

Lenten Vespers

A service of evening prayer at Covenant CRC



Welcome to Vespers.

This service of evening prayer will use liturgies from *The Book of Common Prayer* that lead us to pray and ponder through psalms, silence, songs, and meditation, and will act as a way to gather up the events and cares of our days in prayer.

First Sunday of Lent

February 26, 2023

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Isaiah 58:6-9

LEADER Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: “Here am I.”

Silence

Greeting

LEADER Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

*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.**

Collect

PEOPLE **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.**

*Parting Song

“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name We Raise” LUYH 932:1,3

*Sharing the Peace

LEADER The peace of the Lord be with you always.

PEOPLE **And also with you.**

Pass the peace to those around you as you leave.

PEOPLE **We who are many are one body,
for we all share the same loaf.**

LEADER The cup for which we give thanks
is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

PEOPLE **The cup that we drink
is our participation in the blood of Christ.**

Passing the Elements

"O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts" LUYH 823:1-3

"The Lord's My Shepherd"
Words and music: Stuart Townend
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The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
his goodness restores my soul.

Chorus:
And I will trust in You alone.
And I will trust in You alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,
and he anoints my head with oil,
and my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on his pure delights. *(to chorus)*

And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
for you are with me, and your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know. *(to chorus)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER Loving God, you have fed us with one bread and one
cup and made us one with Christ. Help us to bring
your salvation and joy to all the world. We ask this
through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Song

"O God Beyond All Praising" LUYH 557

Prayer of Confession

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

"God, Be Merciful to Me" LUYH 622:1,2,4

The Assurance

Romans 8:1, 14-16

LEADER There is therefore now no condemnation for those
who are in Christ Jesus. For all who are led by the
Spirit of God are children of God. When we cry,
"Abba! Father!" it is the very Spirit bearing witness
with our spirit that we are children of God.

Song

"Father, Long Before Creation" LUYH 687:1,2

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

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
3 he refreshes my soul.

**He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.**

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

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

6 **Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.**

LEADER Glory be 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 Psalm Reading

Psalm 32

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Wonderful Counselor

*Song

"You Are My Hiding Place"

LUYH 412

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER The Lord be with you,

PEOPLE **and also with you.**

LEADER Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE **We lift them up to the Lord.**

LEADER Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE **It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

The Institution

The Memorial Acclamation

LEADER Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

PEOPLE **Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.
Dying, he destroyed our death.
Rising, he restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Prayer of Consecration

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 the glory forever. Amen.**

Preparing the Bread and Cup

LEADER The bread that we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ.