

## The Prayers

Prayers of the People

LUYH 886

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.**

**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

*"Abide with Me"*

LUYH 466:1,3,4

\*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.

The Vesper Sparrow is named after its tendency to sing most gloriously during the vesper (evening) hours after most other species have quieted for the night. As we pray and ponder and praise, may we join the creation in bringing glory to our Creator as

# Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023

## Words of Welcome

## Opening Scripture

*John 8:12*

LEADER Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

*Silence*

## Song

*"Open Our Eyes, Lord"*

Text & Music: Robert Cull; arr. David Allen  
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Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,  
to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.  
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.  
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.

## \*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.**

Give me relief from my distress;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.  
2 How long will you people turn my glory into shame?  
How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?  
3 **Know that the Lord has set apart his faithful servant for himself;  
the Lord hears when I call to him.**  
4 Tremble and do not sin;  
when you are on your beds,  
search your hearts and be silent.  
5 **Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the Lord.**  
6 Many, Lord, are asking, "Who will bring us prosperity?"  
Let the light of your face shine on us.  
7 **Fill my heart with joy when their grain and new wine abound.**  
8 **In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.**

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. Alleluia. Amen.**

## The New Testament Reading

*Acts 7:55-60*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel Reading

*John 14:1-14*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

## Meditation: Troubles, Trust, and the Name

## \*Song

*"My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone"*

*LUYH 370*

## Song

### *“Lord God Almighty”*

Words and music: Coni Huisman  
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#### *Chorus 1:*

*Lord God Almighty, Savior, Redeemer,  
only true God to be worshiped and praised:  
How can we tell you how much we love you?  
Take now our lives, Lord, and teach us to love.*

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.  
You are mine, by name I have called you.  
When you walk through the waters, I will be there with you.  
You are my witnesses, created for my glory.  
Tell the nations I am the Savior.  
Tell them I am the Lord.” *(to chorus 1)*

Shout for joy, O heavens, and rejoice, O earth!  
Into joyful shouting let the mountains break forth!  
For the Lord will comfort his people,  
show compassion to those afflicted.  
He will not leave to shame  
those who trust in his Word. *(to chorus 2)*

#### *Chorus 2:*

*Father, we praise you; Jesus, we love you;  
Spirit, we thank you for the gifts of new life.  
How can we tell you how much we love you?  
Take now our lives, Lord, and teach us to love.*

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. Alleluia. Amen.**

## The Psalm

*Psalm 4*

1 Answer me when I call to you,  
my righteous God.

## \*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, 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, Holy Ghost”*

*LUYH 232*

## 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

*Isaiah 43:1*

LEADER But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O  
Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I  
have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you  
are mine.