

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.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 16, 2021

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 141:2

LEADER O Lord, let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

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

"As the Deer"

LUYH 503

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,**

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

*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

"Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

LUYH 224

*Pass the Peace

*Song

"Your Name"

LUYH 375

The Prayers

Prayers & Song: *"Prayers of the People"*

words and music by John Arndt, David Gungor, Ian Cron, Ben Kilgore, Evan Wickham
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You hear us calling; you hear us calling, Abba Father.
You hear us calling; you hear us calling, Abba Father.

Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy.
Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy.

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

**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.**

Song of Confession

"Kyrie Eleison"

LUYH 637

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.**

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.

The Psalms

Psalm 47, 110

- 1 Clap your hands, all you nations;
shout to God with cries of joy.
- 2 For the Lord Most High is awesome,
the great King over all the earth.
- 3 He subdued nations under us,
peoples under our feet.
- 4 He chose our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.
- 5 God has ascended amid shouts of joy,
the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.**
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**
- 7 For God is the King of all the earth;
sing to him a psalm of praise.**
- 8 God reigns over the nations;
God is seated on his holy throne.
- 9 The nobles of the nations assemble
as the people of the God of Abraham,
for the kings of the earth belong to God;
he is greatly exalted.

Song

"He Is Exalted"

words and music written by Donna Adkins
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He is exalted, the King is exalted on high:
I will praise him.
He is exalted, the King is exalted
and I will praise his name!
He is the Lord, forever his truth shall reign;
Heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

- 1 The Lord says to my lord:
"Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet."
- 2 The Lord will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying,
"Rule in the midst of your enemies!"

- 3 Your troops will be willing
on your day of battle.
Arrayed in holy splendor,
your young men will come to you
like dew from the morning's womb.
- 4 The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind:
"You are a priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek."
- 5 The Lord is at your right hand;
he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.
- 6 He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead
and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.
- 7 He will drink from a brook along the way,
and so he will lift his head high.

LEADER Lord Jesus Christ, you were born as one of us, you suffered and died, and you were raised for us. You are our great high priest, and with true justice and unending mercy you will return to judge and rule the earth. In you we have nothing to fear, not even death itself. 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 Lessons

Scripture *1 John 5:9-13*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel *John 17:6-19*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: In But Not of the World