

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021



www.riverofhopehutchinson.org
Worship on Facebook Premiere
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Gathering

Gathering Song - Beneath The Cross of Jesus

Welcome

*Wherever you are on your journey of faith,
we believe God meets you right where you are, and you are welcome here.*

Greeting

We gather in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, our God of Mercy who is always with you, **and also with you**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together, Gracious God, **out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The Story

Narrator: Our story and God's story continues with a reading from the gospel of Luke. (Luke 9:51-62)

⁵¹ When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³ but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?"^[a] ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then^[b] they went on to another village. ⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹ To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ But Jesus^[c] said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those

at my home." ⁶² Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Stay tuned for the continuing saga that is our story and God's story.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

As we sing together, we know that God hears all our prayers, those spoken aloud and those carried in the quiet of our hearts. For those gathering on the Facebook Premiere, you are invited to write your prayers in the comment section on the right side of your screen. Wherever we are this day, God is with us, and God hears our prayers.

Confession of Sin

In the presence of God and of one another, let us confess that God is God and we are not.

Most holy and merciful God, **we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, 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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us. **Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

Imposition of Ashes

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.

May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

As we sing together, we invite you to mark the sign of the cross on your forehead, and on those gathered in your household this evening.

Hymn – Lamb of God

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ’s resurrection.

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

Prayers for the World

Together we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*Each petition will close with the words: God of Mercy
And you are invited to respond: **Hear our prayer***

Offering

This year we are supporting McLeod Alliance with our special Lenten offering. Since 1992, McLeod Alliance has provided free and confidential assistance to those affected by domestic violence in the McLeod County and surrounding areas.

Please consider giving directly to McLeod Alliance, either through mail (McLeod Alliance for Victims of Domestic Violence P.O. Box 393 Hutchinson, MN 55350) or by giving electronically on their website (<https://www.mcleodalliance.org/donate/>).

If you let the church office know of your contribution, we will include that information in our record as we seek to meet our goal of \$1,000.00 raised. Thank you for your continued generosity and for your partnership together in God's work for the world.

Offering Music – Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

The Feast

Setting the Table

*As we prepare our tables with gifts of bread, wine/juice, the children lead us as we pray together: **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.***

Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord is with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

On the night in which he was betrayed...

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Meal

This is not my table or River of Hope's table, but rather this is Christ's table and all are welcome. 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.

"This is the body of Christ given for you and the blood of Christ shed for you."

Communion Song - Just As I Am

Blessing and Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. Compassionate God, **you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The Sending

Blessing

As you leave this space,
May our mouths speak of God's goodness.
May our arms hold those in need.
May our feet walk toward justice.
May our hearts trust their worth.
May our souls dance in God's grace.
And may this be our rhythm— Again and again and again,
Until God's promised day.

In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,
Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace. **Amen**



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