

## \*Benediction

LEADER The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, remain with you always. Amen.

## \*Parting Song

*"Give Me Jesus"*

LUYH 423

*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.

# Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

## June 25, 2023

### Words of Welcome

### Opening Scripture

*Amos 5:8*

LEADER Seek him who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning, and darkens the day into night; who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out upon the surface of the earth: The Lord is his name.

*Silence*

### \*Greeting

LEADER Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

### \*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

*"The Heavens Declare Your Glory"*

*LUYH 3*

### Prayer of Confession

*Silence*

LEADER Most merciful God,

PEOPLE **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,**

### Preparing the Bread and Cup

LEADER The bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

PEOPLE **We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf.**

LEADER The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

PEOPLE **The cup that we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.**

### Passing the Elements

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER Loving God, you have put gladness in our hearts; you have satisfied our hunger with good things. In giving all, you have not withheld from us your own dear Son. How can we withhold anything from you, our Lord and our God? Renew us day by day with the gift of your Spirit, that we may give ourselves completely to your service and walk with joy in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Collect

PEOPLE **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 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 Gospel Reading

*Matthew 10:24-39*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

### Meditation: Trouble and Trust

#### \*Song

*"Protect Me God, I Trust in You"*

*LUYH 411:1-4*

### The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER The Lord be with you,

PEOPLE **and also with you.**

LEADER Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE **We lift them up to the Lord.**

LEADER Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE **It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

### The Institution

### The Memorial Acclamation

LEADER Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

PEOPLE **Christ has died. Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

**Dying, he destroyed our death.**

**Rising, he restored our life.**

**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

### Prayer of Consecration

*"Abana alathi fi ssama/Abana in Heaven"*

*LUYH 911*

**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 forgive us;**

**that we may delight in your will,**

**and walk in your ways,**

**to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

### Song of Assurance

*"How Firm a Foundation"*

*LUYH 427*

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

*Psalms 141:1-4, 8-9*

1 I call to you, Lord, come quickly to me;  
hear me when I call to you.

2 **May my prayer be set before you like incense;  
may the lifting up of my hands  
be like the evening sacrifice.**

3 Set a guard over my mouth, Lord;  
keep watch over the door of my lips.

4 **Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil  
so that I take part in wicked deeds  
along with those who are evildoers;  
do not let me eat their delicacies.**

8 But my eyes are fixed on you, Sovereign Lord;  
in you I take refuge—do not give me over to death.

9 **Keep me safe from the traps set by evildoers,  
from the snares they have laid for me.**