*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

"Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God" *LUYH 953*

*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.

Pastor: Dr. Joel Kok ✦ Organ/Piano: Beth Vanden Berg
Sound: Jeff Ploegstra ✦ Video: Marty Vander Plaats ✦ CCLI #493458 ✦ OneLicense #A-721171

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.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 10, 2025

Words of Welcome

Opening Scripture *Psalm 74:15-16*

LEADER Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun. You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter.

Silence

Song

"The Heavens Declare Your Glory" *LUYH 3:1-2*

*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.**

*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.

PEOPLE **You led us through the waters of death, and**

Meditation: Unexpected and Unpredictable

Song of Response

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" *LUYH 477:1,3,4*

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.**

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.**

Song

"Like a River Glorious" *LUYH 699*

made us children of light singing Alleluias and dancing to the music of new life.

LEADER Pour out your Spirit upon us that dreams and visions bring us ever closer to the kingdom of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

PEOPLE **Through him and in the Holy Spirit all glory be to you, almighty God, this night and forever and ever.**

*Hymn

"O Love of God, How Strong and True" *LUYH 583:1-4,7*

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

LEADER Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Psalm *Psalm 33:12-22*

12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people he chose for his inheritance.

13 **From heaven the Lord looks down**
and sees all mankind;
14 **from his dwelling place he watches**
all who live on earth—
15 **he who forms the hearts of all,**
who considers everything they do.
16 No king is saved by the size of his army;
no warrior escapes by his great strength.
17 A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;
despite all its great strength it cannot save.
18 **But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him,**
on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,
19 **to deliver them from death**
and keep them alive in famine.
20 We wait in hope for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.
21 In him our hearts rejoice,
for we trust in his holy name.
22 **May your unfailing love be with us, Lord,**
even as we put our hope in you.

LEADER O God, make speed to save us.

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

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 Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 11:1,10-20*

LEADER This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading *Luke 12:32-40*

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.**