

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.**

### \*Parting Song

*"Come, All You Servants of the Lord"* LUYH 924

### \*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.

# Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

## February 2, 2025

### Words of Welcome

### Opening Scripture

*II Corinthians 4:6*

LEADER God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

*Silence*

### Song

*"Son of God, Whose Heart Is Peace"* LUYH 619

### \*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 Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

PEOPLE **the light no darkness can overcome.**

LEADER Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening

PEOPLE **and the day is almost over.**

LEADER Let your light scatter the darkness

PEOPLE **and illumine your church.**

### \*Song

*"O Lord, You Are My Light"* LUYH 773

In Your presence, gracious Lord,  
in Your dwelling they find peace.

When I cried in my alarm,  
"I am cut off from Your sight!"

Praise the Lord, whose saving arm  
was my rescue and my light.

Love the Lord, all you His saints!

You, who in Him refuge take.

Though in darkness you may wait;  
all who hope in God are saved!

### The Gospel Reading

*Luke 4:21-30*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

### The Epistle Reading

*I Corinthians 13*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

### Meditation: Growing the Greatest

### \*Song of Response

*"Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels"* LUYH 307

### 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.**

**4 Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.**

5 For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord,  
my confidence since my youth.

**6 From birth I have relied on you;  
you brought me forth from my mother's womb.  
I will ever praise you**

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

*"In You, Lord, I Refuge Take"*

Words and music: Wendell Kimbrough

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In You, Lord, I refuge take;  
let me not be put to shame.  
Turn Your ear and quickly make  
safety for my trembling frame.  
You're a rock and fortress strong;  
I am lost and cannot see.  
For Your name's sake, lead me on;  
in Your hands my soul redeem.

My eyes weak with sorrow grow,  
and my body fills with grief.  
All my years pass with a groan;  
my strength fails, my bones are weak.  
Those who see me turn to flee;  
my friends' eyes are filled with dread.  
Like a potter's broken dream:  
in their gaze a shade of death.

But I trust You are my God;  
all my days are in Your hands.  
Let Your face upon me shine;  
make me in Your love to stand.  
Great the steadfast love You've stored  
for the poor, who refuge seek.

## 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

LEADER Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all  
your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen  
you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy  
Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

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 71:1-6*

1 In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.

2 **In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me;  
turn your ear to me and save me.**

3 Be my rock of refuge,  
to which I can always go;  
give the command to save me,  
for you are my rock and my fortress.