

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 21, 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 - Forever & Vagabonds

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 ( From Messy Mass)

Kyrie ( From Messy Mass)

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray: **Lord of the lost, We are quick to judge and slow to accept those whom we consider lower than ourselves. But you show us the way of acceptance, forgiveness, and peace. We honor your name for teaching us to love, for the sake of the one who is the essence of love itself, Jesus Christ our loving Lord. Amen.**

# The Story

**Narrator:** Our story and God's story continues with a reading from the gospel of Luke 18:31-19:10

31Then he took the twelve aside and said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. 32For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. 33After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again." 34But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said. 35As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. 36When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. 37They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." 38Then he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 39Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David,

have mercy on me!" 40 Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, 41 "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me see again." 42 Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has saved you." 43 Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God. He entered Jericho and was passing through it. 2 A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. 3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." 6 So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. 7 All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." 8 Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." 9 Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

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

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Hymn – When I Survey the Wonderous 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 (vs. 1)

# 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 (from 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 (Vs. 1)

*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 - Take My Life That I May Be

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



## Music to Send You Out

*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2021 All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress  
Liturgies Annual License #SAS023086.CCLI License # 3277748.  
OneLicense.net license # A-726070*

PRAYER OF THE DAY liturgy from 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)  
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS From *Sundays and Seasons.com*. Copyright © 2021  
PHOTOS used with permission from Unsplash

ONLY BY OUR LONESOME  
from "Messy Mass"  
©2014 Words and Music written by Nate Crary  
All rights reserved. Used by permission

KYRIE  
from "Messy Mass"

©2014 Words and Music written by Nate Crary  
All rights reserved. Used by permission

MESS WITH US  
from "Messy Mass"  
©2014 Words and Music written by Nate Crary  
All rights reserved. Used by permission