

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.**

LEADER Lord, hear our prayer;
PEOPLE **and let our cry come to you.**
LEADER Let us pray.

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

"All Praise to You, My God, This Night" LUYH 394:1,3,4

*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.

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.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 25, 2021

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 16:7,8

LEADER I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the Lord al ways before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.

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.**

*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
singing alleluias

6 Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;
7 for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

Song

"Come, Worship God"

LUYH 509

The Lessons

Scripture

1 John 3:16-24

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 10:11-18

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.
PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: My Shepherd; Our Shepherd

*Song

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

LUYH 330:1,2

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

LEADER Lord, in your mercy,
PEOPLE **hear our prayer.**

Song of Worship

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"

LUYH 366

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 23, 95

1 **The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.**
2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,**
3 **he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.**
4 **Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
5 **You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.**
6 **Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

1 Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
2 **Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.**
3 For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.
4 **In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.**
5 The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

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**

*Song

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

LUYH 521

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.**