

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**

*"Take Us as We Are, O God"*

*LUYH 862*

**\*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.

# Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

## October 15, 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

*"My Soul Finds Rest"* *LUYH 370*

### \*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 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

*"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"* *LUYH 348:1-2*

### Prayer of Confession

*Silence*

Every vow we've broken and betrayed,  
you are the faithful one.  
And from the garden to the grave,  
bind us together, bring shalom. *(to chorus)*

### The Gospel Reading

*Matthew 22:1-14*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

### Meditation: Where We Are and Are Going

### \*Song of Response

*"Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"* *LUYH 802*  
*(Alternate text for Baptismal renewal)*

### 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*

**your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.**

**5 You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.**

**6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
forever.**

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 25:1-9*

LEADER      This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE      **Thanks be to God.**

## Song

*"We Will Feast"*

Words and music: Sandra McCracken, Joshua Moore  
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*Chorus:*

*We will feast in the house of Zion.*

*We will sing with our hearts restored.*

*He has done great things, we will say together.*

*We will feast and weep no more.*

We will not be burned by the fire,  
he is the Lord our God.  
We are not consumed by the flood,  
upheld, protected, gathered up. *(to chorus)*

In the dark of night, before the dawn,  
my soul, be not afraid.  
For the promised morning, oh how long?  
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength. *(to chorus)*

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.

## Song

*"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

*LUYH 348:3*

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 23*

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.**
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,**
- 3 he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake.**
- 4 Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;**