

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.

Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Amos 5:8

LEADER Seek him who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning, and darkens the day into night; who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out upon the surface of the earth: The Lord is his name.

Greeting

Philippians 1:2

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

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.**

Song

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

LUYH 378

Prayer of Confession

LEADER Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence

Song

"Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God"

LUYH 746

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.**

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

"See My Hands and Feet"

LUYH 929:1,3,4

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.

**4 indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

5 The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

**6 the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

7 The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;

**8 the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.**

1 Praise the Lord, all you nations;
extol him, all you peoples.

2 For great is his love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.
Praise the Lord.

Song

“How Great Is the Love of the Father”

LUYH 683

The Lessons

Scripture

1 John 3:1-7

Canticle: The Song of Simeon

Luke 2:29-32

**Lord, you now have set your servant free
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
a Light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.**

**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 24:36b-48

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Jesus Opens Our Minds

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

“You Are Mine”

LUYH 430:1,2,4

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 Psalms

Psalms 121, 117

1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?

**2 My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.**

3 He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;