

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.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 1, 2023

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

John 16:33

LEADER I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

Silence

Song

"Come and Fill Our Hearts" *LUYH 528*

*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 Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

PEOPLE **the light no darkness can overcome.**

LEADER Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening

PEOPLE **and the day is almost over.**

LEADER Let you light scatter the darkness

PEOPLE **and illumine your church.**

*Song

"God of Our Life" *LUYH 404*

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:23-32

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: What Do You Think?

*Song of Response

"At the Name of Jesus" *LUYH 220:1,5,6*

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.**

*Parting Song

"Lord of All Hopefulness" *LUYH 378*

*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.

The Psalm

Psalm 25:1-9

- 1 In you, Lord my God,
I put my trust.
- 2 I trust in you;
do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 3 No one who hopes in you
will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those
who are treacherous without cause.
- 4 **Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.**
- 5 **Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.**
- 6 Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.
- 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me,
for you, Lord, are good.
- 8 **Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.**
- 9 **He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.**

Song

"He Leadeth Me"

LUYH 440:1-3

- LEADER Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
- PEOPLE **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Alleluia. Amen.**

The Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

- LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.
- PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

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.
- 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.**

O Gracious Light

- PEOPLE **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.**