

*Parting Song

"Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

LUYH 257:1-4,6

*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.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 12, 2024

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 96:9

LEADER Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.

Silence

Song

"Be Still, for the Presence" *LUYH 532*

*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 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.**

*Song

"Love Divine, All Love's Excelling" *LUYH 351:1-3*

Prayer of Confession

Silence

LEADER Most merciful God,

PEOPLE **we confess that we have sinned against you**

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

Closing Prayer

LEADER Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

- or stand in the way that sinners take
 or sit in the company of mockers,
 2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
 and who meditates on his law day and night.
 3 **That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in season
 and whose leaf does not wither—
 whatever they do prospers.**
 4 Not so the wicked!
 They are like chaff
 that the wind blows away.
 5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
 6 **For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.**

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 Gospel Reading

John 17:6-19

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Reading

Ephesians 5:1-20

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Drinking the Spirit

*Song of Response

"Spirit Divine, Inspire Our Prayer"

LUYH 617

The Prayers

Prayers of the People: Sharing our Joys & Concerns

**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

1 John 5:9-13

LEADER We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is
 greater because it is the testimony of God, which he
 has given about his Son. Whoever believes in the
 Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does
 not believe God has made him out to be a liar,
 because they have not believed the testimony God
 has given about his Son. And this is the testimony:
 God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his
 Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does
 not have the Son of God does not have life. I write
 these things to you who believe in the name of the
 Son of God so that you may know that you have
 eternal life.

Song

"I Know Not Why God's Wondrous Grace"

LUYH 690:1-3

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. Alleluia! Amen.**

The Psalm

Psalm 1

1 Blessed is the one
 who does not walk in step with the wicked