

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.**

*Benediction

Philippians 4:7

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

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" LUYH 965

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.

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 27, 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 Away from Rush and Hurry" LUYH 527

*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

"Rejoice, the Lord Is King" LUYH 224

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.**

Prayer of Consecration

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.**

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

"There Is a Redeemer" LUYH 833

"Eat This Bread" LUYH 818

7 **Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life.
You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;
with your right hand you save me.**

8 The Lord will vindicate me;
your love, Lord, endures forever—
do not abandon the works of your hands.

Song

"God Is So Good"

LUYH 777

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

Isaiah 51:1-6

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Revealed to Rocks

*Song

"Father, We Give You Thanks"

LUYH 816

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.**

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 forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. 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.**

The Psalm

Psalms 138

1 I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart;
before the "gods" I will sing your praise.

2 **I will bow down toward your holy temple
and will praise your name
for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,
for you have so exalted your solemn decree
that it surpasses your fame.**

3 When I called, you answered me;
you greatly emboldened me.

4 **May all the kings of the earth praise you, Lord,
when they hear what you have decreed.**

5 **May they sing of the ways of the Lord,
for the glory of the Lord is great.**

6 Though the Lord is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly;
though lofty, he sees them from afar.