

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.

# Second Sunday of Easter

## April 27, 2025

### Words of Welcome

#### Opening Scripture

*1 Peter 1:3*

LEADER Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

*Silence*

#### Song

*"He Is Lord"*

*LUYH 227:1,3,4*

#### \*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.**

PEOPLE **Holy, holy, holy Lord, 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

*"Behold the Lamb"*

*LUYH 840*

### 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*

## Song

*"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy "*

*LUYH 689*

## The New Testament Reading

*Acts 5:27-32*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

## The New Testament Reading

*Revelation 1:4-8*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

## The Psalm Reading

*Psalm 150*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

## Meditation: More Breath for More Praise

## \*Song of Response

*"Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord"*

*LUYH 584*

## 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:

## \*Song

*"From the Rising of the Sun"*

Words and music: Sandra McCracken

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Hallelujah, give praise you servants.  
Praise the name of the Lord.  
Let the name of the Lord be blessed  
for now and forevermore.

*Chorus:*

*From the rising of the sun to its going down,  
let the name of the Lord be praised  
from the rising of the sun.*

The Lord is high above all nations  
and His glory above the heavens.  
Who is like the Lord our God who sits enthroned on high?  
Who is like the Lord our God?  
Stoops to behold the heavens and the earth. *(to chorus)*

## 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.