

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

Lord God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared for us our place in the new Jerusalem: Grant that we, who have this day given thanks again for his resurrection, may praise you in that City of which he is the light, and where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Song

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

LUYH 884

*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.

*Song

"Peace Before Us"

LUYH 923

*Pass the Peace

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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 96:9

LEADER O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

Silence

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 It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

PEOPLE **to sing your praise, O Most High;**

LEADER to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

PEOPLE **and your faithfulness at night.**

*Song of Thanksgiving

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

LUYH 19:1,2,4,5

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,**

The Lessons

Scripture

1 John 5:1-6

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

John 15:9-17

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: A Friend Like No Other

*Song

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

LUYH 897

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.**

LEADER Lord, hear our prayer;

PEOPLE **and let our cry come to you.**

LEADER Let us pray.

The Psalms

Psalm 8, 141

- 1 Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory
in the heavens.
- 2 Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.
- 3 When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
- 4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?
- 5 You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honor.
- 6 You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet:
- 7 all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,
- 8 the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.
- 9 Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
- 1 I call upon you, O Lord, come quickly to me;
hear my voice when I call to you.
- 2 Let my prayer be as incense before you,
and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.**
- 3 Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord;
watch over the door of my lips.
- 4 Keep my heart from all evil
and my hands from wicked deeds.
Do not let me be tempted by evildoers.**
- 8 But turn my eyes toward you, O God.
O God, my Lord;
**In you I seek refuge;
save me from all danger.**

**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

"I Worship You, O Lord"

LUYH 668

- 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.**
- LEADER O gracious light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
You are worthy at all times to be praised
by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,
and to be glorified through all the world.