

*Bridge:
For the kingdom and the power
and the glory are yours,
now and forever, forevermore.*

The Prayers

Prayers of the People: Sharing our Joys & Concerns

Collect

LEADER 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

"In Our Lives, Lord, Be Glorified"

LUYH 861

*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.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 2023

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Matthew 11:28-30

LEADER "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Silence

Song

"Come to Me"

Words and music: Wendell Kimbrough
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You are weighed down; you are worried.
Child I see you; child I know you.
Bring your burdens; bring your labor. Come to me.

Chorus:

*Come to me, come to me, come to me if you are weary.
I will give you, I will give you my rest.*

I am gentle; I am humble.
Let me teach you, let me show you.
Trade your burden; mine is easy. Come to me. *(to chorus)*

*Greeting

LEADER Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
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 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

Genesis 29:15-28

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Silence

Prayer

LEADER O sovereign God, in Jesus Christ you set your holy reign upon this earth and within your people. So let Christ's coming Kingdom be like the mustard seed that grows into greatness, and like the leaven that mixes with the grain until the whole becomes greater, to the praise of the triune God, who lives forevermore. Amen.

*Song of Response

"God our Father (Let Your Kingdom Come)"

Words and music: Sam Hargreaves
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God our Father, King of heaven, let your kingdom come.
On the earth as in your heaven, let your will be done.

Everything we need you've given; bread for every day.
In your mercy we're forgiven, may we show your grace.

Chorus:

Let your kingdom come, let your will be done.

Lead us not into temptation, help us walk your ways.
Lord, deliver us from evil, hear us as we pray: *(to chorus)*

O Gracious Light

LEADER O gracious light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.

*Song

"Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" LUYH 590:1,2,5,8

The Psalm

Psalm 105:1-11, 43, 45b

- 1 Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.
- 2 **Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.**
- 3 Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.
- 4 **Look to the Lord and his strength;
seek his face always.**
- 5 Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,
- 6 you his servants, the descendants of Abraham,
his chosen ones, the children of Jacob.
- 7 He is the Lord our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.
- 8 **He remembers his covenant forever,
the promise he made, for a thousand generations,**
- 9 **the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac.**
- 10 He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant:
- 11 "To you I will give the land of Canaan
as the portion you will inherit.
God remembered his holy promise:
- 43 **God brought out his people with rejoicing,
his chosen ones with shouts of joy;**
- 45 **Praise the Lord.**

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 Mighty God with Power Speaks" LUYH 9

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.**

Song

"Lord, Have Mercy" LUYH 639

The Assurance

LEADER Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

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.**