

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

Mid-week Lenten Service

February 21, 2024

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*\* 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, who has done great things.

**P: We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.**

L: Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

**P: We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!**

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

**P: We praise God for the grace that has saved us. Alleluia! We rejoice!**

\*HYMN: "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

R123/Insert

\*INVOCATION

***ALL: All-knowing and all-caring God, we gather this day drained by another week. We are like a parched desert, empty and in need of replenishment. Visit us with your presence, saturate us with your Spirit, and bathe us in your streams of living water, that our lives might acknowledge and worship you to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ. Amen!***

WITNESS OF FAITH: Matthew 21:33-44

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: Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that, truly repenting of our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.***

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**L:** The Lord God said: I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. Brothers and sisters: In Christ, all God's promises are "Yes." Hear the good news: Through Christ, our minds and hearts are cleansed, healed, and renewed!

**P: Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN:** "My Song is Love Unknown" R74/Insert

**MEDITATION:** "The Wicked Husbandmen" Rev. Kevin Mundell

#### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

**HYMN:** "Behold the Lamb of God" R117/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 21:33-44**

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So, they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’?

Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”