

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

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" LUYH 667

*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.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 29, 2024

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 42:8

LEADER By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life.

Silence

Song

“God Is So Good”

LUYH 777

*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 Maker.

PEOPLE **Blessed be God’s name.**

*Song

“O Praise the Lord, for It Is Good”

LUYH 549

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 Need Thee Every Hour”

LUYH 322:1-4

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER Lord, 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.

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.**

5 **the raging waters
would have swept us away.**

6 Praise be to the Lord,
who has not let us be torn by their teeth.

7 **We have escaped like a bird
from the fowler's snare;**
the snare has been broken,
and we have escaped.

8 **Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.**

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.**

Song

"Our Help Is in the Name of God the Lord" LUYH 498

The Gospel Reading

Mark 9:38-50

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Salty Fire Toward Shalom

*Song of Response

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" LUYH 821:1-3

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.**

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,

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

I 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.**

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

Psalms 124

1 If the Lord had not been on our side—
let Israel say—

2 if the Lord had not been on our side
when people attacked us,

3 they would have swallowed us alive
when their anger flared against us;

4 **the flood would have engulfed us,
the torrent would have swept over us,**