

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 O God, let the overflowing of your Holy Spirit cover
your church with the blessing of unity and the
anointing of your peace, through our Lord Jesus
Christ.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

*Parting Song

"How Very Good and Pleasant" PFAS 133C (p.871)

*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.

The Vesper Sparrow is named after its tendency to sing most gloriously during the vesper (evening) hours after most other species have quieted for the night. As we pray and ponder and praise using liturgies from *The Book of Common Prayer*, may we join the creation in bringing glory to our Creator as we close out the day.

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

June 23, 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

"God Himself Is with Us" *LUYH 565:1,3*

*Greeting

Philippians 1:2

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

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

*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

"Behold the Goodness of Our Lord" *PFAS 133A (p.869)*

Prayer of Confession

Silence

LEADER Most merciful God,

The Epistle Reading

II Corinthians 6:1-13

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm Reading

Psalm 133

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Good, Pleasant, and Even Glorious

*Song of Response

"For All the Saints" *LUYH 254:1-3*

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

12 **For he who avenges blood remembers;
he does not ignore the cries of the afflicted.**

13 Lord, see how my enemies persecute me!
Have mercy and lift me up from the gates of death,
14 that I may declare your praises
in the gates of Daughter Zion,
and there rejoice in your salvation.

"On the Poor" *PFAS 9A (p.47)*

15 The nations have fallen into the pit they have dug;
their feet are caught in the net they have hidden.
16 **The Lord is known by his acts of justice;
the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands.**
17 The wicked go down to the realm of the dead,
all the nations that forget God.
18 But God will never forget the needy;
the hope of the afflicted will never perish.

"On the Poor" *PFAS 9A (p.47)*

19 Arise, Lord, do not let mortals triumph;
let the nations be judged in your presence.
20 **Strike them with terror, Lord;
let the nations know they are only mortal.**

"On the Poor" *PFAS 9A (p.47)*

Prayer

LEADER Eternal God, righteous Judge, rule this world with truth and grace. Inspire your people to such joyful praise that every nation will proclaim your glory and every knee will bow before your Son, who is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

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.**

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 *Psalm 103:11-12*

LEADER For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is God's steadfast love.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far does God remove our sins from us.

Song

"O Love of God, How Strong and True" *LUYH 583:1,3,4,5,7*
st.1,3—all sing, st.4—women, st.5—men, st.7—all

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 9:9-20*

Song

"On the Poor" *PFAS 9A (p.47)*

9 The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed,
a stronghold in times of trouble.
10 Those who know your name trust in you,
for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.
11 **Sing the praises of the Lord, enthroned in Zion;
proclaim among the nations what he has done.**