

Song

“Be Still and Know”

LUYH 907

LEADER Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping,

PEOPLE **that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep rest in his peace.**

LEADER May Almighty God bless, preserve, and keep us,
this night and forevermore.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

LEADER Let us bless the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

*Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

LEADER The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his
face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the
Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

PEOPLE **Alleluia! Amen.**

*Song

“This Little Light of Mine”

LUYH 930

*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.

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: Jo Alberda, used with permission.

Ordinary Time

September 5, 2021

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 96:9

LEADER Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth.

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

"Ten Thousand Reasons"

LUYH 559

Prayer of Confession

LEADER Trusting in God's steadfast love, 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,**

Song

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

LUYH 69:1,3

The Gospel

Mark 7:24-37

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle

James 2

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Faith Active in Love

*Song

"I Will Hide Your Word Inside My Heart"

LUYH 761

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

LEADER Let us pray to the Lord;

PEOPLE **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

Like the crocus, 2 it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the Lord,
the splendor of our God.

**3 Strengthen the feeble hands,
steady the knees that give way;
4 say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”**

5 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

**6 Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.**

Water will gush forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert.

**7 The burning sand will become a pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.**

In the haunts where jackals once lay,
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

**8 And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.**

The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.

9 No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.

**But only the redeemed will walk there,
10 and those the Lord has rescued will return.**

They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.

**Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.**

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

**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

“Amazing Grace”

LUYH 691:1,2,5

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 146

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

Isaiah 35

1 The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.