

# Amazing Grace: Holy Week



Lent Worship Series  
Good Friday: The Penitent Thief

St. Johns Lutheran Church  
Good Friday

St. Louis, Missouri  
April 7th, 2023

---

**Amazing Grace: The Penitent Thief**

*And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:43*

**OPENING HYMN** O Perfect Life of Love LSB 452 v. 1,2,4,5,7

**O perfect life of love!  
All, all is finished now,  
All that he left his throne above  
To do for us below.**

**No work is left undone  
Of all the Father willed;  
His toil, his sorrows, one by one.  
The Scriptures have fulfilled.**

**And on his thorn-crowned head  
And on his sinless soul  
Our sins in all their guilt were laid  
That he might make us whole.**

**In perfect love he dies;  
For me, he dies, for me.  
O all-atoning Sacrifice,  
I cling by faith to thee.**

**Yet work O Lord, in me  
As thou for me hast wrought;  
And let my love the answer be  
To grace thy love has brought.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP ... Psalm 22:1-2, 14-19, 27-28**  
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?**

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,

**And by night, but I find no rest.**

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;

**My heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;**

My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws;

**You lay me in the dust of death.**

For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me;

**They have pierced my hands and feet—I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me;**

They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

**But you, O Lord, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

**For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

One of the thieves crucified near Jesus recognized the innocent King crowned with thorns. The thief acknowledged his sins and repented, moved by God's grace to turn in faith to his King and Savior. Let us confess our sins and seek God's mercy.

**Almighty God, like the repentant thief crucified with our King, we admit our sins. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. We have followed our own selfish desires instead of following your will for our lives. Listening to the temptations of the world around us, we turn from your Word. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**

**SONG:** *Change My Heart Oh God*    *Badli Garnos Mero Ridai*

**Change my heart, oh God;**

**make it ever true.  
Change my heart, oh God;  
may I be like you. (2x)**

बदली गर्नोस् मेरो हृदय,  
सधैंको लागि साँच्चै  
बदली गर्नोस् मेरो हृदय,  
हुन सकूँ तपाईंजस्तै (२)

badli garnos mero ridai,  
sadhain-ko laagi saanccai.  
badli garnos mero ridai,  
huna sakuñ tapaañ-jastai 2x

**You are the potter;  
I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me;  
this is what I pray.**

तपाईं कुमाले,  
म हुँ माटो  
बनाउनोस् मलाई  
तपाईंको भाँडो

tapaañ kumaale,  
ma huñ maaTo,  
banaaunos malaai  
tapaañ-ko bhaañDo

God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son to be our Savior.  
Suffering on the cross, Jesus took onto himself the penalty of death  
that we deserved for our sins. Like the repentant thief, we have  
received the grace and mercy of our King. I announce to you that  
your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and  
of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

मानिसहरू भयभीत र अन्योलमा परेका छन्। ती मानिसहरूलाई भन्, “बलियो होऊ, नडाराऊ!” हेर, तिमीहरूका परमेश्वर आउनु हुनेछ अनि शत्रुहरूलाई दण्ड दिनुहुनेछ। उहाँ आएर तिमीहरूलाई पुरस्कार दिनु हुनेछ। परमप्रभुले तिमीहरूलाई बचाउनु हुनेछ। तब अन्धा मानिसहरूले फेरि पनि देख्न सक्नेछन्। तिनीहरूका आखाँहरू खोलिने छन्। तब बहिराले पनि सुन्न सक्ने छन्। तिनीहरूका कानहरू खोलिने छ।

## **EVENING PRAYER OF MARTIN LUTHER**

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

**Amen.**

हे मेरो पिता, मलाई आजको दिनमा मेरो सबै हानि र खतराबाट आफ्नो पुत्र येशू ख्रीष्ट द्वारा सुरक्षित राख्नु भएकोमा म तपाईंलाई धन्यवाद दिन्छु । आजको राति मलाई पापहरूबाट र प्रत्येक दुष्टबाट पर राख्नुहोस् । मैले गरेको हरेक कार्यले र मेरो जीवनले तपाईंलाई खुशी तुल्याओस् । तपाईंको हातमा म आफ्नो शरीर र आत्मा र मेरो सर्वस्व सुम्पिन्छु। आफ्नो पवित्र स्वर्गदूतहरूलाई मसित हुन दिनुहोस्, ताकि दुष्टको कुनै पनि शक्ति म माथि नआओस् ।  
आमिन।

**HYMN** Glory Be to Jesus LSB 433 v. 1-2, 4

**Glory be to Jesus,  
Who in bitter pains  
Poured for me the lifeblood  
From his sacred veins!**

**Grace and life eternal  
In that blood I find;  
Blest be his compassion,  
Infinitely kind!**

**Abel's blood for vengeance  
Pleaded to the skies;  
But the blood of Jesus  
For our pardon cries.**

**EPISTLE READING ... Hebrews 2:14-18**

<sup>14</sup> Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

**SONG**

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord? LSB 456 v. 1,2

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**GOSPEL READING ... Luke 23:39-43 (*video*)**

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" <sup>41</sup> And we indeed justly, for

we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.”<sup>42</sup> And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”<sup>43</sup> And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

**SERMON HYMN** Upon the Cross Extended LSB 453 v. 1,5

**Upon the cross extended  
See, world, your Lord suspended.  
Your Savior yields his breath.  
The Prince of Life from heaven  
Himself has freely given  
To shame and blows and bitter death.**

**Your soul in griefs unbounded,  
Your head with thorns surrounded,  
You died to ransom me.  
The cross for me enduring,  
The crown for me securing,  
You healed my wounds and set me free.**

**SERMON** *Grace for the Guilty*

**HYMN OF RESPONSE**

Upon the Cross Extended LSB 453 v. 6-7

**Your cords of love, my Savior,  
Bind me to you forever,  
I am no longer mine.  
To you I gladly tender  
All that my life can render  
And all I have to you resign.**

**Your cross I place before me;  
Its saving pow’r restore me,  
Sustain me in the test.  
It will, when life is ending.**

**Be guiding and attending  
My way to your eternal rest.**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

प्रेरितहरूको विश्वासको सार  
म विश्वास गर्दछु एक परमेश्वर सर्वशक्तिमान् पिता, स्वर्ग र पृथ्वी सृष्टि गर्नुहुनेमाथि।

अनि उहाँका एकले पुत्र, हाम्रा प्रभु येशू ख्रीष्टमाथि, जो पवित्र आत्माको शक्तिद्वारा गर्भ धारण हुनुभयो, कन्ये मरियमदेखि जन्मनुभयो, जसले पन्तियस पिलातसको अधीनमा दुःख भोग्नुभयो, जो क्रसमा टाँगिनुभयो, स्वर्गमा चढिजानुभयो, अनि सर्वशक्तिमान् परमेश्वर पिताको दाहिने हातपट्टि बस्नुभएको छ; जहाँदेखि उहाँ जिउँदा र मरेकाहरूको न्याय गर्नलाई फेरि आउनुहुनेछ।

म विश्वास गर्दछु पवित्र आत्मामाथि; पवित्र मण्डलीमाथि; पवित्रहरूको सङ्गतिमाथि; पाप मोचनमाथि; शरीरको पुनरुत्थानमाथि; र अजम्मरी जीवनमाथि। आमिन्।



**OFFERING** *During, you may place a nail in the cross, symbolizing that by our sins, we also nailed Him to the tree.*  
St. John's Choir will sing "O Lamb of God Most Holy"

## PRAYERS

Lord Jesus, we give you thanks for your grace, your undeserved favor for sinners. By your death on the cross you have defeated death for us. Our sins are forgiven, washed away in your blood. Gracious Lord,

**Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.** हाम्रो प्रार्थना सुन्नुहोस्  
Lord Jesus, on the cross you promised paradise to the repentant thief who died near you on that Good Friday. Be present with us until we live with you in paradise. Gracious Lord,

**Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.** हाम्रो प्रार्थना सुन्नुहोस्  
Lord Jesus, the thief on the cross recognized you, crowned with thorns, as his King. We, too, recognize and acknowledge you as King. Help us to live as faithful citizens of your kingdom, to live in love and service to others and to be witnesses for you. Gracious Lord,

**Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.** हाम्रो प्रार्थना सुन्नुहोस्  
**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER *(spoken softly)*

**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.**

प्रभुले सिकाउनुभएको प्रार्थना (मत्ती ६:९-१३)

प्रभु को प्रार्थना

हे हाम्रो स्वर्गमा बस्नुहुने पिता,

तपाईंको नाउँ पवित्र रहोस्।

तपाईंको राज्य आओस्,

तपाईंको इच्छा स्वर्गमा झैं यस पृथ्वीमा पूरा होस्।

आज दिनभरिको भोजन हामीलाई दिनुहोस्।  
हाम्रा अपराधहरू क्षमा गरिदिनुहोस्।  
जसरी हामीले पनि आफ्ना अपराधीहरूलाई क्षमा गरेका छौं।  
हामीलाई परीक्षामा पर्न नदिनुहोस्,  
तर हामीलाई दुष्टहरूबाट बचाउनु होस्।’  
किनभने राज्य, पराक्रम सदासर्वदा तपाईंकै हुन्। आमेन।

## **BENEDICTION**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

प्रभु येशू ख्रीष्टको अनुग्रह परमेश्वरको प्रेम अनि पवित्र आत्माको सहभागिता तिमीहरूमा सधैं होस्।

## **CLOSING HYMN**

Amazing Grace LSB 744 Melody (*Lydia on flute*)

*An introduction will be played on flute & organ before the hymn is sung*

**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.**

**’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
’Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead  
me home.**

**Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace.**

## **REMOVAL OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

*(The removal of the Christ Candle symbolizes that our Savior, the light of the world, has died for the sins of the world, leaving the world in darkness)*

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord? LSB 456 v. 3

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

## **STREPITUS**

*(A great noise symbolizes the closing of Christ's tomb.)*

*The congregation walks out of the sanctuary and the building silently, contemplating the death of Christ and looking forward to resurrection victory.*

*(Leave in silence.)*

Preacher	Pastor Michael Tanney
Reader	Tristan Pilot
Liturgist	Vicars
Lectors	Vicars
Elders	Al Bohannon & Earl Welch
Organist	Suzanne Manelli

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Parts of this worship folder are copyrighted. Permission for reprint has been received from Concordia Publishing House. The Fellowship Publications, and C.C.L.I copyright license #386077 & C.C.L.I Streaming license #20825510

© 2023 Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. [www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com). All rights reserved.