Bummer seat Bulletin: This seat is NOT reserved. <u>Go ahead – sit here!</u> You may have a partially blocked seat, so use this bulletin if you can't see the screen. You're welcome. ©



April 30, 2017 3rd Sunday in Easter



www.riverofhopehutchinson.org Worship on Sundays at 10:30

Gathering

Music to Prepare Us for Worship

Gathering Songs Shall We Gather At The River & Did You Feel The Mountains Tremble

Shall We Gather At The River

Words and Music by Robert Lowry



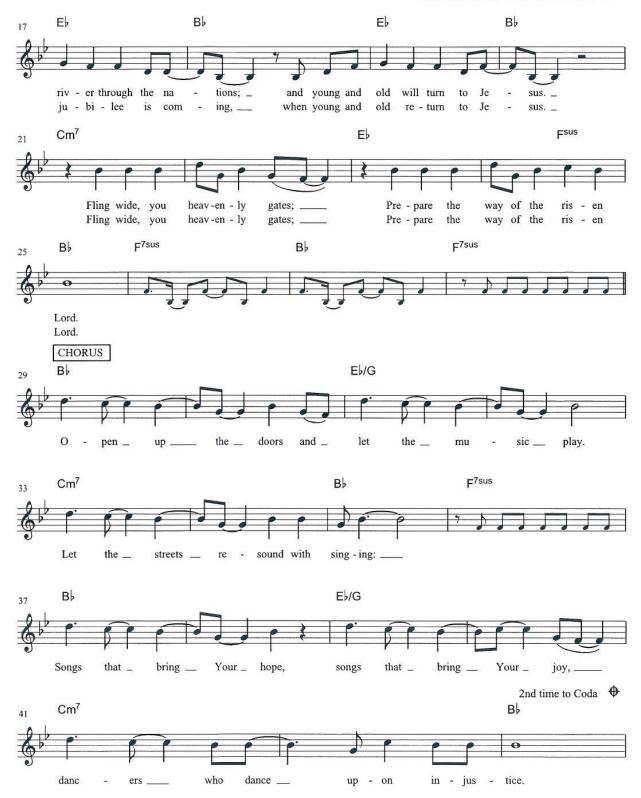
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Did You Feel The Mountains Tremble

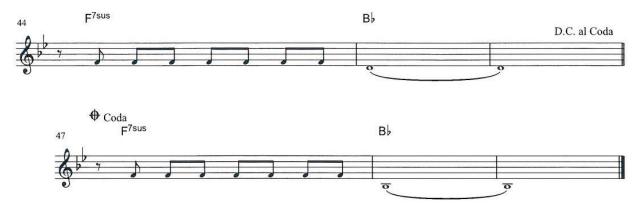
Words and Music by Martin Smith



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Did You Feel The Mountains Tremble - 3



Welcome, Worship Orientation 101, Connection Cards

No Longer Strangers Prayer

Dear Jesus, Help us to see your love and life in those around us: friends, enemies, and strangers alike. You always show up in who we'd rather just call the "other." Help us to call them what you call them: a precious child of God. Amen.

Meet Someone New

We practice being Christians by extending our hand in friendship to people we may not know very well or at all. If we can't practice it here in worship, where else can we do it? Go ahead, make the first move. "Hi, my name is ______. You're new to me." OR "Can I introduce myself to you?" are good ways to start. We simply cannot be afraid of one another.

Reprise: Did You Feel The Mountains Tremble

Confession

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us confess that God is God and we are not.

Silence for confession

Transforming God,

we confess that we are turned in on ourselves and cannot save ourselves, no matter how hard we try. We have sinned against you in the things we think and don't speak, in the words we regret or delight in saying, and in the way we live our lives. We have sectioned off our hearts. We excel at building walls. We are good at reasoning and legitimizing our behaviors and thoughts. We want to be safe, never hurt again. We are sorry. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Please forgive us, make us new and ready to praise your name.

Amen.

Hear this Good News:

God never tires in forgiving us, always rebuilding hope in the name of Jesus Christ. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to transform our lives. God does not leave you the way that God found you. Your stumbling blocks are turned into bridges. Your stony heart is turned to flesh. The walls of your heart have been broken down. You are forgiven. You are loved. In the name of the risen Christ, rejoice in this good news! **Amen! Alleluia!**

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the community of the Holy Spirit is with you all **And also with you.**



Prayer of the Day Let us pray,

A brief silence is kept before the prayer. Holy Lord,

Your servant Stephen was bold in the face of danger and death. Make us faithful in our witness, even under threat of opposition to your word, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

The Story

NARRATOR: Today, our story and God's story is found in the book of Acts, the 6th chapter, verses 1 through 7:2a, and verse 44 through 60.



Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954 Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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Readers: Narrator, Group 1, Group 2, All – you'll need to find a person to read Stephen's part. Pronunciation Guide: Prochoru – PRAH-kaw-ruhs Nicanor – Nai-KAY-nawr Parmenas – PAHR-mee-nas

Narrator: Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said,

Disciples (ALL): It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.

Narrator: What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say,

Freedmen (Group 1): We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.

Narrator: They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. They set up false witnesses who said,

Freedmen (Group 2): This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us.

Narrator: And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel. Then the high priest asked him,

High Priest (ALL): Are these things so?

Narrator: And Stephen replied:

Stephen: Brothers and fathers, listen to me. The God of glory appeared to our ancestor Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran. Our ancestors had the tent of testimony in the wilderness, as God directed when he spoke to Moses, ordering him to make it according to the pattern he had seen. Our ancestors in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our ancestors. And it was there until the time of David, who found favor with God and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with human hands; as the prophet says, "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?" You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.

Narrator: When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

Stephen: Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!

Narrator: But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed,

Stephen: Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

Narrator: Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice,

Stephen: Lord, do not hold this sin against them.

Narrator: When he had said this, he died.

NARRATOR: Stay tuned for the continuing drama that is our story and God's story.

ALL: Sing Halle Halle Halle

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Song After Sermon Hallelujah

HALLELUJAH

Music by Leonard Cohen Adapted for Easter with Lyrics by Kelly Mooney

A crown of thorns placed on His head He knew that He would soon be dead He said did you forget me Father did you? They nailed Him to a wooden cross soon all the world would feel the loss Of Christ the King before His Hallelujah.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

He hung His head and prepared to die Then lifted His face up to the sky Said I am coming home now Father to you. A reed which held His final sip was gently lifted to his lips He drank His last and gave His soul to glory.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

The soldier who had used his sword to pierce the body of our Lord Said truly this is Jesus Christ our Savior. He looked with fear upon his sword then turned to face his Christ and Lord Fell to his knees crying Hallelujah.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Took from his head the thorny crown and wrapped him in a linen gown And laid him down to rest inside the tomb. The holes in his hands, his feet and side now in our hearts we know he died To save us from ourselves oh hallelujah.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Three days went by again they came to move the stone to bless the slain With oil and spice anointing hallelujah. But as they went to move the stone they saw that they were not alone But Jesus Christ has risen Hallelujah.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

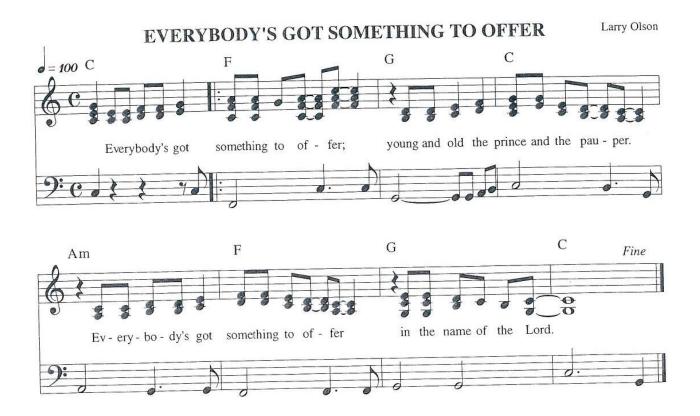
Prayers of the People Prayers will be written on papers or texted by the people and prayed out loud, anonymously, by two people from the congregation. After 3-4 prayers are read, the reader of the prayers will say 'Lord, we depend on your mercy" with the response: 'Hear our prayers." Pray-er: God of mercy. ALL: Hear our prayers.

Offering

All that we have and all that we are comes from God. Let us give back to God in a spirit of generosity. There will be enough. Please put your offering of gratitude to God in the plate as it passes by. Prayerfully consider giving a consistent financial gift to River of Hope so our community cannot just survive but thrive.

The watering can is for Laundry Love The Backpack is for pudding for Common Cup and the Backpack program.

Offering Song Everybody's Got Something to Offer



The Feast

Setting the Table

As the kids help set the table, they make a circle around the table and lead the congregation in the table prayer written by Martin Luther:

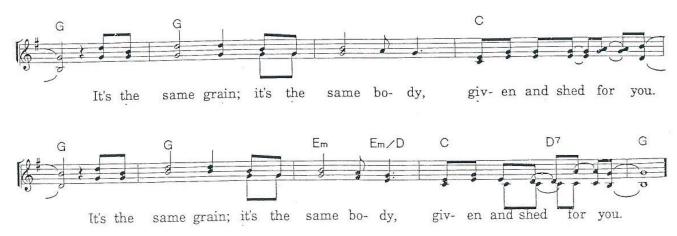
Let's pray: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. And let these gifts to us be blest. Blest be God who is our bread, may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to the Risen Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

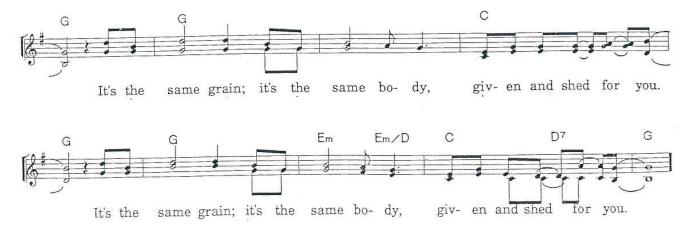
In the night when Jesus was betrayed by his best friends, he took bread. He blessed it and broke it and gave it to these same friends saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

SING:



After supper he took the cup, blessed it and gave it for all to drink saying, "This is the new covenant, the new promise, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."

SING:



Remembering his death, we cry out Amen! **Amen!** Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen! **Amen!** Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen.**

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal. O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself. O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one. O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, and the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever.

The Lord's Prayer

You are invited to join hands with those around you in prayer. If you are not the hand-holding type, then simply fold your hands in front of you or hang onto this bulletin as you pray.

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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Meal

You are welcome to this meal. If you hunger and thirst for grace and mercy that comes through Jesus Christ, then Christ has set this table just for you. Bring all that you are and all that you have to the table. You will be fed. You are forgiven. There is enough.

Communion Songs Given and Shed for You & For All the Saints

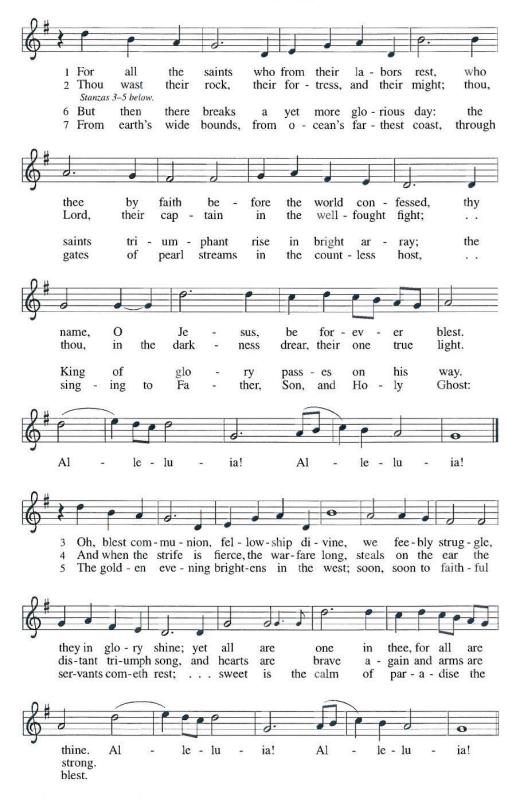
GIVEN AND SHED FOR YOU

John Ylvisaker

("Worried Man Blues")

American Tune





Text: William W. How, 1823-1897

Rusic: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Music from *The English Hymnal* outsied the USA© Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. Grace-filled God, your welcome of all who hunger and thirst at your table never ends. Thank you for your grace and your mercy that gathers us at this meal and gives us the gift of forgiveness and grace. At this table, we are one. Send us out as one. Let this meal bring us together. Amen.

The Sending

Blessing after Communion

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his peace. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

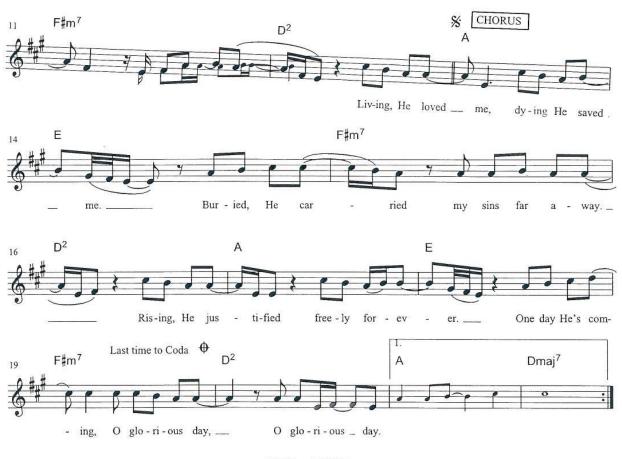
Why does our church exist? What is our purpose? We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.

MILESTONES

"It's time for milestones-a time of sharing milestones in our community. Big, small, good, bad. Come on up if you have one to share." After each person shares their milestone, the congregation responds by saying "MILESTONE!" "

Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)

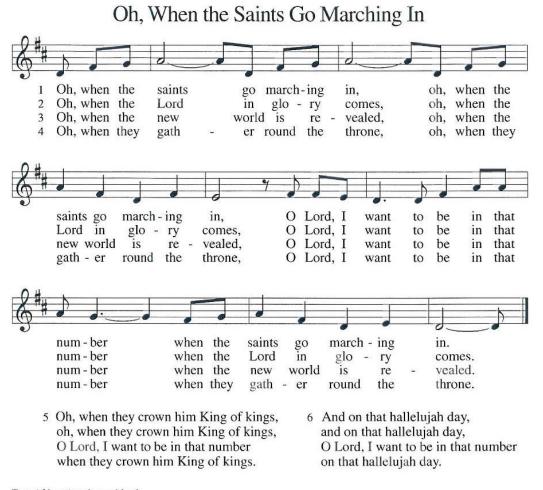
Words by John Wilbur Chapman and Mark Hall Music by Mark Hall and Michael Bleecker



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Blessing God bless you and keep you, God smile on you and gift you, God look you full in the face and make you prosper. Amen! Alleluia! Amen!

18



Text: African American spiritual Music: WHEN THE SAINTS. African American spiritual

Go in peace, share the hope of Jesus! Thanks be to God!

Music to Send You Out

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