

# Vespers

A service of evening prayer at Covenant CRC



Welcome to Vespers.

This service of evening prayer will use liturgies from *The Book of Common Prayer* that lead us to pray and ponder through psalms, silence, songs, and meditation, and will act as a way to gather up the events and cares of our days in prayer.

# Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

## November 12, 2023

### Words of Welcome

### Opening Scripture

*Psalm 141:2*

LEADER Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

*Silence*

### Song of Light

*"The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation"* *LUYH 885*

### \*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.**

### \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER Great God of our lives, for all that is gracious in our  
lives, revealing the image of Christ,

PEOPLE **we give you thanks.**

LEADER For our daily food and drink, our homes and  
families, and our friends,

PEOPLE **we give you thanks.**

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 My Life and Let It Be"* *LUYH 863:1-3*

### \*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.*

71 from tending the sheep he brought him  
to be the shepherd of his people Jacob,  
of Israel his inheritance.

**72 And David shepherded them with integrity of heart;  
with skillful hands he led them.**

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.**

Meditation: Generation to Generation

\*Song of Response

*"We Will Extol You, God and King"* LUYH 562:1,2,4

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 For minds to think and hearts to love and hands  
to serve,

PEOPLE **we give you thanks.**

LEADER For health and strength to work and leisure to rest  
and play,

PEOPLE **we give you thanks.**

LEADER For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and  
justice,

PEOPLE **we give you thanks.**

LEADER For the great mercies and promises given to us in  
Christ Jesus our Lord;  
to you, O God, be praise and glory.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

\*Song

*"My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness"*

Words and music: Stuart Townend, Keith Getty  
© 2003 Thankyou Music

My heart is filled with thankfulness  
to Him who bore my pain;  
who plumbed the depths of my disgrace  
and gave me life again;  
who crushed my curse of sinfulness  
and clothed me in His light  
and wrote His law of righteousness  
with pow'r upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness  
to Him who walks beside;  
who floods my weaknesses with strength  
and causes fears to fly;  
whose ev'ry promise is enough for ev'ry step I take,  
sustaining me with arms of love  
and crowning me with grace.

My heart is filled with thankfulness to him who reigns above,  
whose wisdom is my perfect peace,  
whose ev'ry thought is love.  
For ev'ry day I have on earth is given by the King;  
so I will give my life, my all, to love and follow him.

## 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

*Acts 13:38, Eph. 1:7, I Cor. 4:6*

LEADER Through Jesus Christ forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace. May almighty God, who caused light to shine out of darkness, shine in our hearts, cleansing us from all our sins, and restoring us to the light of the knowledge of God's glory, in the face of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

## Song

*"Before the Throne of God Above"*

*LUYH 682:1,3*

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 Old Testament Reading

*Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

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*Amos 5:18-24*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

## The Psalm

*Psalms 78:1-8, 65-72*

- 1 My people, hear my teaching;  
listen to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth with a parable;  
I will utter hidden things, things from of old—
- 3 things we have heard and known,  
things our ancestors have told us.
- 4 **We will not hide them from their descendants;  
we will tell the next generation  
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,  
his power, and the wonders he has done.**
- 5 He decreed statutes for Jacob  
and established the law in Israel,  
which he commanded our ancestors  
to teach their children,
- 6 **so the next generation would know them,  
even the children yet to be born,  
and they in turn would tell their children.**
- 7 **Then they would put their trust in God  
and would not forget his deeds  
but would keep his commands.**
- 8 They would not be like their ancestors—  
a stubborn and rebellious generation,  
whose hearts were not loyal to God,  
whose spirits were not faithful to him.
- 65 Then the Lord awoke as from sleep,  
as a warrior wakes from the stupor of wine.
- 66 He beat back his enemies;  
he put them to everlasting shame.
- 67 Then he rejected the tents of Joseph,  
he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim;
- 68 but he chose the tribe of Judah,  
Mount Zion, which he loved.
- 69 **He built his sanctuary like the heights,  
like the earth that he established forever.**
- 70 **He chose David his servant  
and took him from the sheep pens;**