

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.**

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.**

*Benediction

Philippians 4:7

LEADER May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

*Parting Song

"I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say" *LUYH 508:1,4,5*
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.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 7, 2024

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 74:15-16

LEADER Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun. You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.

Silence

*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

"Lord Most High"

LUYH 593

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**

2 Beautiful in its loftiness,
the joy of the whole earth,
like the heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion,
the city of the Great King.

3 God is in her citadels;
he has shown himself to be her fortress.

4 When the kings joined forces,
when they advanced together,

5 they saw her and were astounded; they fled in terror.

6 Trembling seized them there,
pain like that of a woman in labor.

7 You destroyed them like ships of Tarshish
shattered by an east wind.

8 **As we have heard, so we have seen
in the city of the Lord Almighty, in the city of our God:
God makes her secure forever.**

9 **Within your temple, O God,
we meditate on your unfailing love.**

10 **Like your name, O God,
your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with righteousness.**

11 **Mount Zion rejoices,
the villages of Judah are glad because of your judgments.**

12 Walk about Zion, go around her, count her towers,

13 consider well her ramparts, view her citadels,
that you may tell of them to the next generation.

14 **For this God is our God for ever and ever;
he will be our guide even to the end.**

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Zion Expanded

*Song of Response

"O God Beyond All Praising"

LUYH 557

The Prayers

Prayers of the People: Sharing our Joys & Concerns

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 123

1 I lift up my eyes to you,
to you who sit enthroned in heaven.
2 As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a female slave look to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,
till he shows us his mercy.
3 Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us,
for we have endured no end of contempt.
4 We have endured no end
of ridicule from the arrogant,
of contempt from the proud.

Prayer

LEADER Eternal Lord Jesus, our only comfort in life and in
death, the world's contempt did not dissuade you
from accomplishing our salvation. May we look to
no one but you to sustain us now, and through all
that is yet to come. 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.**

The Epistle Reading

II Corinthians 12:2-10

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

The Psalm Reading

Psalm 48

1 Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise,
in the city of our God, his holy mountain.

**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

"My Worth Is Not in What I Own"

Words & Music: Keith & Kristyn Getty, Graham Kendrick
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My worth is not in what I own;
not in the strength of flesh and bone,
but in the costly wounds of love at the cross.

My worth is not in skill or name;
in win or lose, in pride or shame,
but in the blood of Christ that flowed at the cross.

Chorus:

*I rejoice in my Redeemer, greatest treasure,
wellspring of my soul.*

*I will trust in Him, no other;
my soul is satisfied in Him alone.*

As summer flow'rs we fade and die;
fame, youth, and beauty hurry by,
but life eternal calls to us at the cross.

I will not boast in wealth or might,
or human wisdom's fleeting light,
but I will boast in knowing Christ at the cross. *(to chorus)*

Two wonders here that I confess:
my worth and my unworthiness.
My value fixed, my ransom paid at the cross. *(to chorus)*