

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 14, 2021



[www.riverofhopehutchinson.org](http://www.riverofhopehutchinson.org)  
Worship on Facebook Premiere  
Sundays at 10:30am

# Gathering

Music to Prepare Us for Worship

Gathering Songs - Alas, And Did My Savior Bleed & The Wonderful Cross

Welcome

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

No Longer Strangers Prayer

Let us pray: **Gracious God, help us to see your image revealed in all of creation, especially in those whom we call stranger. Guide us as we seek to join you in journeying alongside all in need. Amen.**

Time with Kids

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the keeper of the covenant,  
the source of steadfast love,  
our rock and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

Dear Friends, Let us confess that God is God and we are not.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Fountain of living water,  
**pour out your mercy over us.**  
**Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**  
**Rebuild what we have ruined**  
**and mend what we have torn.**  
**Wash us in your cleansing flood.**  
**Make us alive in the Spirit**  
**to follow in the way of Jesus,**  
**as healers and restorers of the world you so love.**  
**Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails.  
The promise rests on grace:  
by the saving love of Jesus Christ,  
the wisdom and power of God,  
your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more.  
Journey in the way of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

## 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.**

Only By Our Lonesome – Messy Mass

Kyrie- Messy Mass

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray: **Divine Word, You sent Moses to speak law to the people and bring order to chaos. You sent prophets to speak repentance and bring hope to the hopeless. You sent your son, Jesus, to become your living Word. Open our ears to hear your word, and our hearts to reflect the light of your truth to others, for the sake of the Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# The Story

**Narrator:** Our story and God's story continues with a reading from the gospel of Luke. (Luke 16:19-31)

19“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. 22The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. 23In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. 24He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ 25But Abraham said,

'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. 26Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' 27He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—28for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' 29Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' 30He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' 31He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

### Hymn – Jesus Keep me Near The Cross

*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.*

### Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a God who is everywhere and right here,  
Bigger than the sky and in the smallest details,  
All at once and in every moment.  
We believe that God meets us where we are—  
In heartbreak and high hopes,  
Around crowded tables and in quiet homes,  
In joy and in suffering, In loneliness and in connection,  
In sanctuaries and in living rooms, In marches and in waiting rooms.  
We believe that nothing we do or leave undone  
Can distance us from God's love.  
God is forever drawing us close and pulling us in.  
Again and again, God meets us where we are  
And invites us into wholeness.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that.

## 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 – Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

# 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- Mess With Us – Messy Mass

### 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

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

### MILESTONES! – Lord, Jesus, You Shall be my Song

*It's time for sharing milestones - a time where we join together as a community to share the big, small, good, and hard milestones in our life. Splash in the water this morning and remember that God joins us in hearing these milestones today. If you gather with us on Facebook Premiere you are invited to share your milestones in the comment section.*

## 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**

## Sending Song - Let The River Flow

Go in peace – serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God**



## Music to Send You Out

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PRAYER OF THE DAY from Narrative Lectionary Resources @ WorkingPreacher.org

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH AND BLESSING "Liturgy adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org") A Sanctified Art LLC [|@sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, POST COMMUNION BLESSING and CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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COVID PRAYERS adapted from A Prayer to Mark the One Year of the Pandemic @ saltproject.org

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