

# 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.

# Fifth Sunday in Lent

## April 6, 2025

### Words of Welcome

### Opening Scripture

*Hebrews 12:2-3*

LEADER Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. Let us consider him who endured such opposition from sinful people, so that we will not grow weary and lose heart.

*Silence*

### Song

*"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"* *LUYH 426:1-2*

### \*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 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

*"Father, Long Before Creation"* *LUYH 687:1-2*

LEADER Lord, hear our prayer;  
PEOPLE **and let our cry come to you.**

### Collect

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.**

### \*Song

*"May the Lord God Hear You Pray"* *LUYH 894*

### \*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.*

Then it was said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."

**3 The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are filled with joy.**

**4 Restore our fortunes, Lord,  
like streams in the Negev.**

**5 Those who sow with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.**

**6 Those who go out weeping,  
carrying seed to sow,  
will return with songs of joy,  
carrying sheaves with them.**

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. Amen.**

## The Gospel Reading

*John 12:1-8*

LEADER      This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE      **Thanks be to God.**

## Meditation: Priestly Presence

### \*Song of Response

*"To My Precious Lord"*

*LUYH 136*

## 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 for  
give 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.**

## Prayer of Confession

*Silence*

## Song

*"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"*

*LUYH 173:1-2*

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

*Psalms 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 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. Amen.**

## The Psalm

*Psalms 126*

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dreamed.  
2 Our mouths were filled with laughter,  
our tongues with songs of joy.