



# The Trouble with Privilege

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020  
Sunday Worship at 10:30am



LUTHERAN CHURCH

[www.riverofhopehutchinson.org](http://www.riverofhopehutchinson.org)

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Gathering  
Music to Prepare Us For Worship

## Gathering Song

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Chorus: Open the eyes of my heart, Lord open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You, I want to see You

Repeat Chorus

To see You high and lifted up shinin' in the light of Your glory

Pour out Your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy

Chorus: Open the eyes of my heart, Lord open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You, I want to see You

Repeat Chorus

To see You high and lifted up shinin' in the light of Your glory

Pour out Your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy, we cry holy, holy, holy

You are holy, holy, holy,

I want to see you

Repeat 3X

Welcome, River Source, Clipboards

No Longer Strangers Prayer

Jesus, our teacher, **you saw the image of God in all those you met along the lake side, in the vineyards, and on the road. Give us eyes to see your face in all the people we meet. Equip us to meet them right where they are at in their journey. Amen**

**Meet Someone New** – In this time of social isolation and quarantine we continue to need to have social contact. We can do that through old fashioned cards and letters – consider sending one to a nursing home near you as a way to meet someone new.

## Greeting

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, we believe that God meets you here. We gather in the name of God the eternal Creator – Jesus Christ, God's only Son and the Holy Spirit – who is with you always... **And also with you.**

## Confession and Forgiveness

We are God's people, sheep of the Spirit's fold, lambs of Christ's flock, sinners of God's redeeming. **Amen.**

Let us come together in a time of confession before God, who already knows our hearts and welcomes our humility.

*Silence for reflection.*

Loving God,

**Our thoughts, our words, and our deeds are an open book to you.**

**You have seen where we fall short.**

**You know where we have strayed as individuals and as your church.**

**In your mercy, forgive us and guide us into right ways of being –**

**Ways of welcome, paths of mercy, habits of grace –**

**So that we may live renewed in the joy of our salvation, prepared, equipped,**

**And ready to meet Christ in our neighbors and in your creation.**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

God's ways are not our ways and God's thoughts are not our thoughts.

Before we were made, God brought creation out of nothing and peace out of chaos.

In this same love, God unyokes you from sin and binds you to a new life and new

living in Jesus Christ. Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the kingdom of God! **Amen!**

## Prayer of the Day

O Lord, **your son was not always received with respect and acceptance. Revel to us the places where we still resist the truth of his teaching today, that our hearts and lives might truly be transformed, for Jesus' sake, amen.**

## THE STORY

**Narrator:** Our story and God's story continues today, with a reading from Mark 12:1-12

**Narrator:** Then Jesus started telling them stories. "A man planted a vineyard. He fenced it, dug a winepress, erected a watchtower, turned it over to the farmhands, and went off on a trip

**Side 1:** At the time for harvest, he sent a servant back to the farmhands to collect his profits. “They grabbed him, beat him up, and sent him off empty-handed.

**Side 2:** So he sent another servant. That one they tarred and feathered. He sent another and that one they killed. And on and on, many others. Some they beat up, some they killed.

**Side 1:** “Finally there was only one left: a beloved son. In a last-ditch effort, he sent him, thinking, ‘Surely they will respect my son.’ “But those farmhands saw their chance. They rubbed their hands together in greed and said, ‘This is the heir! Let’s kill him and have it all for ourselves.’

**Side 2:** They grabbed him, killed him, and threw him over the fence. “What do you think the owner of the vineyard will do? Right. He’ll come and clean house. Then he’ll assign the care of the vineyard to others.

**Narrator:** Read it for yourselves in Scripture: That stone the masons threw out is now the cornerstone! This is God’s work; we rub our eyes—we can hardly believe it!” They wanted to lynch him then and there but, intimidated by public opinion, held back. They knew the story was about them. They got away from there as fast as they could.

**Narrator:** Stay tuned for the continuing saga that is our story and God’s story.

**ALL:** Thanks be to God.

**Sermon**

## Hymn – You Never Let Go

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death  
Your perfect love is casting out fear  
And even when I'm caught in the middle of the storms of this life  
I won't turn back I know You are near

And I will fear no evil for my God is with me  
And if my God is with me whom then shall I fear? Whom then shall I fear?

Oh no, You never let go through the calm and through the storm  
Oh no, You never let go in every high and every low  
Oh no, You never let go Lord, You never let go of me

And I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on  
A glorious light beyond all compare  
And there will be an end to these troubles but until that day comes  
We'll live to know You here on the earth

And I will fear no evil for my God is with me  
And if my God is with me whom then shall I fear? Whom then shall I fear?  
Oh no, You never let go through the calm and through the storm  
Oh no, You never let go in every high and every low  
Oh no, You never let go Lord, You never let go of me

Yes, I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on  
And there will be an end to these troubles but until that day comes  
Still I will praise You, still I will praise You

Yes, I can see a light that is coming for the heart that holds on  
And there will be an end to these troubles but until that day comes  
Still I will praise You, still I will praise You

Oh no, You never let go through the calm and through the storm  
Oh no, You never let go in every high and every low  
Oh no, You never let go Lord, You never let go of me

You never let, You never let go You never let go of me

## Prayers of the People

As we continue to focus on Love Without Limits, let us focus our prayers on these three areas:

*The people I struggle to love...*

*Where do I need love, and where do others need love...*

*Who taught me to love... and then will be prayed out loud, anonymously.*

Reader: Hear us O God,

**All: Your mercy is great.**

## Lord's Prayer

### Offering

**Worship Leader:** *We are grateful for your financial gifts; it's the only way churches are churches. Set up automatic giving by going to our website, [riverofhopehutchinson.org](http://riverofhopehutchinson.org) click "give" & go from there.*

## THE SENDING

Why does our church exist? What is our purpose?

**We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.**

### Purpose Sightings

**Worship Leader:** There are many opportunities to serve God and our neighbor – this is the time to lift those up!

## MILESTONES!

### Final Blessing

May the God of love fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

### **Sending Song – Go My Children**

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son's story, here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

Go in peace – Jesus is with you!   **Thanks be to God**