

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.

Third Sunday of Lent

March 23, 2025

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Isaiah 55:6-7

LEADER Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Silence

Song

"Stay with Me" LUYH 159

*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 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

"Christ, the Life of All the Living" LUYH 137

with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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.**

*Closing Song

"Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights" LUYH 134:1-4

*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.

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:1-12

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Higher Thoughts Rain Down

*Song of Response

"What Wondrous Love"

LUYH 164

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 glory forever. Amen.**

Song

"Ah, Holy Jesus, How Have You Offended"

LUYH 172:1,2,4

LEADER Lord, hear our prayer;

PEOPLE **and let our cry come to you.**

Collect

God of all times and places, in Jesus Christ, lifted up on the cross, you opened for us the path to eternal life. Grant that we, being born again of water and the Spirit, may joyfully serve you in newness of life and faithfully walk in your holy ways, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns

Song

"It Is Good to Give Thanks to You, Lord"

LUYH 48:1

Prayer of Confession & Assurance

LEADER Gracious God, we thank and praise you

PEOPLE **for you are good and your love endures forever.**

LEADER Despite your goodness, both we and our ancestors have sinned.

PEOPLE **We don't act justly or always do what is right.**

"It Is Good to Give Thanks to You, Lord"

LUYH 48:2-5

LEADER The Lord is compassionate and gracious,

PEOPLE **slow to anger, abounding in love.**

LEADER He will not always accuse,

PEOPLE **nor will he harbor his anger forever;**

LEADER he does not treat us as our sins deserve

PEOPLE **or repay us according to our iniquities.**

LEADER For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

PEOPLE **so great is his love for those who fear him;**

LEADER as far as the east is from the west,

PEOPLE **so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

"It Is Good to Give Thanks to You, Lord"

LUYH 48:6

LEADER Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Let the people say,

PEOPLE **"Amen!" Praise the Lord.**

LEADER Glory be to the Father, and the 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

1 Corinthians 10:1-13