

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

"Lead On, O King Eternal"

LUYH 328

*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 we close out the day.

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 18, 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

"God Himself Is with Us" *LUYH 565*

*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.**

*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

*Song of Response

"They'll Know We Are Christians"

LUYH 256

The Prayers

Prayers of the People

LEADER Rescuing God, parent of orphans and protector of
widows, you give the desolate a home to live in and
lead out the prisoners into prosperity. Help us to order
the patterns of our common life to support the health
of your human family and the welfare of your world.
Fill us with your Spirit's power

PEOPLE **that we may be one with Christ,
as Christ is one with you.**

LEADER Steadfast God, you have given to your church the
inheritance of faith in Christ alone, and bestowed your
Spirit's love upon us to make us one in you. Help us to
grow in strength and courage to witness to this hope:
that all may find your saving love eternally in Christ.
Fill us with your Spirit's power

PEOPLE **that we may be one with Christ,
as Christ is one with you.**

LEADER Life-giving God, you send rain in abundance to relieve
the parched crops and thirsty land, and make clean the
winds of heaven. Help us to find sustainable solutions
as we seek to honor and care for the well-being of your
creation. Fill us with your Spirit's power

PEOPLE **that we may be one with Christ,
as Christ is one with you.**

LEADER Loving God, you heard the sufferings of your people,
listened to our cries, and sent a Son into our world that
was no stranger to our pain. Help us to offer your
healing and compassion as we minister to others in the
mercy of Christ. Fill us with your Spirit's power

PEOPLE **that we may be one with Christ,
as Christ is one with you.**

LEADER Resurrecting God, you draw near to those who are sick
and dying, and you call them home to you. May we all
know the joy of life eternal shared with you, Father,
Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Psalm

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

- 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.**
- 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 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 Old Testament Reading

Exodus 19:2-8a

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 9:35-10:16

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Partners with God

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

"I Will Sing of My Redeemer"

LUYH 568:1-3

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. Amen.

Song

"When We Walk with the Lord"

LUYH 327

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.**