

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.

Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 118:15-17

LEADER Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: "The Lord's right hand has done mighty things! The Lord's right hand is lifted high; the Lord's right hand has done mighty things!" I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

Silence

*Greeting

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 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.**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER Blessed are you, O Lord, Redeemer God. You destroyed the bonds of death and from the darkness of the tomb drew forth the light of the world. You led us through the waters of death,

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

"Fill Thou My Life, O Lord, My God"

LUYH 356

*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.

LEADER God of peace, hear the cry of those who yearn for peace; in battle zones and broken states, frightened, fearful, anxious. God of peace,

PEOPLE **hear our prayer.**

Silence

LEADER God of healing, hear the cry of those who yearn for healing; physical and spiritual, hurting, weakened, depressed. God of healing,

PEOPLE **hear our prayer.**

Silence

LEADER God of mercy, hear the cry of those who yearn for mercy; convicted, in need of your Grace, contrite, humble, bowed down, God of mercy,

PEOPLE **hear our prayer.**

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

LUYH 884

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.**

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.**

and made us children of light singing alleluias and dancing to the music of new life. Pour out your Spirit upon us that dreams and visions bring us ever closer to the kingdom of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. Through him and in the Holy Spirit all glory be to you, almighty God, this night and forever and ever.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

*Song

"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

LUYH 199

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 for give 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.

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

"All Glory Be to God on High"

LUYH 542

The Gospel Reading

Luke 24:13-35

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 116

- 1 I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;
he heard my cry for mercy.
- 2 Because he turned his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live.
- 3 **The cords of death entangled me,
the anguish of the grave came over me;
I was overcome by distress and sorrow.**
- 4 **Then I called on the name of the Lord:
"Lord, save me!"**
- 5 The Lord is gracious and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.
- 6 The Lord protects the unwary;
when I was brought low, he saved me.
- 7 **Return to your rest, my soul,
for the Lord has been good to you.**
- 8 For you, Lord, have delivered me from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling,
- 9 that I may walk before the Lord
in the land of the living.
- 10 **I trusted in the Lord when I said,
"I am greatly afflicted";**
- 11 **in my alarm I said,
"Everyone is a liar."**
- 12 What shall I return to the Lord
for all his goodness to me?
- 13 I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord.

- 14 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.
- 15 **Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful servants.**
- 16 **Truly I am your servant, Lord;
I serve you just as my mother did;
you have freed me from my chains.**
- 17 I will sacrifice a thank offering to you
and call on the name of the Lord.
- 18 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
- 19 in the courts of the house of the Lord—
in your midst, Jerusalem.
Praise the Lord.

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Love and Our Listening Lord

*Song

"What Shall I Render to the Lord"

LUYH 871:1-3,5

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"

LUYH 884

LEADER God of love, hear the cry of those who yearn for
love; fractured families, broken homes, neglected,
unwanted, alone. God of love,

PEOPLE **hear our prayer.**

Silence

LEADER God of justice, hear the cry of those who yearn for
justice; persecuted and oppressed, exploited, ill-
treated, broken. God of justice,

PEOPLE **hear our prayer.**

Silence