

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.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 2023

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 62:5-6

LEADER For God alone my soul waits in silence; for my hope is in him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress, I shall not be shaken.

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 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 your light scatter the darkness

PEOPLE **and illumine your church.**

*Song

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

LUYH 730:1-2

Meditation: Suffering Servant Son

*Song of Response

"Ancient Words"

LUYH 762

The Prayers

Prayers of the People: Sharing our Joys & Concerns

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

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

"Go Now in Peace"

LUYH 950

*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.

Song

"Worthy Is Christ"

LUYH 605

The Psalm

Psalm 80:7-15

7 Restore us, God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.

8 **You transplanted a vine from Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.**

9 You cleared the ground for it,
and it took root and filled the land.

10 **The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches.**

11 Its branches reached as far as the Sea,
its shoots as far as the River.

12 **Why have you broken down its walls
so that all who pass by pick its grapes?**

13 Boars from the forest ravage it,
and insects from the fields feed on it.

14 **Return to us, God Almighty!
Look down from heaven and see!**
Watch over this vine,

15 the root your right hand has planted,
the son you have raised up for yourself.

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 Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 21:33-46

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.**