

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.

Here 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.

Ordinary Time

July 18, 2021

Prelude

*“The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ending”
“The Lord’s Prayer”*

*R.J. Powell
G. Bohm*

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.

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 Worship

“Come, My Soul, and Bless the Lord”

Text: Psalm 103, Music: Fred & Ruth Coleman

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Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
**we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness
of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts
we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen
Amen.**

*Song

“Take Us as We Are, O God”

LUYH 862

*Benediction

Ephesians 3:20-21

LEADER Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

*Pass the Peace

Postlude

“Give Thanks to God for All His Goodness”

D. Schelat

Second Lesson

Ephesians 2:11-22

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation

*Song

"The Church's One Foundation"

LUYH 251

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

"Open Our Eyes"

LUYH 297:1,3,4

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

Come, my soul, and bless the Lord,
all within me bless his name!
Come, my soul, and bless the Lord;
and forget not all his grace:
all your sins the Lord forgives,
all your sicknesses he heals.
He redeems you from the pit;
his compassion he reveals.

For the Lord is slow to wrath,
full of mercy, full of grace.
He abounds in steadfast love,
will not chide for endless days.
God will not retain his wrath,
he will not repay our sins;
he will never deal with us
as our wickedness demands.

As a father shows his love
unto all his children dear,
so the Lord displays his love
to those trusting him in fear.
He remembers we are dust,
and our feeble frame he knows.
As for man, his days are like
tender grass that quickly grows.

So man flourishes and thrives
like a growing meadow flow'r.
When the wind blows, it is gone,
and its place is known no more.
But the steadfast love of God,
shown to those who fear his name,
is from all eternity to eternity the same.

His unfailing righteousness
shall to children's children be,
to the ones who cov'nant keep
and his good commandments heed.
God the Lord has set his throne;
in the heavens it shall stand,
and his sov'reign kingdom rules
over all at his command.

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.**

Song

"God, Be Merciful to Me" *LUYH 623:1,2,4*

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 Psalm

Psalm 23

"Shepherd Me, O God" *LUYH 456 (refrain)*

Sing Refrain

1 The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want.

2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet waters;**

3 **He restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.**

Sing Refrain

The Lord is my shepherd.

4 **Even though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff--
they comfort me.**

Sing Refrain

The Lord is my shepherd.

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 mercy will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.**

Sing Refrain

LEADER Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall
be. Amen.**

The Lessons

First Lesson

Jeremiah 23:1-6

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**