

In the shadows, none can harm me
for the mighty King is here. *(to chorus)*

So I find my rest in Jesus, he who came to rescue me.
Jesus saved me from the darkness,
I will rise to life with Him. *(to chorus)*

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

"God of Mercy, God of Grace" LUYH 934:1,3

*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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 25, 2025

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture

Luke 24:46-48

LEADER Then Jesus told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses to these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Silence

Song

"Come, Holy Ghost"

LUYH 232:1-2

*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 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 **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 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

"The Night Song"

Words and music: Colin Buchanan, Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson
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In the darkness, God will keep me.
He will stay and never sleep.
In the darkness, God is brighter,
though the night is long and deep.

Chorus:

*All this day your hand has held me,
God of Heaven, by my side.
Thank you, Father, for Your goodness.
You will hold me through the night.*

In the shadows, you are with me
and you know my ev'ry fear.

- 3 May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
- 4 **May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity
and guide the nations of the earth.**
- 5 May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.
- 6 **The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.**
- 7 May God bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

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 *Acts 6:8-15; 7:54-59*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation: Catching Glimpses of Jesus

*Song of Response

"Open Our Eyes, Lord"

Words and music: Robert Cull

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Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.
Open our ears, Lord; and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord; we want to see Jesus.

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.

*Song

"Ten Thousand Reasons"

LUYH 559

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

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.

Song

"Bless the Lord, My Soul"

LUYH 836

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

Psalms 67

- 1 May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us—
2 **so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.**