

# Amazing Grace

1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound that  
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his  
 5. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and  
 6. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 mor - tal life shall cease, I shall pos - sess, with -  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved.  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be, as long as life en - dures.  
 in the veil, a life of joy and peace.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

## References

- The Prayer of Confession is from the website: <https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/1-SamuelAmen>. It was accessed by Pastor Laura and adapted for today's worship service on July 25, 2023.
- The Benediction is from the website: [re:Worship: Commission & Benediction: Matthew 14:22-33 \(re-worship.blogspot.com\)](http://re:Worship: Commission & Benediction: Matthew 14:22-33 (re-worship.blogspot.com)). It was accessed on July 25, 2023.
- All other liturgy was written by Pastor Laura Baker.

## GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS JOYS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Cathy Rentzel

## PRELUDE

Mr. Kevin Crone

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)*

## CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 17:1-7, 15, New Living Translation)

Preacher: O Lord, hear my plea for justice.  
 Listen to my cry for help.  
 Pay attention to my prayer,  
 for it comes from honest lips.

Congregation: **Declare me innocent,  
 for you see those who do right.  
 You have tested my thoughts and examined my heart in the night.**

Preacher: You have scrutinized me and found nothing wrong.  
 I am determined not to sin in what I say.  
 I have followed your commands,  
 which keep me from following cruel and evil people.

Congregation: **My steps have stayed on your path;  
 I have not wavered from following you.  
 I am praying to you because I know you will answer, O God.  
 Bend down and listen as I pray.**

*All people: Show us your unfailing love in wonderful ways.  
 By your mighty power you promise to rescue  
 those who seek refuge.*

## HYMN

*Standing in the Need of Prayer*

**Bulletin Insert**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Preacher: We know in our hearts, that we are indeed, the ones standing in the need of prayer. So, in a spirit of humility and honesty, let us confess our sins, first in a moment of silent confession, followed by a community prayer of confession. Confess your sins, trusting in our God who is slow to anger and quick to forgive. (Moment of silence for personal confession)  
 Let us now confess together, using the community prayer of confession as printed in our bulletins.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All people:** *Heavenly Father, thank you for the many lessons and encouragement we can gain from the beautifully challenging story of Samuel, the little baby born to Hannah whose life was dedicated to you and who grew into a man who listened to your voice and obeyed your call on his life to do your bidding. Open my ears to hear you speaking to me and use me, I pray, in whatever way you will, for your greater praise and glory. Forgive me for selfish acts that make me the center of existence. Forgive me for being greedy with my time, talent, and resources, which you have blessed to my caretaking and responsibility. Forgive me for turning a deaf ear to your voice and call in my life. Make me more like Samuel. Make me more and more into Jesus' likeness. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Romans 8:38-39)

**Preacher:** Friends, our help is in the name of the Lord who has heard our plea and answered our confession with forgiveness.

**All people:** *Alleluia! Amen!*

## PRAISE HYMN

*Gloria Patri*

Hymnal, #493

## PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

**Preacher:** God's pardon and transforming love gives us great peace. Let us turn then to one another and share that same God-given peace with one another offering the words: "The peace of God be with you..."

**Congregation:** "And, also with you."

*(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)*

## JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

## HYMN

*Amazing Grace*

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## OLD TESTAMENT READING – 1 Samuel 2:12-26

Marta Dennis

## GOSPEL READING – Matthew 14:13-21

Marta Dennis

## SERMON

Ms. Cathy Rentzel

## PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "sins")

**All people:** *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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.*

## SPECIAL MUSIC

Mr. Kevin Crone

*(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)*

## OFFERING INVITATION

**Liturgist:** There are many signs we claim for our faith, but ultimately it is our *active* love that reveals *who* we worship. Like Samuel in our Hebrew reading, let us commit to give of your whole selves for God's kingdom work. We can do so, trusting that whatever we give, even if we feel it is small like a mustard seed, God will bless and give it increase. Let us now commit to giving and doing so with joy, dedicating it all with a song and prayer.

*(Please stand in body and/or spirit)*

## DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Hymnal, #258

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God, all creatures here below.*

*Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**All people:** *God of plenty, all that we offer you stems first, from your generosity. May the gifts that we return to you in this moment become a blessing for your whole community, enriching and empowering us for the work to which you call us. Amen.*

## HYMN

*Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

Bulletin Insert

## BENEDICTION

**Preacher:** God calls us to step out in faith, to follow where Christ leads even if what we are called to do seems impossible. So let us go from here with courage, trusting in God's presence and power, and eager to do God's will. And may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and within you wherever you find yourself this week. Until we gather again...

**All people:** *Amen.*

## POSTLUDE