

Song

“Stay with Me”

LUYH 159

*The Benediction

LEADER The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

*Parting Song

“Father We Love You”

Words and music: Donna Adkins
© 1976, 1981 Maranatha! Music

Father, we love you, we worship and adore You,
glorify your name in all the earth,
glorify your name, glorify your name,
glorify your name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love you...

Spirit, we love you...

*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.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 17, 2024

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Matthew 11:28-30

LEADER Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Silence

Song

"Come to Me, O Weary Traveler" *LUYH 123*

*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

"At the Name of Jesus" *LUYH 220:1-5*
St.1&2—all; st.3—women; st.4—men; st.5—all

The Epistle Reading

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Gethsemane Grace; Disguised and Revealed

*Song of Response

"Go to Dark Gethsemane" *LUYH 161:1-3*

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.**

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.**

- 7 I will praise you with an upright heart
as I learn your righteous laws.
- 8 **I will obey your decrees;
do not utterly forsake me.**
- 9 How can a young person stay on the path of purity?
By living according to your word.
- 10 **I seek you with all my heart;
do not let me stray from your commands.**
- 11 I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.
- 12 **Praise be to you, Lord;
teach me your decrees.**
- 13 With my lips I recount
all the laws that come from your mouth.
- 14 **I rejoice in following your statutes
as one rejoices in great riches.**
- 15 I meditate on your precepts
and consider your ways.
- 16 **I delight in your decrees;
I will not neglect your word.**

Song

"I Will Hide Your Word Inside My Heart" LUYH 761

- 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. Amen.**

The Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

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

The Gospel Reading

John 12:20-33

- 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
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.**
- 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 119:1-16

- 1 Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who walk according to the law of the Lord.
- 2 **Blessed are those who keep his statutes
and seek him with all their heart—**
- 3 they do no wrong
but follow his ways.
- 4 **You have laid down precepts
that are to be fully obeyed.**
- 5 Oh, that my ways were steadfast
in obeying your decrees!
- 6 **Then I would not be put to shame
when I consider all your commands.**