

## 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. 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.**

### \*Parting Song

*"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"* LUYH 965

### \*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.

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Pastor: Rev. Joel Kok ♦ Organ/Piano: Beth Vanden Berg

Sound: Will Breems ♦ Video: Terry Friend ♦ CCLI #493458 ♦ OneLicense #A-721171

# Fourth Sunday of Lent

## March 30, 2025

### Words of Welcome

### Opening Scripture

*Psalm 96:9*

LEADER      Worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness;  
let the whole earth tremble before him.

*Silence*

### Song

*"God Himself Is with Us"*      *LUYH 565:1,3*

### \*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 Maker.

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

### \*Song

*"I Come with Joy"*      *LUYH 533:1,2,5*

## The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER      We love you, Holy God. We love you for the feast  
that is life: friendships and laughter, intimacy and  
trust, moments of discovering deep truth, hidden  
potentials we never knew we had, and beauty—  
serene beauty and rugged beauty, the world you  
have crafted and the words, the sounds, the colors  
with which people reflect and explore life.

PEOPLE      **We love you, holy God for not leaving us alone,  
because in Jesus you became tangible: hands  
touched him, tears touched him, generosity  
touched him.**

LEADER      And he has touched us. That is why we are here.  
That is why across time and eternity we say with  
the angels:

PEOPLE      **Holy, holy, holy God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna  
in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in  
the name of our God. Hosanna in the highest.**

## The Institution

LEADER      And now as we open ourselves to your generous  
hospitality, let your Spirit move among us and be  
present in the food we share so that this bread and  
fruit of the vine become for us the living presence of  
Jesus.

PEOPLE      **Open our eyes to see him, our ears to hear him,  
our hands to hold him, our hearts to receive  
him, our souls to cherish him. Amen.**

LEADER      Come, for all is ready.

## The Communion

*"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"*  
*"Eat This Bread"*

*LUYH 167*  
*LUYH 818*

- 4 **Show me your ways, Lord,  
teach me your paths.**
- 5 **Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my Savior,  
and my hope is in you all day long.**
- 6 Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love,  
for they are from of old.
- 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth  
and my rebellious ways;  
according to your love remember me,  
for you, Lord, are good.
- 8 **Good and upright is the Lord;  
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.**
- 9 **He guides the humble in what is right  
and teaches them his way.**
- 10 All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful  
toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

## Song

*"Lord, I Gladly Trust"* *LUYH 354:1,3*

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. Amen.**

## The Old Testament Reading

*Joshua 5:9-15*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

## The Epistle Reading

*II Corinthians 5:11-6:2*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

## Meditation: Righteous Reconciliation

### \*Song of Response

*"Amazing Grace"* *LUYH 691:1-3*

## 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

*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.

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. Amen.**

## The Psalm

*Psalm 25*

- 1 In you, Lord my God,  
I put my trust.
- 2 I trust in you;  
do not let me be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 3 No one who hopes in you  
will ever be put to shame,  
but shame will come on those  
who are treacherous without cause.