

THE FIFTH WEDNESDAY OF LENT

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Tempe

March 29, 2023

12:00 p.m. & 7:00pm



Amazing Grace Lenten Series Week 5: Paul

AS WE GATHER

In this week's service, we marvel at the story of amazing grace in the life of Paul, who turned from persecutor of Christ to proclaimer of our Lord through the mighty power of the Holy Spirit. In the same way, the cross of Christ changes us all from enemy to friend.

THEME VERSE

*The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.
1 Timothy 1:15*

PRELUDE

"Be Merciful to Me, O Lord"-J.S. Bach

PASTORAL WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

P As we come together to worship, let us pray together our opening prayer.

C **O God, who makes all things new, new stars, new dust, new life; take my heart, every hardened edge and measured beat, and create something new in me. I need your newness, God, the rough parts of me made smooth; the stagnant, stirred; the stuck, freed; and all of me, forgiven. Having received your Amazing Grace, send me out by the power of your Spirit to try to show your perfect love again. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN "O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken" LSB #439, V:1, 3, 5, 12

- 1 O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession,
What dark transgression?**
- 3 Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must languish; Yea, all the
wrath, the woe, Thou dost inherit, This I do merit.**
- 5 The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;**

Man forfeited his life and is acquitted; God is committed.

**12 I'll think upon Thy mercy without ceasing,
That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;
To do Thy will shall be my sole endeavor Henceforth forever.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (PSALM 103:8-14)

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

C **He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.**

P He does not deal with us according to our sins,

C **Nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

P For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

C **As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

P As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

C **For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P The Lord remembers that we are dust. He knows our fallen sinfulness and calls us to repent of our sins. Paul, who once persecuted the church, rejoiced in the grace he received and the mercy shown to him. Let us confess our sins to God and ask that he would show mercy to us.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

C **Almighty God, with Paul we too are foremost in sin. We sin against you daily. With our words and actions, we hurt others, even those in the body of Christ, our brothers and sisters in faith. We turn from your Word and your ways to follow the**

path of our own sinful desires. Have mercy on us and forgive us.

P The Lord remembers that we are dust; he knows our sinful frame. He has shown grace to his servant Paul and to us through the gift of his Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus took our sins onto himself and carried them to the cross. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen. God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

HYMN OF ABSOLUTION

“Lamb Of God, Pure And Holy” LSB #434 V. 1

1 **Lamb of God, pure and holy, Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly, Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us, Else had despair reigned o’er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

P Almighty God, even though Paul persecuted your church, arrested the faithful and approved of their deaths, you called him to be an ambassador for your kingdom, sending him into the world to spread the good news of salvation in Jesus. You have looked on us in grace and you have forgiven our sins. Help us to live in repentant humility and ever seek your mercy. By the power of your Spirit, lead us to grow in faith and in the knowledge of your Word so that we too can serve as faithful witnesses to our Savior’s love. Hear our prayer in Jesus’ name.

C **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

The Best Worst Award

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 53:1-6

53 Who has believed what he has heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

1 Timothy 1:12-17

¹² I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord,
because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³ though
formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I
received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the

grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Only By Grace" - Gerrit Gustafson

GOSPEL REFRAIN

"Jesus Remember Me" LSB #767

1 **Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 2:13-17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the second chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹³ He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. ¹⁴ And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

¹⁵ And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. ¹⁶ And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹⁷ And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLE'S CREED

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be” LSB #611, V 1, 2

- 1 Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.**
- 2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought! Found me when I
sought Him not.**

SERMON

Grace For The Wretched

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Amazing Grace!” LBS #744, V. 1, 3

- 1 **Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see!**
- 3 **Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come; His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P Almighty God, you showed grace to Paul, who called himself the foremost of sinners. You have shown grace to us, even though we are sinners undeserving of your love and forgiveness. During this Lenten season and always, lead us by your Spirit to true repentance. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, you sent your Son to be our Savior. He carried our sins in his own body to the cross and by his wounds we are healed. Lead us to forgive others as we have been forgiven, so that by the witness of our words and our lives, they too will come to believe in Jesus and receive your healing forgiveness. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, we pray for your servants who are in need of physical healing. Hold them in your loving care and shield them from doubt and fear. Comfort them through the promises of your holy Word and lead us to find ways to serve them in their time of need. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, you called Paul, who once persecuted your church, to be an ambassador for Christ the King. You have called us to reflect the light of our Lord in this dark world and to defend the hope that we have in him. By the power of your Spirit make us bold witnesses for Jesus so that others will believe in him as their Savior. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, in the life of your servant Paul and in our own lives, you have displayed your mercy and perfect patience. We rejoice in your love and grace as we seek to witness to our Lord with our words and actions until we live forever in your presence. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Spoken)*

C 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. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

C All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

P The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Baptized Into Your Name Most Holy” LSB #590 V 1, 3

1 Baptized into Your name most holy, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, I claim a place, though weak and lowly, among Your saints, Your chosen host. Buried with Christ and dead to sin,

Your Spirit now shall live within.

- 3 My faithful God, You fail me never; Your promise surely will endure. O cast me not away forever if words and deeds become impure. Have mercy when I come defiled; forgive, lift up, restore Your child.**

Holy Week:

April 2, 10am Palm Sunday

6, 12pm & 6pm Maundy Thursday

7, 3pm & 7pm Good Friday

8, 7pm Easter Vigil

9, 8:00am Easter Sunrise Worship

9, 9:00am Easter Breakfast

9, 10am The Resurrection of Our Lord w/Holy Communion

POSTLUDE

“Down At the Cross” -J. Stockton / F. Ritter

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SERVING US AT WORSHIP:

Officiant Preacher:

Rev. Tim Anderson

Organist/Dir. of Music:

Ellen Brown

Song Leader 7pm:

Charles Haynes

Special Music 7pm:

The Beautiful Savior Singers Choir

