

PEOPLE **How can we withhold anything from you, our Lord and our God? Renew us day by day with the gift of your Spirit, that we may give ourselves completely to your service and walk with joy in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### Collect

PEOPLE **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.**

### Words of Sending

LEADER O Brother Jesus, we have been guests at your table; come with us wherever we go and be present in all we share.  
PEOPLE **Summon out in us, whom you have fed, generosity of spirit to ensure that all the hungry are nourished and earth's barren places are fertile with food, faith, hope and love. Amen.**

### \*Parting Song

*"See My Hands and Feet"* LUYH 928:1,2,4

### \*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.

# Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## August 25, 2024

### Words of Welcome

### Opening Scripture

*Psalm 84:1-4*

LEADER How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

*Silence*

### Song

*"With Joy I Heard My Friends Exclaim"* *LUYH 66:1-3*

### \*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 This is the time when light fades and shadows lengthen and sounds are subdued—all as God intended.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

LEADER This is the time when bodies relax, minds unwind, and tiredness comes—all as God intended.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

LEADER This is the time when others greet the morning while we meet the night, and the world continues to sing, in all the accents of creation, a love-song to its

LEADER Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE **It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

LEADER With joy, we praise you, gracious God, for you created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—even when we fell into sin. We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came among us as the Word made flesh to show us your glory, full of grace and truth. In him we have been brought out of darkness and into your marvelous light. Amen.

### The Institution

### The Memorial Acclamation

LEADER Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

PEOPLE **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Dying, he destroyed our death. Rising, he restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

### Prayer of Consecration

#### 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.**

### The Communion

*"I Worship You, O Lord"* *LUYH 668*

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER Loving God, you have put gladness in our hearts; you have satisfied our hunger with good things. In giving all, you have not withheld from us your own dear Son.

## The Psalm

*Psalm 34:15-22*

- 15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,  
and his ears are attentive to their cry;  
16 **but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil,  
to blot out their name from the earth.**  
17 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;  
he delivers them from all their troubles.  
18 **The Lord is close to the brokenhearted  
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.**  
19 The righteous person may have many troubles,  
but the Lord delivers him from them all;  
20 **he protects all his bones,  
not one of them will be broken.**  
21 Evil will slay the wicked;  
the foes of the righteous will be condemned.  
22 **The Lord will rescue his servants;  
no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.**

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 Old Testament Reading

*1 Kings 8:22-30*

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

## Meditation: The Name Dwells and Hears

### \*Song of Response

*"How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely"* *LUYH 46*

## The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER The Lord be with you.  
PEOPLE **And also with you.**  
LEADER Lift up your hearts.  
PEOPLE **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Maker.

PEOPLE **Blessed be God's name.**

### \*Song

*"Bless the Lord, O My Soul"* *LUYH 516*

## 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

*1 Peter 3:18,22*

LEADER We declare with joy: Christ suffered once for sins,  
the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God  
PEOPLE **He was put to death in the body but made alive  
in the Spirit. Now he has gone into heaven and is  
at God's right hand—with angels, authorities,  
and powers in submission to him.**

## Song

*"Before the Throne of God Above"* *LUYH 682*

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.**