

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.

Day of Pentecost

May 23, 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 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
and dancing to the music of new life.

**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

O God, who on this day taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Silence

*Song

"Dwell in Me, O Blessed Spirit"

LUYH 745

*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

"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

LUYH 943:1,2

*Pass the Peace

The Prayers

LEADER God of all creation, full of love and abounding in mercy;

PEOPLE **may the whole earth be filled with your glory.**

LEADER Lord, bless and guide all ministers of your church;

PEOPLE **clothe them in righteousness and grant them wisdom.**

LEADER Direct the leaders of our government;

PEOPLE **that they may act in accordance with your kingdom.**

LEADER Enlarge our own hearts, O Lord,

PEOPLE **to love the things that you love.**

LEADER May we proclaim your light

PEOPLE **in every place where there is darkness.**

LEADER May we proclaim your Holy Name

PEOPLE **in every aspect of our lives.**

LEADER We pray for those in sickness, grief, persecution, bondage, fear, or loneliness, and for all our own needs;

PEOPLE **Lord, have mercy.**

Intercessions are offered.

LEADER Create in us clean hearts, O God;

PEOPLE **and take not your Holy Spirit from us.**

LEADER Grant us your peace;

PEOPLE **for only in you can we live in safety.**

LEADER Lord, gathered and directed by your Spirit, help us to combine our gifts with a desire to serve you, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we stand and are bold to pray saying together the words Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

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.

*Song of Worship

"God, We Sing Your Glorious Praises"

LUYH 519:1,3,4

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.**

Song of Confession

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

LUYH 747

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 Psalm

Psalm 104:24-35

24 How many are your works, Lord!
 In wisdom you made them all;
 the earth is full of your creatures.
 25 There is the sea, vast and spacious,
 teeming with creatures beyond number—
 living things both large and small.
 26 There the ships go to and fro,
 and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.
 27 All creatures look to you
 to give them their food at the proper time.
 28 When you give it to them,
 they gather it up;
 when you open your hand,
 they are satisfied with good things.
 29 When you hide your face,
 they are terrified;
 when you take away their breath,
 they die and return to the dust.
 30 When you send your Spirit,
 they are created,
 and you renew the face of the ground.

31 May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
 may the Lord rejoice in his works—
 32 he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,
 who touches the mountains, and they smoke.
 33 I will sing to the Lord all my life;
 I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
 34 May my meditation be pleasing to him,
 as I rejoice in the Lord.
 35 But may sinners vanish from the earth
 and the wicked be no more.
 Praise the Lord, my soul.
 Praise the Lord.

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 Lessons

First Lesson

Romans 8:22-27

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

Second Lesson

John 15:26-27

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

The Gospel

John 16:4-15

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

Meditation: Paraklete

*Song

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

LUYH 238:1,3,4