

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 May Almighty God bless, preserve, and keep us,  
this night and forevermore.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

LEADER Let us bless the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

### \*Song

*"In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"* LUYH 357

### \*Choral Blessing

*"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"* T. Van Voorst

### \*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.*

*Thank you to the Unity Knightsounds, directed by Tim Van Voorst,  
for sharing their musical gifts with us this evening.*

# 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.

# Second Sunday of Easter

## April 7, 2024

### Words of Welcome

### Opening Scripture

*Psalm 148:1,3,5-7a, 12-13*

LEADER Praise the Lord.  
Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights above  
Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars.  
Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for at his command they were created,  
and he established them for ever and ever—  
he issued a decree that will never pass away.  
Praise the Lord from the earth...  
young men and women,  
old men and children.  
Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

### Choral Song

*"Sound His Praise"* arr. M. McDonald

### \*Greeting

*Philippians 1:2*

LEADER Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and from the Lord Jesus Christ.  
PEOPLE **Amen.**

### \*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.**

### The Gospel Reading

*John 20:19-32*

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

### The Epistle Reading

*Ephesians 1:15-23*

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

### Meditation: Power Over Powers

### \*Song of Response

*"In Christ Alone"* LUYH 770

### The Prayers

Prayers of the People

### Choral Song

*"The Lord's Prayer"* A.H. Malotte

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*

### Choral Song

*"The Secret Place"* R.C. Sproul/J. Lippencott

## The Assurance

*I John 1:5,7*

LEADER This is the message we have heard from God and proclaim to you, that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

## Choral Song

*"True Light"*

*K. Hampton*

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. Alleluia! Amen.**

## The Psalm

*Psalms 150*

- 1 Praise the Lord.  
Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty heavens.
- 2 **Praise him for his acts of power;  
praise him for his surpassing greatness.**
- 3 Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,  
praise him with the harp and lyre,
- 4 **praise him with timbrel and dancing,  
praise him with the strings and pipe,**
- 5 praise him with the clash of cymbals,  
praise him with resounding cymbals.
- 6 **Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.  
Praise the Lord.**

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.**

## Song

*"Sing Praise to the Lord, You People of Grace"* *LUYH 7:1,3,4*

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.**

## \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER Blessed are you, O Lord, Redeemer God.  
You destroyed the bonds of death  
and from the darkness of the tomb  
drew forth the light of the world.  
You led us through the waters of death,  
and made us children of light singing Alleluias  
and dancing to the music of new life.  
Pour out your Spirit upon us  
that dreams and visions bring us ever closer  
to the kingdom of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.  
Through him and in the Holy Spirit  
all glory be to you, almighty God,  
this night and forever and ever.

## \*Easter Hymn

*"Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing"* *LUYH 206:1,2,4,5*

## 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.**