

*Benediction

LEADER May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE **Amen.**

LEADER Let us bless the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

*Song

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" LUYH 933

*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 of Easter

May 11, 2025

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Psalm 23:1-3

LEADER The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.

Silence

Song

"Shepherd Me, O God"

LUYH 456

*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.**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

LEADER Blessed are you, O Lord, Redeemer God. You destroyed the bonds of death and from the darkness of the tomb drew forth the light of the world. You led us through the waters of death, and made us

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Father, Son, and Shepherds

*Song of Response

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

LUYH 330:1-2

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.**

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 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.**

The Psalm

Psalm 23

- 1 **The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.**
- 2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures;
 he leads me beside quiet waters;**
- 3 **he restores my soul.
 He guides me in paths of righteousness
 for his name's sake.**
- 4 **Even though I walk through the valley
 of the shadow of death,
 I fear no evil,
 for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff,
 they comfort me.**
- 5 **You prepare a table before me
 in the presence of my enemies;
 you anoint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows.**
- 6 **Surely goodness and love will follow me
 all the days of my life,
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
 forever.**

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 New Testament Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading

John 10:22-30

children of light singing Alleluias and dancing to the music of new life. Pour out your Spirit upon us that dreams and visions bring us ever closer to the kingdom of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. Through him and in the Holy Spirit all glory be to you, almighty God, this night and forever and ever.

*Easter Hymn

"This Joyful Eastertide"

LUYH 202:1-2

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.

Song

"Before the Throne of God Above"

LUYH 682

LEADER O God, make speed to save us.

PEOPLE **O Lord, make haste to help us.**