

* = Please stand as you are comfortable.

Bold type indicates congregational responses.

- **Welcome! No matter your background, circumstance, or footing in faith your presence is valued and celebrated as a part of the beloved community of God today.**
- *Your generosity is appreciated and encouraged as it makes a difference in the lives of many. Gifts and offerings may be placed in the plate at the entrance before, during, or after the service. To give electronically, please visit richfield-lutheran.org/give*

As we gather...

We continue the early summer series, “Ruth, Esther, and the Hidden Hand of God” into Chapter 3 of Ruth where new love, faithfulness, and life emerge for Ruth, and in extension to Naomi through both the faithfulness of Ruth and Boaz to each other and the tenets of faithfully following God’s good wishes and commands. How may this story give hope to us when we face circumstances which seem at an end? Is there boldness in faith to take steps forward, acting in hope even unsure of what will happen? Can we trust God to carry us through the wilderness? It will be a worship to bring confidence and assurance.

I. GATHERING

PRELUDE *Air From (Water Music Suite)* **Handel**
(The prelude gathers us in the Lord’s presence. You are invited to center through it.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, Holy Spirit, wind of God, breath of Life.
Come, Holy Spirit, our Advocate, our Counselor.
Come, Holy Spirit, teacher of Wisdom, Reminder of Christ.
Come, Holy Spirit, granter of forgiveness, giver of peace.
Come, Holy Spirit, speak God’s mighty acts through us.
Come, Holy Spirit, bless this worship with your presence. Amen.

WELCOME

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Gracious God,

We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus. Shower us with your Spirit, bind us to your heart and to each other in faith, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. Amen.

In God's Holy spirit and the gift of baptism you are given new birth, cleansed from sin, and raised to eternal life. God stir up in you wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge, love, and fear of God, and joy in God's presence, now and forever.

Amen.

*** GATHERING HYMN**

I Love to Tell the Story

ELW #661

*** GREETING**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Faithful God, like Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz, you have called us, your servants, to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, and through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out and act with good courage, not knowing where we go, but trusting that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

II. WORD

FIRST READING: Ruth 3:1-18

(Upon Naomi's encouragement and advice, Ruth proposes to Boaz. Flattered by the action and Ruth's loyalty, Boaz acts to bring Ruth into the family.)

Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. ² Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. ³ Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴ When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do." ⁵ She said to her, "All that you say I will do."

⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had instructed her. ⁷ When Boaz had eaten and drunk and was in a contented mood, he went to lie down at

the end of the heap of grain. Then she came stealthily and uncovered his feet and lay down. ⁸ At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and there, lying at his feet, was a woman! ⁹ He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant; spread your cloak over your servant, for you are next-of-kin." ¹⁰ He said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter; this last instance of your loyalty is better than the first; you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. ¹¹ And now, my daughter, do not be afraid, I will do for you all that you ask, for all the assembly of my people know that you are a worthy woman. ¹² But now, though it is true that I am a near kinsman, there is another kinsman more closely related than I. ¹³ Remain this night, and in the morning, if he will act as next-of-kin for you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to act as next-of-kin for you, then, as the LORD lives, I will act as next-of-kin for you. Lie down until the morning."

¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until morning but got up before one person could recognize another, for he said, "It must not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." ¹⁵ Then he said, "Bring the cloak you are wearing and hold it out." So she held it, and he measured out six measures of barley and put it on her back; then he went into the town. ¹⁶ She came to her mother-in-law, who said, "How did things go with you, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her, ¹⁷ saying, "He gave me these six measures of barley, for he said, 'Do not go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.'" ¹⁸ She replied, "Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest but will settle the matter today."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW p 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

*** GOSPEL: Matthew 7:7-11**

(Jesus encourages boldness in relationship with God and faith to see God as a loving parent.)

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 7th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for bread, would give a stone? ¹⁰ Or if the child asked for a fish, would give a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Daring to Act

Pastor Charlie Ruud

HYMN OF THE DAY

*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright
(Please stand for the final verse.)*

ELW #308, vs. 1-3, 5

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – Iona Creed** (*The Iona Community is an international, ecumenical Christian movement working for justice and peace, the rebuilding of community, and the renewal of worship.*)

We trust in God who befriended a wandering people, delivering them from slavery into freedom; yet who in Rahab, Tamar, Ruth, Bathsheba, Cyrus, Darius and many others called outsiders to be agents of God's purpose.

We trust in Jesus who was revered by Persian sages, sought and found asylum in Egypt, preached that God loved Syrians, attracted Greeks to his cause, found his first evangelist in a Samaritan, saw incomparable faith in a Caananite woman, had his cross shouldered by a Libyan, and ascended above his native land that he might be present in all places.

We trust in the Holy Spirit, who at Pentecost proved that heaven has no favored mother-tongue; who, in the baptism of the Ethiopian denied racism a foothold in faith; and who in the ancient and modern worlds founded churches in different cultures.

We believe that the heart of God is made known in Jesus, yet we affirm that God is present among people who do not own Christ as their Lord.

We affirm that the kingdom of God is bigger than the Church, and the love of God is beyond our understanding. We therefore celebrate that God's ways are not our ways, that God knows whom God chooses, and reserves the right to surpass all human expectation. Blessed be God forever! Amen.

*** PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.)

III. THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

Gifts in cash or check can be made as the offering plates are passed. To give electronically, scan the QR code to the right or text the desired amount to (612) 688-2798



OFFERING ANTHEM

HOLY GHOST, WITH LIGHT DIVINE

WILLAN

*** OFFERTORY**

Create in Me

ELW #186

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

*** PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

After each petition:

*...Merciful God,
Hear our prayer.*

*** 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.

IV. SENDING

***COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*** BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Triune God.
Amen.

*** SENDING HYMN**

Hold On

Singing Resistance

Hold on. Hold on. My dear ones, here comes the dawn. (repeated)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God's Spirit is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Hold On
Singing Resistance

Hold on, Hon on. My dear ones, here comes the dawn. (repeated)

(The postlude sends us out to be Christ's peace in the world. You are invited to savor it.)

(Our service continues with invitation to refreshments in community together in the Fellowship Hall, across the hall; and then in the world with all our neighbors.)

THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Monday, June 15. Psalm 105:1-37-45

Thurs. June 18. Psalm 69:7-10[11-15] 16-18

Tuesday, June 16. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5

Friday, June 19. Acts 5:17-26

Wednesday, June 17. Proverbs 4:10-27

Saturday, June 20. Jeremiah 20:1-6

Next week in worship...

We encounter the exciting conclusion of the book of Ruth in our early-summer sermon series, "Ruth, Esther, and the Hidden Hand of God." In the 4th and final chapter, the fruit of faithfulness overflows. God's faithfulness is shown in radical honor given to Ruth and, by extension, new life provided for Naomi. For ourselves, it may help us to reflect on the past, present, and future of our own lives, lived in the promise of God's faithfulness. How has God seen us through? Where is God still present? How does God promise to meet us continually in the promises of Jesus? Show up and receive new boldness, assurance, and a reminder that you are in the same beloved family as Ruth.

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