

Welcome to **OUR SAVIOUR'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
343 Scott Street, Ripon Wisconsin (920) 748-2544
www.OurSavioursUCCRipon.com

Mid-week Lenten Service

March 6, 2024

** All who are able please stand*

L: Leader; P: People

PRELUDE

Accompanist: Nicole Burdick

WORDS OF WELCOME

L: Lord God, in this season of Lent we look forward to our remembrance of Jesus' death and our celebration of his resurrection. We pray that your Spirit will renew in us today our anticipation for these events and our awareness that Jesus' death and resurrection are a sure source of hope and life. In the power of Jesus' name we pray.

P: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Let us worship God, for whom our souls thirst and our bodies long.

P: Listen, listen to me, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.

L: We have come to hear the Word God has sent.

P: God's Word will not return empty but will accomplish through us his holy purpose.

L: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

P: Then we will go out with joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills will sing; the trees of the field will clap their hands.

*HYMN: "All People that on Earth do Dwell"

R2/Insert

*INVOCATION

ALL: 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 tenderness and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy in Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WITNESS OF FAITH: Matthew 25:1-13

CALL TO CONFESSION

L: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess our sins to almighty God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: God of comfort and mercy, you sent your prophets to proclaim, “Make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.” We confess we have not done as you asked; instead, we have sinned in thoughts, words, and deeds by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

[silent confession]

In your mercy, forgive us, O Lord; help us to proclaim your message. Equip us to walk more faithfully in the footsteps of Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Receive the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God!

HYMN: “O Sacred Head Now Wounded” R127/Insert

MEDITATION: “The Ten Virgins” Rev. Kevin Mundell

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN: “Ride On, Ride On” R124/Insert

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

L: Compassionate God, we offer you these gifts as signs of our time and labor. Receive the offering of our lives and feed us with your grace, that in the midst of death all creation might feast on your unending life in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

P: Amen.

***LENTEN BENEDICTION**

L: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

P: Amen.

***Postlude**

Scripture: **Matthew 25:1-13**

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you; I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.