

Jesus Heals Legion

14th Sunday after Pentecost

September 6th, 2020 Sunday Virtual Worship at 10:30am



Call to Worship

One: Don't hold back. Bring all of yourself,

All: For God loves us just as we are.

One: Don't hold back. Bring all of yourself,

All: For all of us are welcome here— scars and fears, depression and doubt, hope

and joy, light and laughter.

One: Don't hold back. Bring all of yourself,

All: For God longs to be with us, so let us worship the God of love.

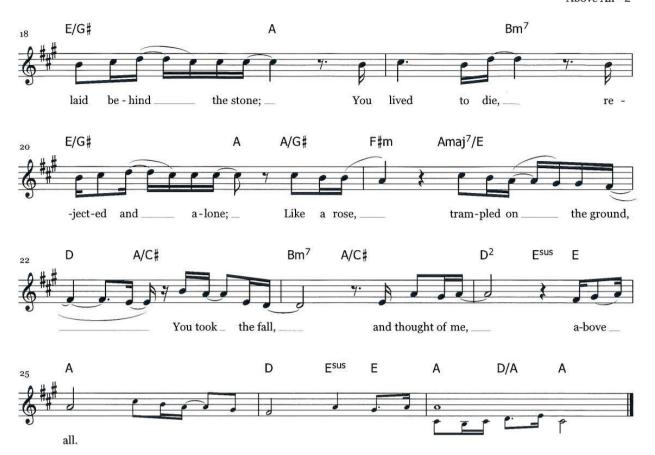
Gathering Song – Above All & You Are Holy

Above All

Words and Music by Lenny LeBlanc and Paul Baloche

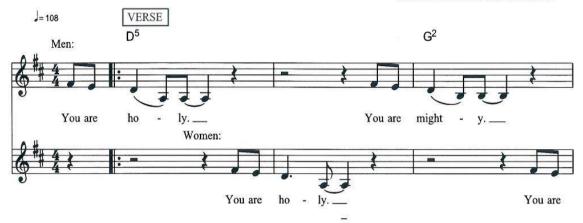


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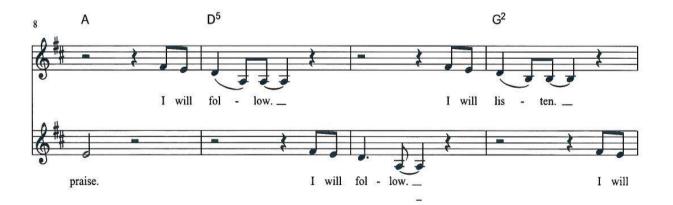


You Are Holy (Prince Of Peace)

Words and Music by Marc Imboden and Tammi Rhoton

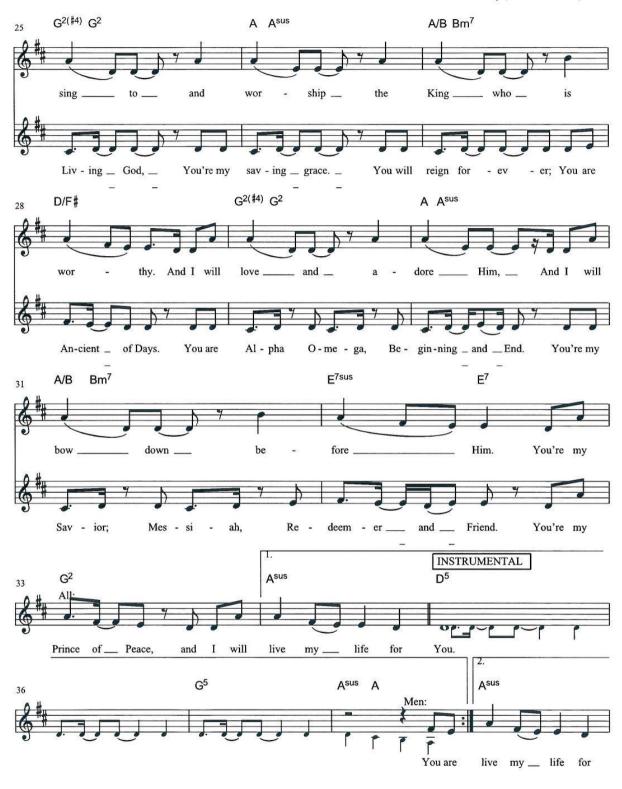


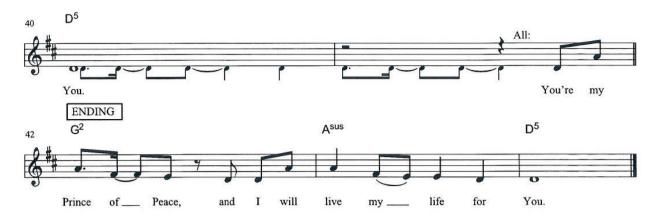




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Introduce the Theme with Kids

Welcome

No Longer Strangers Prayer

Holy Spirit of God,

You blow into our lives and send us in directions we never would have gone on our own. Send us into the lives of people we don't know, people we would call 'stranger' and reveal yourself right there to us. We are no longer strangers to each other – you make us brother and sister. Amen.

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

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

Silence for prayer and contemplation.

Faithful and Merciful God, you know us. You know our lives. Clean up our hearts and minds. By your Holy Spirit, make us new.

All: Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

God we confess—we are loose ends. You give us the gift of wisdom and we seek our answers in all the wrong places.

You give us the gift of community, and we waste that gift unraveling relationships to build individual identities.

You give us the gift of time, and we spend it seeking our own interests.

Forgive us for our frayed ends and self-centered hearts.

Give us the wisdom we need to seek you when life falls apart.

Unravel the sin in us and replace it with love. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

God of love,

We admit that there are things we sweep under the rug— shame, self-doubt, mental health struggles, and our own insecurities. We know that is not what you want for us. Your love is for the healthy and the sick parts of everyone. In Jesus, there is no stigma, fear, or bias.

Help us to love and live in the same way, free from stigma, fear and bias. Forgive us when we hate ourselves or distance ourselves from others, simply for being human. You long for better, and we long for you. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

THE STORY

Narrator: Our story and God's story continues with a reading from Mark 5:1-20

Narrator: Jesus and the disciples arrived at the other side of the lake, in the region of

the Gerasenes. When Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the

burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain.

Congregation: Whenever he was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he

snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones. When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to meet him, and bowed low before him. With a shriek, he screamed, "Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In the name of God, I beg you, don't torture me!" For Jesus had already said

to the spirit, "Come out of the man, you evil spirit."

Narrator:

Then Jesus demanded, "What is your name?" And he replied, "My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man." Then the evil spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place. There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. "Send us into those pigs," the spirits begged. "Let us enter them."

Congregation: So Jesus gave them permission. The evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of about 2,000 pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water. The herdsmen fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. People rushed out to see what had happened. A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons. He was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. Then those who had seen what happened told the others about the demon-possessed man and the pigs. And the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone. As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go with him.

Narrator:

But Jesus said, "No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been." So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them

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

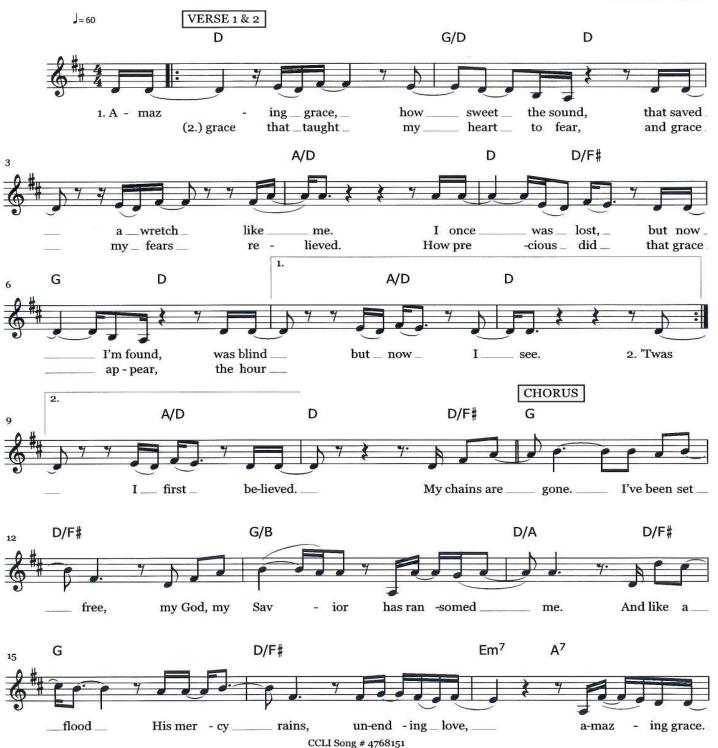
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn – Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Words and Music by John Newton, Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio



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Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) - 2





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, <u>riverofhopehutchinson.org</u> and follow the directions to "give online".

Prayers of the People

As we gather our hearts for prayer,

Each petition will end with the words: Lord in your mercy.

You will respond: *Hear our prayers*.

Amazing Grace (Gracious God, give us eyes to see you in every person we meet — those who look like us, and those who do not. Those who worship like us and those who do not. Those who think like us and those who do not. Give us your eyes of compassion to see all people with eyes of love.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

- God, you have claimed each person hearing these prayers today as your beloved child. Remind us that no one is outside of your boundaries. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer
- Be with all who suffer today, O God, from physical illnesses, mental illnesses and addictions. Use us to bring hope and healing into their world. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer
- Be with all who grieve any loss right now, Lord. Loss of a loved one, loss of a job, loss of a relationship may you give them glimpses of new life in the midst of their grief.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Divine Source of Love and Life, Holy is your unspeakable name.

May your Way of Love resound through earth, heaven in our midst.

All we need to live and thrive we receive from you, Creator; forgive us when we turn away, as we forgive each other.

Keep us on the path of Wisdom, away from wicked tyranny; Spirit ever breathe through us, empower us with hope.

From you, through you and in you, are all things, now and always; to you be all honor and praise. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Have some water handy. With water on your finger tip, make a sign of the cross on the forehead of each family member.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

THE SENDING

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

Purpose Sightings

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

MILESTONES!

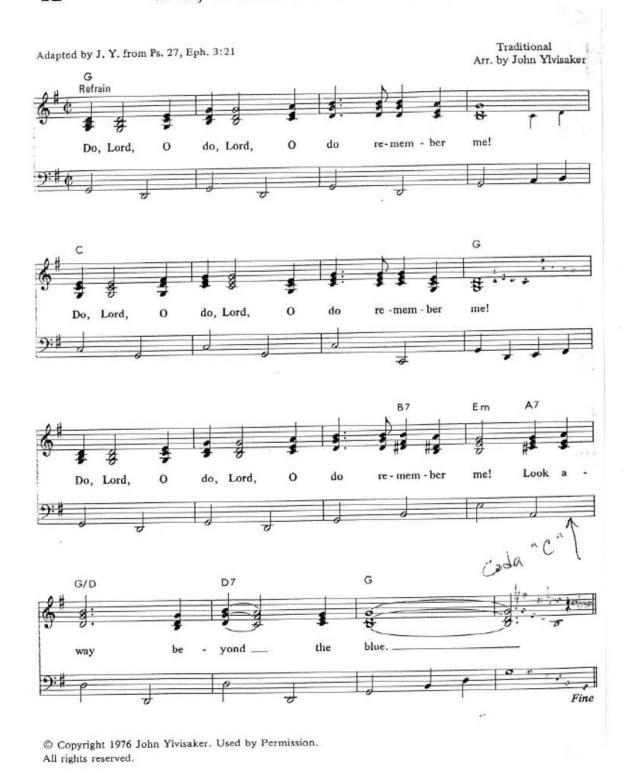
Please share Milestones in the comment section to celebrate together.

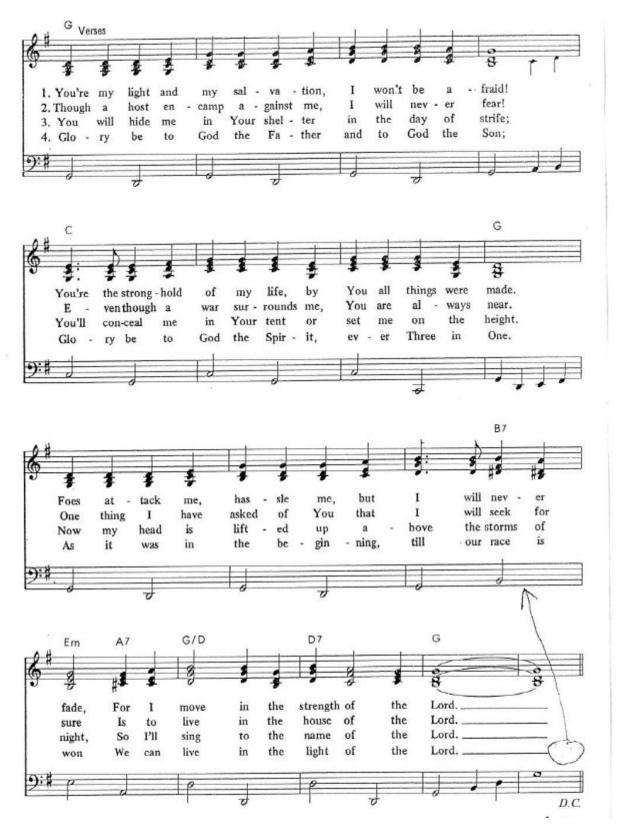
Final Blessing

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sending Song – Do Lord! Psalm 27

41 DO, LORD! : PSALM 27





Go in peace – Serve the Lord! Thanks be to God

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