

**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.**

### 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*

### Song

*"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"* *LUYH 898:1-2*

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.**

### \*Parting Song

*"Holy Spirit, Truth Divine"* *LUYH 864:1-3,6*

### \*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.*

# 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.

# Second Sunday of Lent

## March 5, 2023

### Words of Welcome

### Opening Scripture

*Psalm 141:2*

LEADER Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

*Silence*

### \*Greeting

LEADER Grace 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.**

### \*Song

*"To the Hills I Lift My Eyes"*

*LUYH 331*

### 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,**

LEADER Where nations budget for war,  
while Christ says, "Put up your sword":

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Where countries waste food and covet fashion,  
while Christ says, "I was hungry . . . I was thirsty . . .":

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Where powerful governments claim their policies  
are heaven blessed, while Scripture states that God  
helps the powerless:

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Where Christians seek the kingdom in the shape of  
their own church, as if Christ had come to build and  
not to break barriers:

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Where women who speak up for their dignity  
are treated with scorn or contempt:

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Where men try hard to be tough,  
because they are afraid to be tender:

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Where we, obsessed with being adults,  
forget to become like children:

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Where our prayers falter, our faith weakens,  
our light grows dim:

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Where Jesus Christ calls us:

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be done.**

LEADER Lord God, you have declared that your kingdom is  
among us. Open our ears to hear it, our hands to  
serve it, our hearts to hold it.  
This we pray in Jesus' name.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

PEOPLE **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy**

5 The Lord watches over you—  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;  
6 **the sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**  
7 The Lord will keep you from all harm—  
he will watch over your life;  
8 **the Lord will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.**

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 Old Testament Reading *Genesis 12:1-4a*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

### The Epistle Reading *Romans 4:1-5, 13-17*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

### The Gospel Reading *John 3:1-21*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

### Meditation: Wind, Spirit, and Breath

#### \*Song

*"What Wondrous Love"* *LUYH 164:1-3*

### The Prayers

#### Prayers of the People

LEADER Lord, God, because Jesus has taught us to trust you  
in all things, we hold to his Word and share his plea:

PEOPLE **Your kingdom come, your will be 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

*"Nearer, Still Nearer"* *LUYH 659:1-3*

### The Assurance *I Timothy 1:15, I Peter 2:24*

LEADER This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,  
that Jesus Christ came into the world to save  
sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the  
cross, so that we, free from sins, might live for  
righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed.

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.**

### Song

*"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"* *LUYH 175:1,3,4*

### The Psalm *Psalms 121*

1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
where does my help come from?

2 **My help comes from the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.**

3 He will not let your foot slip—  
he who watches over you will not slumber;

4 **indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**