

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.**

## Song

*"For the Fruit of All Creation"* *LUYH 396:1,3*

## \*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.**

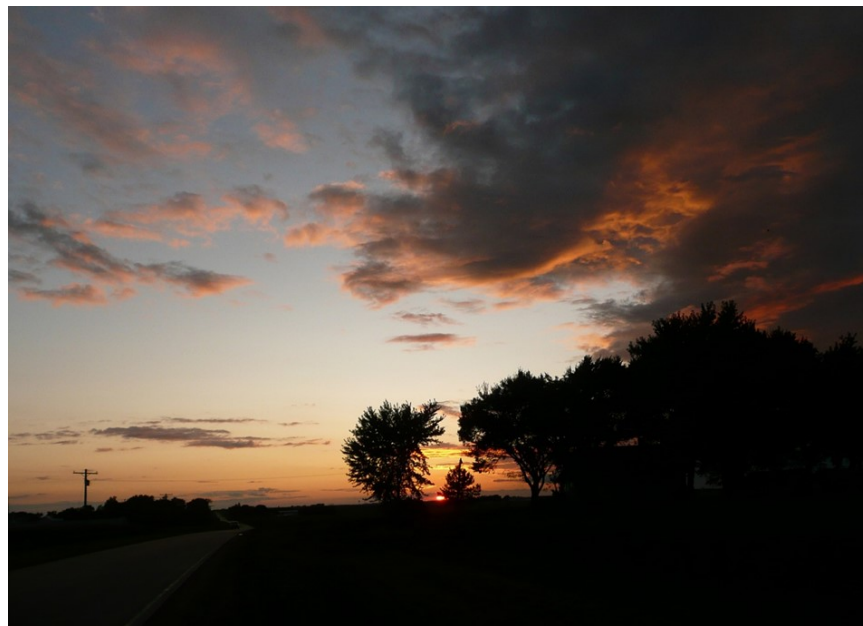
## \*Song

*"Fill Thou My Life"* *LUYH 356*

## \*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 19, 2021

### Words of Welcome

### Opening Scripture

*Psalm 141:2*

LEADER May our prayer be set before you like incense;  
may the lifting up of our hands be like 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

*"My God, How Wonderful You Are"*

*LUYH 548:1-4*

### 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**

### \*Song

*"O God, Who Gives to Humankind"*

*LUYH 274*

### The Prayers

#### Prayers of the People

LEADER We pray to you, O God;

PEOPLE **Lord, hear our prayer.**

#### The Lord's Prayer

PEOPLE **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*

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 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 54*

1 Save me, O God, by your name;  
vindicate me by your might.  
2 **Hear my prayer, O God;  
listen to the words of my mouth.**  
3 Arrogant foes are attacking me;  
ruthless people are trying to kill me—  
people without regard for God.  
4 **Surely God is my help;  
the Lord is the one who sustains me.**  
5 Let evil recoil on those who slander me;  
in your faithfulness destroy them.  
6 **I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you;  
I will praise your name, Lord, for it is good.**  
7 You have delivered me from all my troubles,  
and my eyes have looked in triumph on my foes.

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

The Gospel *Mark 9:30-37*

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

The Epistle *James 3:13-4:10*

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

Meditation: The Lord Comes Near and Lifts Up

**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.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

PEOPLE **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 worlds.**

## Song

*"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"* *LUYH 965*

LEADER O God, make speed to save us.  
PEOPLE **O Lord, make haste to help us.**