

Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 19, 2023



www.riverofhopehutchinson.org
Worship on Facebook Premiere, Sundays at 10:30am

Gathering

Prelude

Opening Song – "'Open the Eyes of my Heart"

Open The Eyes Of My Heart

Words and Music by
Paul Baloche

$\text{♩} = 112$ **CHORUS**
 D^5 $A/C\#$

O - pen the eyes _ of my heart, _ Lord, _ o - pen the eyes _ of my heart; .

4 G^2/B G^2 D^{sus} D
_ I want to see You, _ I want to see You. _

8 D^{sus} **VERSE** A Bm
To see You high and lift - ed up, _ shin -

12 G^2 A^{sus} A 3
- ing in the light of Your glo - ry. _ Pour out Your pow'r and love; .

15 Bm Em^{11} A^{sus} 1. $D.C.$ 2.
_ As we sing ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. _

BRIDGE
20 D^5 $A/C\#$
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, _ ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly; _

CCLI Song # 2298355
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24 G^2/B G^2 1. D^{sus} D

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, — I want to see You. —

27 D^{sus} repeat as desired 2. D^{sus} D

— see You. —

The musical score is for a song in G major. It consists of two staves. The first staff starts at measure 24 with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by eighth notes A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. There is a triplet of eighth notes (F#4, E4, D4) followed by a quarter rest. The lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, — I want to see You. —' are written below the staff. Chords G^2/B and G^2 are indicated above the first two measures. A first ending bracket covers measures 28-29, with chords D^{sus} and D above them. The second staff starts at measure 27 with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It begins with a half note D4, followed by a quarter rest, then a repeat sign. After the repeat, there is a half note D4, followed by eighth notes E4, F#4, E4, D4. The lyrics '— see You. —' are written below the staff. Chords D^{sus} and D are indicated above the first and second measures of this staff.

Welcome * Welcome Pads * Post it Notes

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

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.**

Prayer of Confession

(Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-9, Luke 9:28-36)

The presence of God surrounds us, and yet too often we go about our daily lives oblivious to the power of Holy Spirit moving in our midst. Let us together confess the ways in which we are blind to God's ever-present care.

God of rainbows and puddles,
 Lover of snowshowers and clear blue skies,
we confess to you and to one another
the many ways we fail to live the lives you want for us.
 We make ourselves busy with many things,
and neglect to listen to your voice.

All too often we see the worst in the world around us,
and look past your signs of hope.

We are quick to voice our dissent with one another,
**and refuse to see your face
in the persons with whom we disagree.**

We focus on our own hurts, anger, and disappointments,
and close our hearts to your transforming grace.

O Holy Light of the world, forgive us.

Open our eyes to your endless possibilities.

Give us courage to listen for your call to us.

Take our hearts of stone,

and make them new again with your holy love. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (2nd Peter 1:19)

Do not be afraid. God's light has come into the world and has scattered the darkness; the morning star rises in our hearts. Rejoice! For God does not hold our sins against us, but embraces us as God's own beloved.

~ Rev. Nancy J, on her blog, [wonderings through life and other such nonsense](#).

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray,

**God of justice, peace and righteousness
come into our midst this day**

**Breathe your breath,
your Spirit of prophecy,
your energy,
your enlivening,
your imagination on us.**

Wake us up

Open our eyes

Unplug our ears

That we might hear

That we might see

That we might grieve

That we might dream

**That we might follow the ways of your extraordinary rule of love
Amen**

~ posted on the **Jonny**

Baker blog. <http://jonnybaker.blogs.com/jonnybaker/2012/07/wake-up.html>

Greet Someone New

Music to bring us back together:

Children's Time

THE STORY

(Narrator): Our story and God's story continues today with a reading from John 9: 1-41

6 Voices Needed: Narrator, Disciple, Jesus, Man born blind, Pharisee 1, Pharisee 2.

NARRATOR: While walking along the road, Jesus saw a man who was blind since his birth.

DISCIPLE: Teacher, who sinned? Who is responsible for this man's blindness? Did he commit sins that merited this punishment? If not his sins, is it the sins of his parents?

JESUS: Neither. His blindness cannot be explained or traced to any particular person's sins. He is blind so the deeds of God may be put on display. While it is daytime, we must do the works of the One who sent Me. But when the sun sets and night falls, this work is impossible. Whenever I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.

NARRATOR: After He said these things, He spat on the ground and mixed saliva and dirt to form mud, which He smeared across the blind man's eyes.

JESUS: *(to the blind man)*: Go, wash yourself in the pool of Siloam.

NARRATOR: Siloam means “sent,” and its name reminded us that his healing was sent by God. The man went, washed, and returned to Jesus, his eyes now alive with sight. Then neighbors and others who knew him were confused to see a man so closely resembling the blind beggar running about.

BLIND MAN

Author Unknown

Blind man sits by the road and he cries (3X)
He cries, “Oh, oh, oh, show me the way,
Show me the way, show me the way
The way to go home.”

We all sit by the road and we cry (3X)
We cry, “Oh, oh, oh, show us the way,
Show us the way, show us the way
The way to go home.”

TOWNSPEOPLE (Side 1): Isn't this the man we see every day sitting and begging in the streets?

OTHERS (Side 2): This is the same man.

TOWNSPEOPLE (Side 1): This cannot be him. But this fellow bears an uncanny resemblance to the blind man.

MAN BORN BLIND: I am the same man. It's me!

OTHERS (Side 2): How have your lifeless eyes been opened?

MAN BORN BLIND: A man named Jesus approached me and made mud from the ground and applied it to my eyes. He then said to me, “Go, wash yourself in the pool of Siloam.” I went and washed, and suddenly I could see.

ALL TOWNSPEOPLE (ALL): Where is this man who healed you?

MAN BORN BLIND: I don't know.

NARRATOR: The townspeople brought the formerly blind beggar to appear before the Pharisees the same day Jesus healed him, which happened to be on the Sabbath Day. The Pharisees began questioning him, looking for some explanation for how he could now see.

MAN BORN BLIND: He smeared mud on my eyes, and I washed; now I see.

PHARISEE 1: God can't possibly be behind this man because He is breaking the rules of the Sabbath.

PHARISEE 2: How can such a lawbreaking scoundrel do something like this?

NARRATOR: The Pharisees were at odds with one another about Jesus and could not agree whether His power came from God or the devil.

PHARISEE 1: *(to the formerly blind man)*: What do you say about this man, about the fact He opened your eyes so you could see?

MAN BORN BLIND: I have no doubt—this man is a prophet.

NARRATOR: Some of the Jews suspected the whole situation was a charade, that this man was never blind. So they summoned the man's parents to testify about his condition.

PHARISEE 2: Is this man your son? Do you testify that he has been blind from birth? How therefore does he now see?

PARENTS: (ALL Parents) We can tell you this much: he is our son, and he was born blind. But his new sight is a complete mystery to us! We do not know the man who opened his eyes. Why don't you ask our son? He is old enough to speak for himself.

NARRATOR: The man's parents were a bit evasive because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. It had been rumored that anyone who spoke of Jesus as the Anointed One would be expelled from the

synagogue. So they deferred the thorny question to their son, and the Pharisees called on him a second time.

PHARISEE 1: Give God the credit. He's the One who healed you. All glory belongs to God. We are persuaded this man you speak of is a sinner who defies God.

MAN BORN BLIND: If this man is a sinner, I don't know. I am not qualified to say. I only know one thing: I was blind, and now I see.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

6 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 7 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 8 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 9 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 10 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

11 now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 12 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 13 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 14 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 15 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

PHARISEE 2: What did He do to you? How did He give you sight?

MAN BORN BLIND: Listen, I've already answered all these questions, and you don't like my answers. Do you really need me to say it all over again? Are you thinking about joining up with Him and becoming His followers?

PHARISEE 1: You're one of His followers, but we follow Moses. We have confidence that God spoke to Moses, but this man you speak of is a mystery; we don't even know where He comes from.

MAN BORN BLIND: Isn't it ironic that you, our religious leaders, don't even know where He comes from; yet He gave me sight! We know that God does not listen to sinners, but He does respond and work through those who worship Him and do His will. No one has ever heard of someone opening the eyes of any person blind from birth. This man must come from God; otherwise, this miracle would not be possible. Only God can do such things.

PHARISEE 2: You were born under a cloud of sin. How can you, of all people, lecture us?

NARRATOR: The religious leaders banished him from their presence. Jesus heard what had happened and sought out the man.

JESUS: Do you believe in the Son of Man?

MAN BORN BLIND: I want to believe, Lord. Who is He?

JESUS: You have seen His face with your new eyes, and you are talking to Him now.

MAN BORN BLIND: Lord, I do believe.

NARRATOR: The man bowed low to worship Jesus.

I'm A Believer

Words and Music by Neil Diamond

I thought love was only true in fairy tales,
meant for someone else but not for me.
Love was out to get me. That's the way it seemed.
Disappointment haunted all my dreams.

Then I saw *your* face; now I'm A Believer!
Not a trace of doubt in my mind.
I'm in love, and I'm A Believer!
I couldn't leave *you* if I tried.

I thought love was more or less a givin' thing;
seems the more I gave the less I got.
What's the use in tryin'? all you get is pain.
When I needed sunshine, I got rain.

Then I saw *your* face; now I'm A Believer!
Not a trace of doubt in my mind.
I'm in love, and I'm A Believer!
I couldn't leave *you* if I tried.

Instrumental

JESUS: I have entered this world to announce a verdict that changes everything. Now those without sight may begin to see, and those who see may become blind.

(ALL): Surely we are not blind, are we?

JESUS: If you were blind, you would be without sin. But because you claim you can see, your sin is ever present.

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

(ALL): Thanks be to God.

Sermon – Pastor Hans Peterson

Song of the Day – “Everyone is a Child of God”

EVERYONE IS A CHILD OF GOD

Larry Olson
Hans Peterson

G D/F# E m Cadd9 G

We are wait - ing, we are
You are good - ness, you are

D/F# E m Cadd9

watch - ing, we are hop - ing to see in the
mer - cy, you are deep mys - ter - y. In the

G D/F# E m

dis - tance, in the dark - ness a light that sets us free.
si - lence you have spo - ken a love that sets us free.

Cadd9 % G D/F# Cadd9

To see ev' - ry - one, ev' - ry - one is a child of God.

D G D/F# Cadd9 3rd time to Coda

See ev' - ry - one, ev' - ry - one, is a child, a

D G 2. D/F# E m Cadd9 G

beau - ti - ful child of God. Set us free.

E m Cadd9 D D.S. al Coda

Set us free to see ev' - ry - one,

D G D/F# E m Cadd9 G

beau - ti - ful child of God.
opt. vocal tag: We are wait - ing. We are watch - ing.

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: Lord, who is mercy:

*And you are invited to respond: **Hear our prayer.***

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offering

Worship Leader: *Thank you for your continued generosity and for all the ways you support God's ministry here at River of Hope. You can contact the church office and sign up for simply giving or give online or drop a check off at the church office.*

Offering Song: "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters



- 1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
- 2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
- 3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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The Feast

Setting the Table *the children lead us as we sing together:*

O Come Lord Jesus be our Guest and let these gifts to us be blest. All praise to God who is our bread, may all the world be clothed and fed.

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.

As we gather in this place, we remember, that in the night when Jesus was betrayed by his best friends, he took bread. He blessed it and broke it and gave it to these same friends saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup, blessed it and gave it for all to drink saying, "This is the new covenant, the new promise, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me." Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

We pray our common prayer that Christ taught us.

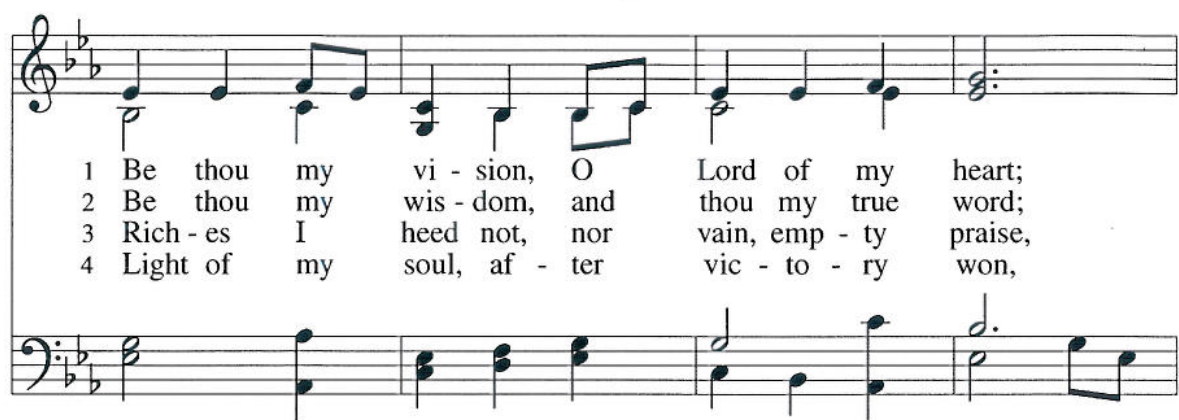
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

This is Christ's table. It's a table of love and welcome. It's a table of fellowship with the poor and communion with the earth.

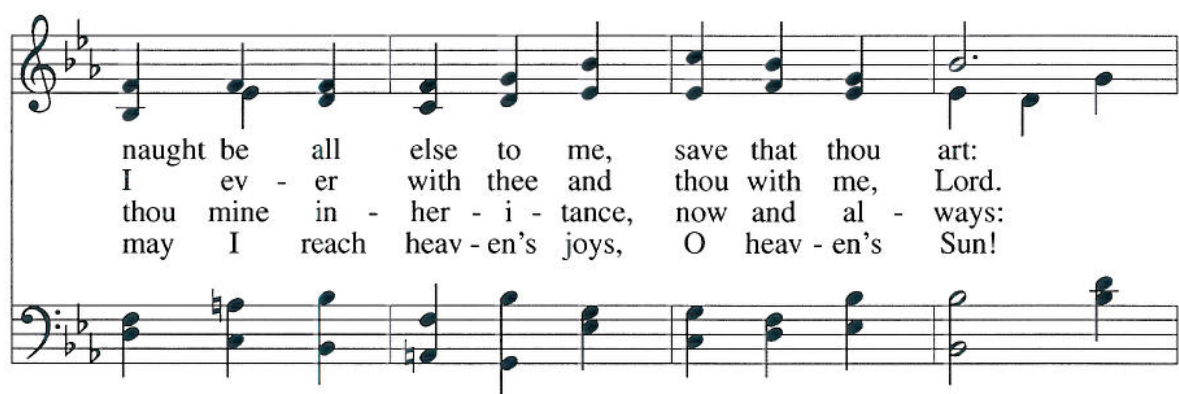
So, come, those of you with great faith and those of you who wish you had more. Come, those of you who have tried to follow Jesus and those of you who have failed. Come, those of you who depend on this meal for your lives, and those of you for whom it is a strange thing. These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion Song: "Be Thou My Vision", "The Power of your Love", "Healer of our Every Ill"

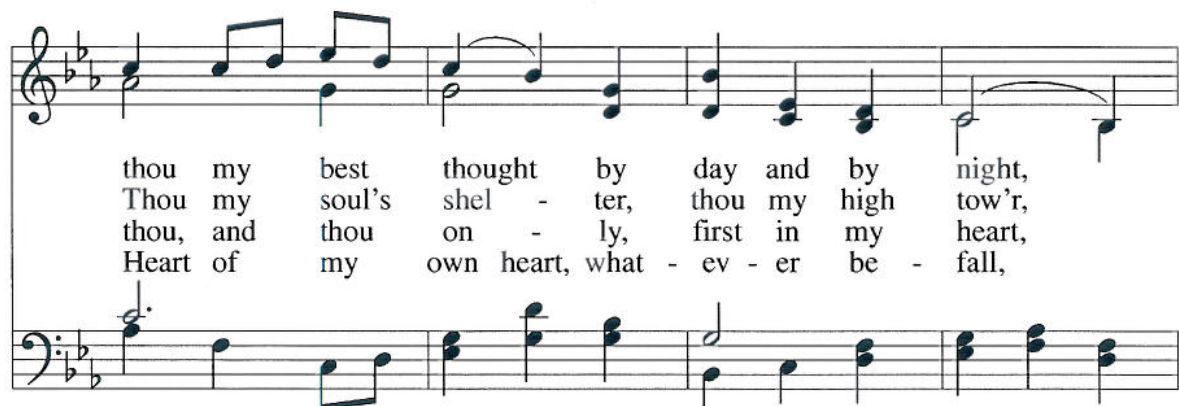
Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,
 thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

The Power Of Your Love

Words and Music by
Geoff Bullock

$\text{♩} = 85$ **VERSE**

$A\flat$ $E\flat/G$ Fm^7 Cm^7

1. Lord I come to You, _____ let my heart be changed, re-newed;
2. Lord un-veil my eyes, _____ let me see You face to face; _

4 Fm^7 $E\flat$ $D\flat$ $E\flat^{7sus}$ $E\flat^7$ Fm^7

_____ Flow - ing from the grace that I found _____ in You.
_____ The know-ledge of Your love, as You live, _____ in me.

8 $E\flat^{7sus}$ $E\flat^7$ $A\flat$ $E\flat/G$ Fm^7

And Lord I've come to know _____ the weak-ness - es I
Lord re - new my mind _____ as Your will un -

11 Cm^7 Fm^7 $E\flat$ $D\flat$ $E\flat^{7sus}$ $E\flat^7$

see _____ in me _____ will be stripped a - way _____ by the pow'r of Your love.
-folds _____ in my life, _____ in liv-ing ev - 'ry day _____ by the pow'r of Your love.

CHORUS

15 $D\flat/A\flat$ $A\flat$ $E\flat/G$ Fm^7 $E\flat$ $D\flat$ $D\flat/F$ $E\flat$

_____ Hold me close, _____ let Your love sur -

19 $D\flat/A\flat$ $E\flat$ $A\flat$ $E\flat/G$ Fm^7 $E\flat$ $D\flat$ $D\flat/F$ $E\flat$ $E\flat^7$

-round _____ me, bring me near, _____ draw me to Your _

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23 $A\flat$ $B\flat m^7$ $A\flat/C$ $G\flat/A\flat$ $A\flat^7$ $D\flat$ $D\flat/F$ $E\flat$

— side. — And as I wait, — I'll rise up like the

27 $D\flat/A\flat$ $A\flat$ $E\flat/G$ Fm^7 $E\flat$

ea - gle, and I will soar with You, Your spir - it leads me

30 $D\flat$ $D\flat/E\flat$ $D\flat/A\flat$ $E\flat$

on in the pow'r of Your love. —

32 1. $A\flat$ $E\flat^{sus}$ $E\flat^7$ 2. $A\flat$

Healer of Our Every Ill

Refrain



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain



peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
 still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
 ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
 way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

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Blessing after Communion

Now may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
 strengthen you and keep you in his peace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

God of the abundant table,
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal
with bread for the journey.
Give us your grace on the road
that we might serve our neighbors with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

The Sending

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

MILESTONES! – “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” 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.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
 Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

Final Blessing

May God, who comes to us in the things of this world,
 bless your eyes and be in your seeing.

May Christ, who looks upon you
 with deepest love, bless your eyes
 and widen your gaze.

May the Spirit, who perceives what is
 and what may yet be,
 bless your eyes and sharpen your vision.

May the Sacred Three bless your eyes and cause you to see.

~ from *In the Sanctuary of Women*, copyright © Jan L. Ri

Sending Song: "I Saw the Light"

I Saw The Light

Words and Music by
Hank Williams, Sr.

♩ = 112

VERSE

E

E/G#



1. I wan-dered so aim-less, — life filled with sin,
2. Just like a blind man I wan-dered a-long,
3. I was a fool to — wan-der and stray,

5

A

E



I would - nt let my dear Sav - ior in; Then Je - sus
Wor - ries and fears I claimed for my own; Then, like the
Straight is the gate and nar - row the way; Now I have

10

A/E E



came like a strang - er in the night— Praise the Lord! _____
blind man that God gave back his sight— Praise the Lord! _____
trad - ed the wrong for the right— Praise the Lord! _____

CHORUS

15

E/B

B⁷

E

E



I saw the light. I saw the light, — I saw the
I saw the light.
I saw the light.

20

A

E



light, — No more in dark - ness, no more in night; — (And)

25 A/E

now Im so hap - py, no sor - row in sight- Praise the

30 E E/B B⁷ 1, 2. E A/E E 3. E

Lord! I saw the light. light.

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

Music to Send You Out

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