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

Song

"Don't Be Afraid"

LUYH 429

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

"Come, All You Servants of the Lord"

LUYH 924

*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

Sixth Sunday of Easter May 14, 2023

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 96:9

LEADER

Worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness;

let the whole earth tremble before him.

Silence

Song

"Spirit of the Living God"

LUYH 749

*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 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

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

LUYH 20

*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

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE Thanks be to God.

Meditation: The Helper Alongside Us

*Song of Response

"Creator Spirit, By Whose Aid"

LUYH 523

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

LEADER Come, Holy Spirit, renew the whole creation. Send the

wind and flame of your transforming life to lift up the church in this day. Give us wisdom and faith, that we may know the great hope to which we are called.

PEOPLE Come, Holy Spirit.

LEADER Giver of life, sustain your creation. Confront us with

our greedy consuming of your gifts. Stand before us as we pillage and destroy. Call us forth into new harmonies of care for all who live and breathe and

have their being.

PEOPLE Come, Holy Spirit.

LEADER Spirit of truth, set us free to emerge as the children of

God. Open our ears, that we may hear the weeping of the world. Open our mouths, that we may be a voice for the voiceless. Open our eyes, that we may see your vision of peace and justice. Make us alive with the

courage and faith of your prophetic truth.

PEOPLE Come, Holy Spirit.

LEADER Spirit of unity, reconcile your people. Give us the

wisdom to hold to what we need to be your church. Give us the grace to lay down those things that you can do without. Give us a vision of your breadth and length and height to challenge our smallness of heart and

bring us humbly together.

PEOPLE Come, Holy Spirit.

LEADER Holy Spirit, transform us and sanctify us as we take up

this task in your name. Give us the gifts we need to be

your church in spirit and truth.

PEOPLE Come, Holy Spirit.

The Psalm Psalm 66:8-20

8 Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard;

9 he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.

10 For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver.

11 You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs.

12 You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance.

13 I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to you—

14 vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble.

15 I will sacrifice fat animals to you and an offering of rams;
I will offer bulls and goats.

16 Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.

17 I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue.18 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

19 but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer.

20 Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!

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 17:22-31

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading John 14:15-21

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.

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

Psalm 66:18-20

LEADER If we had cherished iniquity in our hearts, the Lord

would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

Song

"The Steadfast Love of the Lord"

LUYH 347

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.