

Opening Hymn

576 Amazing Grace

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

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790
Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

CW 173

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

**We have done those things that we should not have done,
and we have not done those things that we should have done.
Have mercy on us, Lord!
Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



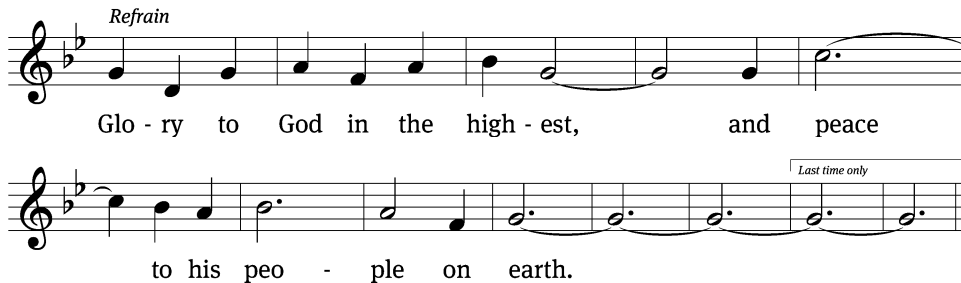
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



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Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176



Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. *Refrain*

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. *Refrain*

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The Word

Salutation

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and promise to reward us according to your grace. Help us to rid our minds of worldly expectations and rejoice that you freely pour out the blessings of salvation to all people; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰When God saw their actions, that they had turned from their evil way, God relented from the disaster which he said he would bring on them, and he did not carry it out.

¹But to Jonah all this seemed very bad, and he became very angry. ²He prayed to the LORD, “LORD, wasn't this exactly what I said when I was still in my own country? That is why I previously fled to Tarshish, because I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abounding in mercy, and you relent from sending disaster. ³So now, LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

⁴But the LORD replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

⁵Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city. He made a shelter for himself there and sat in the shade under it, waiting to see what would happen in the city.

⁶Then the LORD God provided a plant and made it grow up over Jonah to provide shade over his head, to relieve him from his discomfort. So Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, and it attacked the plant so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind. The sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, so he said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

Jonah said, “I do have a right to be angry—angry enough to die!”

¹⁰So the LORD said, “You have been concerned about this plant. You did not work for it or make it grow. It grew up in one night and perished after one night. ¹¹So should I not be concerned for Nineveh, the great city, in which there are more than one hundred twenty thousand people who do not know the difference between their right hand and their left—and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 115

Not for Ourselves



1 Not for our - selves, O LORD, not for our - selves,
2 The world - ly say of us: “Where is their God?”
3 But we will trust in God, our help and shield,



would we claim glo - ry, but for you a - lone,
They vain - ly look for what they i - dol - ize,
tran - scend - ent Life on whom all lives de - pend,



for your great love and con - stant faith - ful - ness,
for flaunt - ed wealth, for bur - nished im - ag - es,
whose un - told mer - cies give our spir - its voice



the stead - fast care that makes your pres - ence known.
and trim all gods to their own shape and size.
to bless the LORD in songs that nev - er end.

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Tune: Walter Groatorex

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Second Reading

Romans 9:6–16

⁶This does not mean that God's word has failed, because not all who are descended from Israel are really Israel, ⁷and not all who are descended from Abraham are really his children. On the contrary, "Your line of descent will be traced through Isaac." ⁸This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are counted as his descendants. ⁹For this is what the promise said: "I will arrive at this set time, and Sarah will have a son."

¹⁰Not only that, but Rebekah also had children by one man, our forefather, Isaac. ¹¹Even before the twins were born or did anything good or bad, in order that God's purpose in election might continue— ¹²not by works but because of him who calls us—it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger." ¹³Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

¹⁴What will we say then? Does this mean that God is unjust? Absolutely not! ¹⁵For God says to Moses:

I will show mercy to whom I show mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.

¹⁶So then, it does not depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Ephesians 2:8

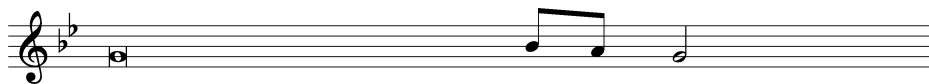


Refrain

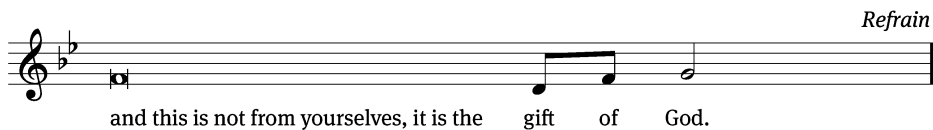


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—



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Gospel

Matthew 20:1–16

¹“Indeed the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing to pay the workers a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³He also went out about the third hour and saw others standing unemployed in the marketplace. ⁴To these he said, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will give you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour and did the same thing. ⁶When he went out about the eleventh hour, he found others standing unemployed. He said to them, ‘Why have you stood here all day unemployed?’

⁷“They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’

“He told them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When it was evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last group and ending with the first.’

⁹“When those who were hired around the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. ¹⁰When those who were hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But they each received a denarius too. ¹¹After they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner: ¹²“Those who were last worked one hour, and you made them equal to us who have endured the burden of the day and the scorching heat!’

¹³“But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not make an agreement with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what is yours and go. I want to give to the last one hired the same as I also gave to you. ¹⁵Can’t I do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

¹⁶In the same way, the last will be first, and the first, last.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

558 Salvation unto Us Has Come sts. 1-6



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come by God's free grace and
 2 What God did in his law de - mand and none to him could
 3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream that God his law had
 4 From sin our flesh could not ab - stain, sin held its sway un -



fa - vor; good works can - not a - vert our doom, they help and
 ren - der caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand for man, the
 giv - en that sin - ners could them-selves re-deem and by their
 ceas - ing; the task was use - less and in vain, our guilt was



save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, who
 vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those pure de - sires the
 works gain heav - en. The law is but a mir - ror bright to
 e'er in - creas - ing. None can re-move sin's poi - soned dart or



did for all the world a - tone; he is our one Re - deem - er.
 spir - it of the law re - quires, and lost is our con - di - tion.
 bring the in - bred sin to light that lurks with - in our na - ture.
 pu - ri - fy our wick - ed heart, so deep is our cor - rup - tion.

5 Yet as the law must be fulfilled
 or we must die despairing,
 Christ came and has God's anger stilled,
 our human nature sharing.
 He has for us the law obeyed
 and thus the Father's vengeance stayed
 which over us impended.

6 Since Christ has full atonement made
 and brought to us salvation,
 each Christian therefore may be glad
 and build on this foundation.
 Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
 your death is now my life indeed,
 for you have paid my ransom.

“Just How Amazing Is God’s Grace to You?”

Stand

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Be seated

Offering

*May be left in the offering box in the
entryway or given online*



Prayer of the Church

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.

Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.

Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.

As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.

Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Acknowledgments

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Sermon Hymn

558 Salvation unto Us Has Come sts. 7-10



7 Let me not doubt, but tru - ly see your Word can - not be
8 The law re - veals the guilt of sin and makes us con-science-
9 Faith clings to Je - sus' cross a - lone and rests in him un -
10 All bless-ing, hon - or, thanks, and praise to Fa - ther, Son, and



bro - ken; your call rings out, "Come un - to me!" No false-hood
strick - en; but then the gos - pel en - ters in the sin - ful
ceas - ing; and by its fruits true faith is known, with love and
Spir - it, the God who saved us by his grace; all glo - ry



have you spo - ken. Bap - tized in - to your pre-cious name, my
soul to quick - en. Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live; the
hope in - creas - ing. For faith a - lone can jus - ti - fy; works
to his mer - it! O tri - une God in heav'n a - bove, you



faith can - not be put to shame, and I shall nev - er per - ish.
law no peace can ev - er give, no com - fort and no bless-ing.
serve our neigh - bor and sup - ply the proof that faith is liv - ing.
have re-vealed your sav - ing love; your bless-ed name be hal - lowed!

Stand

Prayer for the Spirit and Lord's Prayer

CW 171

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

581 Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose You



1 Lord, 'tis not that I did choose you; that, I know, could
2 It was grace in Christ that called me, taught my dark - ened
3 Praise the God of all cre - a - tion, praise the Fa - ther's



nev - er be, for this heart would still re - fuse you
heart and mind; else the world had yet en - thrall'd me,
bound - less love. Praise the Lamb, our ex - pi - a - tion,



had your grace not cho - sen me. You re - moved the
to your heav'n - ly glo - ries blind. Now I wor - ship
Priest and King en - throned a - bove. Praise the Spir - it



sin that stained me, cleans - ing me to be your own; for this
none a - bove you; for your grace a - lone I thirst, know - ing
of sal - va - tion, him by whom our spir - its live. Un - di -



pur - pose you or - dained me, that I live for you a - lone.
well that, if I love you, you, O Fa - ther, loved me first.
vid - ed ad - o - ra - tion to the great Je - ho - vah give.