” (from *The Book of Common Worship*)

Prayers and liturgies are taken from *The Book of Common Prayer* and the *The Book of Common Worship* and used with permission. Photo credit: Jim Schaap, used with permission.

# Second Sunday of Easter

April 11, 2021

## Words of Welcome

## Opening Sentences

LEADER Our help is in the name of the Lord;  
PEOPLE **the maker of heaven and earth.**  
LEADER Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
PEOPLE **the light no darkness can overcome.**  
LEADER Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening  
PEOPLE **and the day is almost over.**  
LEADER Let your light scatter the darkness  
PEOPLE **and illumine your church.**

*Silence*

## Opening Scripture

*Psalm 74:15,16*

LEADER Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun. You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.

## Greeting

*Philippians 1:2*

LEADER Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you,  
O Lord, Redeemer God.  
You destroyed the bonds of death  
and from the darkness of the tomb  
drew forth the light of the world.  
You led us through the waters of death,  
and made us children of light

## Collect

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

*Silence*

## Song

*"Abide with Me"*

*LUYH 466:1,3,4*

## Benediction

*Romans 15:13*

LEADER May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

## Pass the Peace

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Gospel

*John 20:19-31*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Our Lord and the Whole World

Sung Canticle

*“Surely it is God Who Saves Me”*

Words: The Book of Common Prayer, based on Isaiah 12:3-6, Music: Jack Noble White  
© 1977 The H.W. Gray Company,

Surely it is God who saves me;  
I will trust in him and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and he will be my Savior.

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

LEADER Lord, in your mercy,

PEOPLE **hear our prayer.**

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

singing alleluias  
and dancing to the music of new life.  
Pour out your Spirit upon us  
that dreams and visions  
bring us ever closer to the kingdom of Jesus Christ,  
our risen Savior.  
Through him and in the Holy Spirit  
all glory be to you, almighty God,  
this night and forever and ever. **Amen**

Opening Hymn

*“Come, Holy Ghost”*

*LUYH 232*

Prayer of Confession

LEADER Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence*

LEADER

Most merciful God,

PEOPLE

**we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Assurance

LEADER

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all  
your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen  
you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy  
Spirit keep you in eternal life.

PEOPLE

**Amen.**

## Song of Worship

### *“His Mercy is More”*

words and music written by Matt Papa and Matt Boswell,  
© 2016 Getty Music Hymns and Song

#### *Chorus:*

*Praise the Lord, His mercy is more.  
Stronger than darkness, new ev’ry morn.  
Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more.*

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?  
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum.  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,  
our sins, they are many; His mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?  
What Father, so tender, is calling us home?  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.  
Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more.

What riches of kindness He lavished on us.  
His blood was the payment; His life was the cost.  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.  
Our sins, they are many, His mercy is more.

LEADER O God, make speed to save us.  
PEOPLE **O Lord, make haste to help us.**  
LEADER Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
PEOPLE **as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Alleluia. Amen.**

## The Psalm

*Psalm 46*

1 God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.  
2 **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,**  
3 **though its waters roar and foam  
and the mountains quake with their surging.**  
4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy place where the Most High dwells.  
5 **God is within her, she will not fall;  
God will help her at break of day.**  
6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;  
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.  
7 **The Lord Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**  
8 Come and see what the Lord has done,  
the desolations he has brought on the earth.  
9 **He makes wars cease  
to the ends of the earth.**  
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.  
10 **He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth.”**  
11 The Lord Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

## Solo Music

*“O Morning Star, O Radiant Sun”*

*LUYH 472*

## The Lessons

Scripture

*1 John 1:1-2:2*

Canticle: The Song of Zechariah

*Luke 1:68-75*

68 “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.  
69 He has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David  
70 (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),  
71 salvation from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us—  
72 to show mercy to our ancestors  
and to remember his holy covenant,  
73 the oath he swore to our father Abraham:  
74 to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,  
and to enable us to serve him without fear  
75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.