

## 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.**

LEADER The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

LEADER Let us bless the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

## \*Parting Song

*"Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights"* LUYH 134:1,2,4,5

## \*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.

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.

# Third Sunday of Lent

## March 3, 2024

### Words of Welcome

#### Opening Scripture

*Exodus 20:1-3*

LEADER Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

*Silence*

#### \*Greeting

*Philippians 1:2*

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

*"Ten Thousand Reasons"*

*LUYH 559*

#### Prayer of Confession

*Silence*

LEADER Most merciful God,

LEADER Glory 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. Amen.**

#### The Gospel Reading

*John 2:13-22*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

*Moment for Silent Reflection*

#### \*Song of Response

*"Cast Down, O God, the Idols"*

*LUYH 626*

#### The Epistle Reading

*I Corinthians 1:18-25*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

*Moment for Silent Reflection*

#### Song of Response

*"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"*

*LUYH 167*

#### 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.**

LEADER Lord, hear our prayer;

PEOPLE **and let our cry come to you.**

- 6 It rises at one end of the heavens  
and makes its circuit to the other;  
nothing is deprived of its warmth.
- 7 **The law of the Lord is perfect,  
refreshing the soul.**  
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.
- 8 **The precepts of the Lord are right,  
giving joy to the heart.**  
The commands of the Lord are radiant,  
giving light to the eyes.
- 9 **The fear of the Lord is pure,  
enduring forever.**  
The decrees of the Lord are firm,  
and all of them are righteous.
- 10 They are more precious than gold,  
than much pure gold;  
they are sweeter than honey,  
than honey from the honeycomb.
- 11 By them your servant is warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 **But who can discern their own errors?  
Forgive my hidden faults.**
- 13 Keep your servant also from willful sins;  
may they not rule over me.  
Then I will be blameless,  
innocent of great transgression.
- 14 **May these words of my mouth  
and this meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight,  
Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

## Prayer

LEADER      Amazing God, your glory is revealed in your  
creation and law, and your love is revealed in Jesus  
Christ, the Word made flesh. You have freed us from  
sin and death. You have given us wisdom and joy.  
Now, by the power of your Spirit, make our words  
and thoughts worthy offerings of praise. We pray in  
Jesus' name. Amen.

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.**

## The Assurance

*Romans 5:8*

LEADER      But God demonstrated his own love for us in this:  
PEOPLE      **while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

## Song

*"Man of Sorrows—What a Name"*      *LUYH 170*

LEADER      O God, make speed to save us.  
PEOPLE      **O Lord, make haste to help us.**  
LEADER      Glory 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. Amen.**

## The Psalm

*Psalm 19*

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
- 2 Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they reveal knowledge.
- 3 **They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.**
- 4 **Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.**  
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.
- 5 It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,  
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.