

## \*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 Easter

## April 14, 2024

### Words of Welcome

### Opening Scripture

*1 John 3:1-2*

LEADER See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

*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

*"How Great Is the Love of the Father"*

*LUYH 683*

### 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*

### Song

*"O God, Defender of the Poor"*

*LUYH 890:1,5,6*

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.**

### \*Parting Song

*"Peace Before Us"*

*LUYH 923:1,2,4*

- 3 Know that the Lord has set apart  
his faithful servant for himself;  
the Lord hears when I call to him.
- 4 Tremble and do not sin;  
when you are on your beds,  
search your hearts and be silent.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of the righteous  
and trust in the Lord.
- 6 Many, Lord, are asking, "Who will bring us prosperity?"  
Let the light of your face shine on us.
- 7 Fill my heart with joy  
when their grain and new wine abound.
- 8 In peace I will lie down and sleep,  
for you alone, Lord,  
make me dwell in safety

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 Gospel Reading *Luke 24:36b-48*

LEADER      This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE      **Thanks be to God.**

### The Epistle Reading *Ephesians 2:11-22*

LEADER      This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE      **Thanks be to God.**

### Meditation: Graced into Golden Peace

\*Song of Response  
*"All Are Welcome"* *LUYH 269:1,2,4*

### The Prayers Prayers of the People: Sharing our Joys & Concerns

### 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 10:9*

LEADER      If we confess with our lips that Jesus is Lord and  
believe in our hearts that God raised him from the  
dead, we will be saved.

PEOPLE      **Thanks be to God.**

### Song *"Praise the Savior, Now and Ever"* *LUYH 191:1,2,4*

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 *Psalms 4*

- 1 Answer me when I call to you,  
my righteous God.  
Give me relief from my distress;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 How long will you people turn my glory into shame?  
How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?